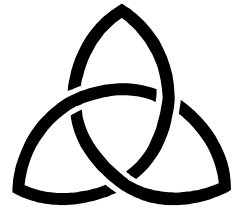


Welcome to the Parish Church of St Stephen



Sunday 26th July 2026

Eighth Sunday after Trinity (Proper 12)

Services Today

9:30am	Said Mass
11:00	Sung Mass
Hymns	391: Responsorial Psalm 119: 339: 407: S.38

Bake Sale

Chorus

*There is a longing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to reveal yourself to us.
There is a longing in our hearts for love, we only find in your, our God*

703

Introit God is in his holy habitation: it is he that maketh brethren to be of one mind in an house: He will give the dominion and preeminence unto his people. **Psalm** Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered: let them also that hate him flee before him. Glory be to the Father...

Gradual My heart hath trusted in God, and I am helped: therefore my heart danceth for joy, and in my song will I praise him. □. Unto thee will I cry O Lord: be not silent, O God nor depart from me. **Alleluia** Alleluia. Alleluia. □. Sing we merrily unto God our strength; make a cheerful noise unto the God of Jacob: Take the psalm, bring hither the tabret. Alleluia.

Offertory I will magnify thee, O Lord, for thou hast set me up: and not made my foes to triumph over me. O Lord, my God, I cried unto thee: and thou hast healed me.

Communion The kingdom of heaven is like to a merchant man seeking good pearls: who when he had found one pearl of great price, went his way, and sold all that he had, and bought it.

Stay in touch with St Stephen's: visit our website at

<http://st-stephens-guernsey.org>: Vicar: Father Joe Thompson Tel.01481 720268

Collect

Almighty Lord and everlasting God,
we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern
both our hearts and bodies
in the ways of your laws and the works of
your commandments;
that through your most mighty protection,
both here and ever,
we may be preserved in body and soul;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now for ever.

Old Testament Reading - 1 Kings Ch3 v5-12

5 At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, 'Ask for whatever you want me to give you.'
6 Solomon answered, 'You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day.7 'Now, Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. 8 Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. 9 So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?'10 The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. 11 So God said to him, 'Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, 12 I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be.

Responsorial Psalm 119: (v129-136)

'Lead me, O Lord, in the path of your commandments'

New Testament Reading - Romans Ch8 v26-39

26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. 27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God. 28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. 29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. 30 And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.31 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? 33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who

justifies. **34** Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. **35** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? **36** As it is written:

‘For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.’

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, **39** neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel - Matthew Ch13 v31-33,44-52

31 He told them another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. **32** Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.’ **33** He told them still another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about thirty kilograms of flour until it worked all through the dough.’

44 ‘The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

45 ‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. **46** When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

47 ‘Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. **48** When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore.

Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away.

49 This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous **50** and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

51 ‘Have you understood all these things?’ Jesus asked. ‘Yes,’ they replied. **52** He said to them, ‘Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.’

Post Communion

Strengthen for service, Lord,
the hands that have taken holy things
may the ears which have heard your word
be deaf to clamour and dispute;
may the tongues which have sung your praise
be free from deceit;
may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your love
shine with the light of hope;
and may the bodies which have been fed with your body
be refreshed with the fullness of your life;
glory to you for ever.

NOTICES

Monday to Friday 8.00am - Morning Prayer

Tuesday 28th 11.00am - Said Mass

Saturday 1st August 10.00am - Coffee and chat in church

Sunday 2nd August 2026

The Ninth Sunday after Trinity

9:30am Said Mass

11.00am Sung Mass

Please remember in your prayers

Fr John & Carol Luff,
Jill Stephenson,
David and Barbara Streek,
Wendy Clamp,
Mandy Le Tissier,
Margaret Boden Heaume,
Lindsay Gallagher,
Barbara Renouf,
and Helen Sheppard



**A reminder that
next week
is Food Bank
Sunday. Please
could you bring any
items for the food
bank next Sunday.
Thank you!**



Please join us for refreshments

In the Vestry after the 11am Mass

After Mass please put the kneelers back on the shelf. Thank you!

Deadline for notices for next bulletin – 6.00pm Thursday

To Fliss or email fmil397026@aol.com

What did the pirate put on top of his treasure chest? A chicken, because eggs marks the spot!