

NOTICES

Monday to Friday 8.00am - Morning Prayer
Tuesday 6th October 11.00am - Said Mass
Saturday 11th October 10.00am Coffee and Chat in Church

Sunday 11th October
The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity
9:30am Said Mass
11.00am Sung Mass

Here we are again at Dedication, the time for thankfulness for all our blessings of the year. The running of the church is made easier by all who help in whatever way they can, but our weekly giving only provides about half what it costs to keep the church open, so we have to find ways of supplementing the cost by events, bake sales, concerts, fees for services such as funerals and weddings, and of course additional gifts given to the church.

Gift Month is an important part in mitigating the predicted end of year deficit.

All donations, large or small, are gratefully received with the bank details included below, or through your preferred method of contributing. (Gift Month envelopes available on the Black Chest- if you use SunMUp can you please add a note Gift Month)

The continued work of this church, in our parish, is dependent on the generosity of spirit from each one of us.

Thank you for your gift.

Tony & Anne

Account name: **St Stephen's Parish Church**
 Sort Code: **40-22-25**
 Account Number: **01782207**

You are invited to sign up for the big Bible Read at Forest Church starting Monday, the 5th of October 2026. This is to mark the 500 anniversary of William Tindale's publication of the Bible translated into the English language from Hebrew and Greek. The venue is Forest Church and parking is available in the field next door. You can sign up for a 20 minute slot or more if you want. You can come along and hear others read - refreshments will be freely available.

<https://bblereadathon.grok.me>

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

I asked the cashier "Could you give me small change instead of bills? I need money for the bus "She said "That's fare"



Welcome to the Parish Church
of
St Stephen
Sunday 4th October 2026
Dedication Sunday

Services Today

9:30am Said Mass
11:00 Sung Mass
Hymns C.37: Responsorial Psalm 122: 205: 471:
208 (Kneeling): 206

*I was glad when they said to me,
 Let us go to the House of the Lord.
 Here we meet in the presence of God
 Giving thanks to our mighty Lord.*

End of Procession

Blessed are they that dwell in Thy house
 They will be always praising thee

O Almighty God, who hast built thy Church upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the corner-stone; grant us to be joined together in unity of spirit by their doctrine, that we may be made an holy temple acceptable unto thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

716 Dedication of a Church (Dedication Sunday)

Introit O how dreadful is this place! this is the house of God, and gate of heaven: and men shall call it the palace of God, alleluia, alleluia.
 Psalm O how amiable are thy dwellings, thou Lord of hosts: my soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the Lord. Glory be ...

Gradual This dwelling is God's handy-work: it is a mystery beyond all price, that cannot be spoken against. □. O God, in whose presence the choirs of Angels are standing: graciously hear the prayers of thy servants. Alleluia Alleluia. Alleluia. □. The house of God is surely founded: Stablished upon the rock. Alleluia.

Offertory O Lord God, in the uprightness of my heart I have willingly offered all these things: and now I have seen with joy thy people which are present here. O Lord God of Israel, keep for ever this imagination: of the heart of thy people.

Communion My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer, saith the Lord: in it every one that asketh receiveth, and he that seeketh findeth. And to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Collect

Almighty God,
to whose glory we celebrate the dedication
of this house of prayer:
we praise you for the many blessings
you have given to those who worship you here:
and we pray that all who seek you in this place
may find you,
and, being filled with the Holy Spirit,
may become a living temple acceptable to you;
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.

Old Testament Reading – 1 Kings Ch8 v22-30

Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in front of the whole assembly of Israel, spread out his hands towards heaven ²³ and said:

‘Lord, the God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below – you who keep your covenant of love with your servants who continue wholeheartedly in your way. ²⁴ You have kept your promise to your servant David my father; with your mouth you have promised and with your hand you have fulfilled it – as it is today.

²⁵ ‘Now Lord, the God of Israel, keep for your servant David my father the promises you made to him when you said, “You shall never fail to have a successor to sit before me on the throne of Israel, if only your descendants are careful in all they do to walk before me faithfully as you have done.” ²⁶ And now, God of Israel, let your word that you promised your servant David my father come true.

²⁷ ‘But will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built! ²⁸ Yet give attention to your servant’s prayer and his plea for mercy, Lord my God. Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is praying in your presence this day. ²⁹ May your eyes be open towards this temple night and day, this place of which you said, “My Name shall be there,” so that you will hear the prayer your servant prays towards this place. ³⁰ Hear the supplication of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray towards this place. Hear from heaven, your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive.

Responsorial Psalm 122:

‘I was glad when they said, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord’

New Testament Reading – Hebrews Ch12 v18-24

¹⁸ You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; ¹⁹ to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, ²⁰ because they could not bear what was commanded: ‘If even an

animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned to death.’ ²¹ The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, ‘I am trembling with fear.’

²² But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, ²³ to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴ to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Gospel – Matthew Ch21 v12-16

¹² Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money-changers and the benches of those selling doves. ¹³ ‘It is written,’ he said to them, “My house will be called a house of prayer,” but you are making it “a den of robbers.”

¹⁴ The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them.

¹⁵ But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple courts, ‘Hosanna to the Son of David,’ they were indignant.

¹⁶ ‘Do you hear what these children are saying?’ they asked him.

‘Yes,’ replied Jesus, ‘have you never read,

“‘From the lips of children and infants
you, Lord, have called forth your praise’?”’

Post Communion

Father in heaven,
whose Church on earth is a sign of your heavenly peace,
an image of the new and eternal Jerusalem:
grant to us in the days of our pilgrimage
that, fed with the living bread of heaven,
and united in the body of your Son,
we may be the temple of your presence,
the place of your glory on earth,
and a sign of your peace in the world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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