



26 December 2021  
St Stephen



**Welcome to our worship, especially if you are here for the first time.**

**Responsible for one another ...**

If you have COVID symptoms please come again when you have recovered.

Groups of seats and individual seats are arranged where possible. If not, ask for a card requesting the seat next to you to be left free.

There is now a legal requirement to wear a face covering in places of Worship (unless you are exempt).

We will continue to share the peace by turning and/or waving to our neighbours.

### **Sunday 26 December**

8am Said Eucharist at St Andrew's: Canon Paul Gully

9.30am Family Eucharist at Resurrection : Canon Paul Gully, Preacher: Amber VP Reader: Philip Sampson, Intercessor: Miriam Sampson

**Hymns: 183,320,481,182**

11.15am Family Eucharist at St Andrew's: Canon Paul Gully, Preacher: Amber VP, Reader: Ann Howells, Intercessor: Amber VP

**Hymns: 94,427,645,240**

### **Wednesday 29 December**

10am Said Eucharist at St Andrew's: Canon Paul Gully

7pm Said Eucharist at Resurrection : Canon Paul Gully

### **Collect for 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.

### **Acts 7.51-end**

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. 52Which 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. 53You 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. 55But filled with the Holy Spirit, he 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!' 57But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. 58Then 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. 59While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' 60Then 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.

### **Matthew 10.17-22**

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

### **Post Communion Prayer for St Stephen**

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.

**Thank you to everyone** who worked to decorate our churches so beautifully for Christmas and who contributed to the services with readings, music, prayers and who helped with the crib services and so much more behind the scenes.

## Comfort and Joy/ Churches Homeless Action

**Vouchers:** Thank you very much for the kind voucher donation raised by Farlington Parish in support of the collection. It has been gratefully received by Fr Bob, the chair of Churches Homeless Action. Each year the recipients are overwhelmed by the generosity of those who contribute.

Yours sincerely, Maggie Moles CHA Secretary  
Temporary Deanery Admin Officer



## Farlington Parish donations to Friends without Borders:

Dear Reverend Canon Paul Gully,

We wanted to thank you so much for your [parish's] 4 year commitment to raise funds for Friends without Borders and to let you know how much it meant to our small charity.... throughout Covid we have continued to support our clients by amending our usual face to face drop in, with that of BACS payments and telephone befriending. This has proved very successful, such that we are now looking to continue the befriending aspect to open up the possibility for volunteers who are unable to physically attend our drop in, but can contribute in other ways at times better suiting their working life.

Throughout restrictions we were able, through the generous supporters such as yourselves, to continue making our weekly destitution payments to those most vulnerable, and where a bank transfer was not possible, our treasurer would physically deliver cash to those in need. It was delightful to be able to throw open our doors once more in April and see our clients and our drop in has been going from strength to strength. We now have Citizens Advice at our drop in which enhances the service which we can provide with training immigration specialists to hand. We also have Stephen Morgan MP attending a surgery once a month to assist with the Home Office issues. We are aware of the huge mental health issues which have been arising out of lockdown, and which do affect our clients, and have been trying to extend the social opportunities which we offer and have weekly/monthly gardening clubs, baking clubs, walking club and English classes and woodworking classes, to name but a few.

The next few months are somewhat uncertain for most of us, however please be assured that we will be continuing to support asylum seekers and vulnerable migrants, and continue to be their voice in a quite hostile environment for them here. We thank you again so much for your 4 year commitment to our charity.

Meanwhile we wish you all a Happy Christmas and all the best for 2022.

With best wishes, Veronica and Bryony Joint Chair Friends without Borders

### Next Sunday 2 January

#### Epiphany

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| 8am     | Said Eucharist at St Andrew's: Canon Paul Gully   |
| 9.30am  | Family Eucharist at Resurrection: Canon Paul Gully, Reader: Sheena Day<br>Intercessor: Jenny Gibbons    |
| 11.15am | Family Eucharist at St Andrew's. Canon Paul Gully, Reader: Rosemary Hadley<br>Intercessor: Amanda Wells |

The readings for 2 January are: Ephesians 3.1-12 and Luke 2.15-21. I really encourage you to read these before you come to worship. Paul

### For your prayers this week 26 December—1 January

- Gracious God, teach us to be compassionate, humble and meek. May we strive to be Christlike in all we do.
- For our Diocesan Mission and Social Transformation Team led by Nick Ralph
- For our local police and magistrates
- For residents of King Arthur Court and Kinross Crescent.
- For Court Lane Junior School
- For those who are ill
- For those who have died recently including Joan Baker
- Anniversaries: John Blatt, Dorrie Dillon, Pete Mitchell and Christine Rayner

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Farlingtonparishuk



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If you have any information for inclusion in pew sheets, please contact Kathryn Gunns by **Thursday 4.30pm** on 023 9237 3019  
email: [kgunns@gmail.com](mailto:kgunns@gmail.com).