



St Stephen's Pew Sheet

12 July 2026

Welcome to **St Stephen's Church**, part of the Church of England in the Diocese of Gloucester and a member of the South Cheltenham Team Ministry

	Sea Sunday 12 th July 2026	Eighth Sunday after Trinity 26 th July 2026
First	Isaiah 55.1-13	1 Kings 3.5-12
Second	Romans 8.1-11	Romans 8.26-39
Gospel	Matthew 13.1-9,18-23	Matthew 13.31-33,44-52
President	Rev Andrew Taylor	Rev Catherine Milsom
Reader	Sue	Sara
Intercessor	Adrienne	Sue

Hymns		
Introit	623	Eternal Father, strong to save
Gradual	387	Rise and hear! The Lord is speaking
Offertory	621	Dear Lord and Father
Communion	Lead me, Lord - S.S.Wesley and 832 Calm me Lord	
Final	477	Go forth and tell!

SERVICES DURING THE WEEK	
Said Communion	2 nd Weds 10.30 (followed by coffee in the meeting room)
Morning Prayer online at: www.stpetersleck.org and via Facebook at: www.facebook.com/pipandjims Or 9am in person at P&J on Monday, St Christopher's Tuesday and St Peter's on Thursday	
SAFEGUARDING : Sue Rowe is the Nominated Person responsible for safeguarding	

COLLECT

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding; pour into our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; 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.
Amen.

After the service, please stay for refreshments in the Meeting Room

www.saintstephenscheltenham.org

Contact us via our email address ststephenstivoli@gmail.com

First Reading – Isaiah 55.10-13

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Second Reading – Romans 8.1-11

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Gospel – Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!'

‘Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.’

PARISH DIARY

Saturday	18	July	3pm	Da Capo Opera Ensemble A concert of Opera highlights - in costume and staged, so particularly entertaining!
Sunday	26	July	10am	Communion and Re-ordering Ceremony for the Memorial Chapel
Saturday	1	August	10:30am	Coffee Morning at Mary Jackson's house – 13 Church Road, GL53 0PG
Sunday	9	August	10am	Communion
Wednesday	12	August	10:30am	Said Communion

CONTACTS

Team Rector (Day off Friday)	Rev. Canon Gary Grady	511522	revgarygrady@btinternet.com
Vicar (study day Thurs, day off Saturday)	Rev Catherine Milsom	07871 963000	Catherine@pipandjims.org.uk
Church Warden	Adrienne Davis	07738 022399	ststephenstivoli@gmail.com
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NOTICES

TODAY - Emma Brown (the researcher who is expertly doing the Community Impact Assessment for proposed developments in St Stephen's) would like to meet as many members of the congregation as possible, over coffee/tea. Please do stay and have your say - all your opinions and ideas are greatly valued.

Sunday, 26th July 10am: A day for celebration - please be sure to have this firmly in your diaries too! Our regular service will include the re-dedication of our proudly refurbished Memorial Chapel/Meeting Room, with its newly-installed good upright piano. Refreshments will follow, and we hope as many of the community as possible will attend. Everyone will be extremely welcome at 10am, 11am or at both! We will also be saying Goodbye and Thank you to Rev Catherine Milsom, who has covered Ruth Edmonds' leave so wonderfully. Sash Giles and her team (from the Diocesan Advisory Committee) will be attending; also invited are the DAC Communications team, stonemason Sebastien, the drains company and Architect Matthew Hollingsworth.

On **Saturday 1st August** Mary Jackson has kindly offered to host another Coffee Morning at her home at 10:30, in aid of Church Funds. Please come along if you can.

***** If you can provide some cake(s) for our 26 July celebration, please let Fiona know!! *****

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

- For all residents in care homes
- For all who are unwell/ undergoing treatment including, David, Peter Daphne, Polly, James, Sheila Thorpe, Jennifer, Kay, Jenny, Chris and Pam
- Those who died recently
- For all victims of recent Hate Crimes and arson attacks on places of worship in Britain
- For the people of Iran, Lebanon and Palestine whose homes and communities are reduced to rubble by Israeli strikes