

Post-communion

Merciful Lord, we thank you for the signs of your mercy revealed in birth and death: save us by the coming of your Son, and give us joy in honouring Stephen, first martyr of the new Israel; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Activities for the week

Today	10.00am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 29th	9.30am	Holy Communion at St James
Sunday 2nd Jan	10.00am	Holy Communion

Welcome

We welcome Revd Pete Gunstone as our celebrant and preacher this morning.

Face Coverings

The Government's Plan B requires that face coverings must be worn in places of worship.

Children's Society boxes

It's time to count the contents of Children's Society boxes. Can you let Patrick have them, please? A number of boxes were not returned to their supporters last year because of the pandemic. If this is you, Patrick will find it for you.

Pillar Box

You will have noticed that the Pillar Box has reappeared. All donations will go to Martin House. Please give generously.

Offertory Envelopes

Offertory envelopes for 2022 are available at the back of church.

Please pray for ...

Wendy Heywood who is having trouble with her heart. She is undergoing tests and remains cheerful.
Pauline Obank who is not at all well.
Dennis Shaw who is well but quite lonely.
After a nasty fall, John Lamb is now back in hospital and still making progress.
Doreen Robinson who is undergoing investigations into a potentially serious condition.

Sunday 26th December 2021

St. Stephen's Day

Service: Holy Communion

Hymns:

554, 444, 163, 183

Welcome to St. Saviour's Church

www.stsavioursfwg.org.uk

Interim Priest-in-Charge:

Revd Canon Vaughan Pollard

(tel. 01274 883000)

Churchwardens:

Mrs. Grace Studholme;

Mr. Patrick Preston

Children in Church

Children are most welcome to our services.

Refreshments.

Please join us for refreshments after the service in the hall.

Please take this service sheet home with you

Collect of the day *St Stephen*

Gracious Father, who gave the first martyr Stephen grace to pray for those who took up stones against him: grant that in all our sufferings for the truth we may learn to love even our enemies and to seek forgiveness for those who desire our hurt, looking up to heaven to him who was crucified for us, Jesus Christ, our mediator and advocate, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

2 Chronicles 24.20-22

²⁰ The spirit of God took possession of Zechariah son of the priest Jehoiada; he stood above the people and said to them, 'Thus says God: Why do you transgress the commandments of the LORD, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the LORD, he has also forsaken you.'

²¹ But they conspired against him, and by command of the king they stoned him to death in the court of the house of the LORD.

²² King Joash did not remember the kindness that Jehoiada, Zechariah's father, had shown him, but killed his son. As he was dying, he said, 'May the LORD see and avenge!'

Acts 7.51-60

Stephen said to the high priest and the council:

⁵¹ 'You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you are for ever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do.

⁵² Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers. ⁵³ You are the ones that received the law as ordained by angels, and yet you have not kept it.'

⁵⁴ When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen.

⁵⁵ Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶

'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!'

⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.'

⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.'

When he had said this, he died.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

The word of God continued to spread; the number of disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem.

Alleluia!

Matthew 10.17-22

Jesus summoned the twelve and sent them out with the following instruction:

¹⁷ Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; ¹⁸ and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. ¹⁹ When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; ²⁰ for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. ²¹ Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; ²² and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.