



WELCOME

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ST STEPHEN

26th December 2021

SAID SERVICE



COLLECT

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.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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.

FOR OUR PRAYERS: Margaret, Betty, Brian & family, Nadine

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE RECENTLY DIED: William Lawrence Knight

IN REMEMBRANCE: Ronald Cooper, John Surrey, David Kehl, Dorothy Appleyard

TOTZONE RESTART

We are hoping to restart TotZone on Wednesday mornings. We need a few more people to help with our weekly term-time group for pre-school children. Please have a word with Richard or Pat Alliston, if you can help.



HOME TO RENT WANTED

A member of the congregation is looking for a self-contained, one-bedroom flat to rent for around £200 per week. If you have or know of a place, please can you contact Richard or Luiza.



ADMINISTRATOR LEAVE

I will be out of the office from **Friday 24 December** and back to work **Tuesday 4 January**. Have a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!



PRAYER BOARD

The prayer board is now open for use—please attach your requests with the date and we will include them in the Welcome Sheet for 2 weeks. After that time you're welcome to pin another request to the board for further time, or have a word with us.

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Monday 27 December

Church: 18:45 - Meditation group

Tuesday 28 December

Church: 09:30- Morning prayer

Church: 10:30 - Eucharist

Wednesday 29 December

Church: 19:00-21:00 New Life

Thursday 30 December

Chapel 18:30 - Eucharist service

Friday 31 December

Church: 19:00-21:00 New Life

Saturday 1 January 2022

Church: 09:30 - Morning prayer

Sunday 2 January 2022

Church: 10:00 - Eucharist

NT: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. 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 But 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!’ 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.

GOSPEL: Matthew 10: 17—22

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.



