

Consultation

from Revd Abbie Palmer with communities of
St Stephen's Lindley and St Philip's Birchencliffe

regarding

Regular Sunday Morning Worship Pattern

It was recently announced that St Stephen's and St Philip's will share a priest in future. Consequently, there will need to be a change to the regular pattern of worship at both churches. This consultation offers you the chance to share your views on the possible patterns being considered. There are three options presented.

Please comment on each option sharing any opportunities, concerns or suggestions. All responses will be taken into consideration by Revd Abbie when she creates a future worship plan.

You can choose to respond anonymously, or include your details below.

Name

Church

Please respond by Sunday 3 May 2026.

Paper forms can be dropped in the box at the back of either church or posted to St Stephen's Vicarage, 2 Lidget Street, HD3 3JB

To reply electronically, send your comments or suggestions on each of the three options in an email to ststephenslindley@gmail.com (please advise the administrator if you wish your response to be anonymous).

Option A

1st Sunday of month

9.15am	St Philip's	Holy Communion
11am	St Stephen's	Worship (without communion)
1pm	St Stephen's	Baptism (as needed)

2nd Sunday of month

9.15am	St Stephen's	Holy Communion
11am	St Philip's	Holy Communion (inc baptism as needed)

3rd Sunday of month

9.15am	St Philip's	Worship (without communion)
11am	St Stephen's	Holy Communion (inc baptism as needed)

4th Sunday of month

9.15am	St Stephen's	Holy Communion
11am	St Philip's	Holy Communion
12.30pm	St Philip's	Baptism (as needed)

5th Sunday of month

10.30am	Alternate between churches	Shared Holy Communion
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Background

This option will require careful communication of the service times at each church as it would be different each week. It offers sufficient time between the two services to allow the priest to take the 9.15am service and stay for 10 minutes afterwards for fellowship before leaving to take the 11am service. This option will require the church with an 11am service to have volunteers to prepare the worship space (inc. communion table) and welcome people without the priest being present until nearer the start of the service. It enables each church to worship both at earlier and later times. It will also need more volunteers to be trained and authorised to lead worship on a regular basis at both churches.

Your comments or suggestions regarding Option A

Option B

1st Sunday of month

9.15am	St Philip's	Holy Communion
11am	St Stephen's	Worship (without communion)
1pm	St Stephen's	Baptism (as needed)

2nd Sunday of month

9.15am	St Philip's	Holy Communion
11am	St Stephen's	Holy Communion
1pm	St Philip's	Baptism (as needed)

3rd Sunday of month

9.15am	St Philip's	Worship (without communion)
11am	St Stephen's	Holy Communion (inc baptism as needed)

4th Sunday of month

9.15am	St Philip's	Holy Communion (inc baptism as needed)
11am	St Stephen's	Holy Communion

5th Sunday of month

10.30am	Alternate between churches	Shared Holy Communion
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Background

This option offers sufficient time between the two services to allow the priest to take the service at St Philip's and stay for 10 minutes after the service for fellowship before leaving to take the service at St Stephen's. It will require St Stephen's to have volunteers to prepare the worship space (inc. communion table) and welcome people without the priest being present until nearer the start of the service. It will also need more lay people to be willing to be trained and authorised to lead worship on a regular basis at both churches.

Your comments or suggestions regarding Option B

Option C

1st Sunday of month

10am	St Philip's	Holy Communion
10am	St Stephen's	Worship (without communion)
12.30pm	St Philip's	Baptism (as needed)

2nd Sunday of month

10am	St Philip's	Worship (without communion)
10am	St Stephen's	Holy Communion (with baptism as needed)

3rd Sunday of month

10am	St Philip's	Holy Communion (with baptism as needed)
10am	St Stephen's	Worship (without communion)

4th Sunday of month

10am	St Philip's	Worship (without communion)
10am	St Stephen's	Holy Communion
12.30pm	St Stephen's	Baptism (as needed)

5th Sunday of month

10am	Alternate between churches	Shared Holy Communion
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Background

This option would enable the priest to be fully present at one church or other for the whole morning, building capacity for other priestly ministry on Sundays such as afternoon services and home communions for the housebound. This option would require the training and support of several more volunteers to be trained and authorised to lead worship on a regular basis at both churches and for the churches to know that the priest will be elsewhere on alternate Sundays. It would allow for a preferred mid-morning service time at both churches.

Your comments or suggestions regarding Option C