

The Church of England in Central Windsor

Sunday 22nd December 2024
10am

SUNG EUCHARIST
for the Fourth Sunday of Advent



**150th Anniversary of the Consecration
of
St Stephen's Church**

A warm welcome to St Stephen & St Agnes Church
for our special service this morning
and especially to The Venerable Stephen Pullin,
Archdeacon of Berkshire, who is our preacher today.

Our History

In 1866 services began to be held in a house in Clewer Fields. St Stephen's Mission House was built in 1867 and blessed by Canon Thomas Carter, Rector of Clewer, in October 1868.

The building of the present church began in November 1870, when the first stone of the Chancel was laid. By July 1871 enough had been built for worship to begin and the temporary church consisted of Chancel, Organ Chamber, Sacristy, Vestry and small Nave seating about 200. By 1874 the church was finished and was consecrated by the Rt Revd John Mackarness, Bishop of Oxford, on 22 December 1874. The church was as we now see it except that the north aisle was widened and the Lady Chapel added in 1898, the porch built in 1905 and the vestries enlarged in 1886.

The architect was Henry Woodyer who also built the chapel of the Clewer Convent.

The title of St Stephen was chosen because neighbouring St Andrew's, Clewer, was named after one of the first called to be an apostle and so St Stephen is remembered as the first Christian martyr.

In May 2016, the Rt Revd Andrew Proud, Bishop of Reading, re-dedicated the church to both St Stephen & St Agnes (first child martyr) to maintain historical links between the parishes of Clewer.

Vicars of Clewer St. Stephen

The Reverend George Davenport Nicholas	1873 – 1917
The Reverend William Edward Boys	1917 – 1930
The Reverend Albert Ernest Dudley	1930 – 1933
The Reverend Geoffrey Heald	1933 – 1944
The Reverend Arthur Digby Sheffield	1944 – 1956
The Reverend John Anthony Wynne	1957 – 1965
The Reverend John Nicolson Scott	1965 – 1989
The Reverend Andrew William Bunch	1991 – 1997

Rectors of the Benefice of New Windsor

The Reverend Ainsley Laird Swift	1998 – 2018
The Reverend Sally Nicole Lodge	2019 –

Children who would like to attend Sunday Club are welcome to gather at the back of the church after the collect on page 6. Please don't feel embarrassed if babies or little ones cry or make a noise during the service

As our service begins please stand to sing:

OPENING HYMN

**Christ is made the sure foundation,
and the precious corner-stone,
who, the two walls underlying
bound in each, binds both in one
Holy Sion's help for ever,
and her confidence alone.**

**All that dedicated city,
dearly loved by God on high,
in exultant jubilation
pours perpetual melody,
God the One, in Threefold glory
singing everlastingly**

**To this temple, where we call thee,
come, O Lord of hosts, today;
with thy wonted loving-kindness
hear thy people as they pray;
and thy fullest benediction
shed within its walls for ay.**

**Here vouchsafe to all thy servants
gifts of grace by prayer to gain,
here to have and hold for ever
those good things their prayers obtain
and hereafter in thy glory
with thy blessed ones to reign.**

**Laud and honour to the Father,
laud and honour to the Son,
laud and honour to the Spirit,
ever Three and ever One,
One in love, and One in splendour,
while unending ages run. Amen**

Please remain standing for:

THE GREETING

The president says

In the name of the Father†, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

The president greets the people

The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The fourth candle is lit and the following words are said

All **Lord Jesus, Light of the world,
blessed is Gabriel who brought good news;
blessed is Mary your mother and ours.
Bless your Church preparing for Christmas;
and bless us your children
who long for your coming.**

Please sit for:

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANY NOTICES

Please stand for:

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

When the Lord comes,
he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.
Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

Heavenly Father, you exalted the humble and meek;
give us humble and contrite hearts
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you grew towards birth in the Virgin's womb;
be planted also in our hearts and minds
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Holy Spirit, you overshadowed Mary, that she might become
the God-bearer:

fill us with your heavenly gifts
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

The Kyrie Eleison is sung:

All **Lord, have mercy, Lord have mercy.
Christ, have mercy, Christ have mercy.
Lord, have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

ABSOLUTION

The president says

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon† and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

THE COLLECT

*The president introduces a period of silent prayer
with the words:*

Let us pray

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please sit for:

FIRST READING

Micah 5.2–5a

5 ² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labour has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

⁵ and he shall be the one of peace.

At the end the reader says:

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Please remain sitting for:

Psalm 84

The congregation is invited to join in with the Response

How lovely is your dwelling place

How lovely is your / dwelling place,
O / Lord of hosts!
My soul longs, to enter / in your courts,
to rejoice in the / living God. **Response**

Blessèd are those who dwell / in your house,
they will never / cease your praise.
for one day / in your courts
is better than a / thousand days. **Response**

Blessèd is the man whose strength / is in you,
in whose heart are / all your ways;
O Lord / God of hosts,
happy the man who / trusts in you. **Response**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 10.5–10

¹⁰ ⁵ When Christ came into the world, he said,
'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
⁶ in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

⁷ Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will, O God"
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).'

⁸When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings' (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, 'See, I have come to do your will.' He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

At the end the reader says:

All This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand for:

GRADUAL HYMN

**Loud and clear ring out our praises,
Joyful heart and tuneful lay,
Praise and honour blessed Stephen
As we keep this festal day.**

**Holy Stephen! Blessed Patron!
First the crown of life to gain,
Pray for us thy loving children,
That with Christ we too may reign.**

**Chosen by the twelve Apostles
For thy faith and charity
To the Church, our holy Mother,
Pray that we may faithful be.**

**In thy time of bitter trial
Thou didst speak no angry word.
May we bear our crosses bravely
For the love of Christ our Lord.**

**Praying for thy persecutors
"Lord, they know not what they do,"
Ask for us the grace to follow
Pray for all who wrong us to.**

**Thou didst see the heavens opened,
Christ appearing to thy view.
When the hour of death comes near us
May our eyes turn heavenward to.**

**Loud and clear ring out our praises,
Joyful heart and tuneful lay,
Praise and honour blessed Stephen
As we keep this festal day.**

Please remain standing for:

GOSPEL READING

As the Gospel Procession moves to the centre of the aisle, please turn to face the reader

When the Gospel is announced the reader says or sings

All Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia
Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.
All **Alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia**

All Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 1.39–45

1³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

At the end the reader says:

All This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Please sit for:

SERMON

The Venerable Stephen Pullin, Archdeacon of Berkshire

Please stand for:

THE APOSTLES CREED

*Let us declare before God the faith of the church in which, we pray,
we may all find grace to grow.*

All **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen**

Please sit or kneel for:

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

These responses may be used

All Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

All Lord hear us
Lord graciously hear us

And at the end

All Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Please stand for:

THE PEACE

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

cf Luke 1.78,79

All The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.
Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

You are invited to exchange a sign of peace with your neighbour.

*The offertory collection will be brought to the altar to be blessed.
It will be used for the ministry, mission and outreach of the church.
Please consider using the Gift Aid envelopes if you are able to do so.*

*If you give regularly via the collection when you attend Sunday
worship in one of our churches, but are not with us every week, have
you considered giving through the Parish Giving Scheme? It is very
easy to do. Details are in the weekly Keeping Us in Touch leaflet or
speak to any of our churchwardens*

OFFERTORY HYMN

Let us build a house where love can dwell
And all can safely live
A place where saints and children tell
How hearts learn to forgive
Built of hopes and dreams and visions
Rock of faith and vault of grace
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions

*All are welcome, all are welcome
All are welcome in this place*

Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus.

All are welcome...

Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us.

All are welcome...

Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger.

All are welcome...

Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter.

*All are welcome, all are welcome
All are welcome in this place*

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

*The altar is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.
The president takes the bread and wine.*

Look upon us in mercy not in judgement;
draw us from hatred to love;
make the frailty of our praise a dwelling place for your glory.

All **Amen**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

All Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

All Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

Father, we give you thanks and praise
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,
through whom you have created all things;
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.
By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,
he lived on earth and went about among us;
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;
he put an end to death by dying for us;
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

And now we give you thanks
because your Son our Lord was awaited by the prophets,
announced by an angel,
conceived by a virgin,
and proclaimed at last to men and women of every race

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and singing:

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

All **Great is the mystery of faith
Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
St Stephen, St Agnes, St John the Baptist and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The priest says:

Uniting our prayers with the whole company of heaven, let us
pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.

*Please feel free to use either the traditional or the contemporary
version as we pray together*

All **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

All **Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The priest breaks the consecrated bread.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All **Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

AGNUS DEI

All **Lamb of God,
You take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us
Lamb of God,
You take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God,
You take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.**

GIVING OF COMMUNION

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink

in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

All **Amen.**

If you are confirmed or a communicant member of the Church of England or any other Christian church, you are welcome to receive communion with us this morning. Otherwise, you are warmly invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Please bring the service booklet with you so we know you wish to receive a blessing.

Gluten free wafers are available on request.

During the administration of communion the following will be sung

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
'All hail,' said he 'thou lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favoured lady.'
Gloria!

'For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honour thee,
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold;
most highly favoured lady'
Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
'To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,
'My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name';
most highly favoured lady,
Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say
'Most highly favoured lady.'
Gloria!

ANTHEM: Song of Mary (*Shephard*)

PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

Heavenly Father,
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of the promised saviour:
fill us your servants with your grace,
that in all things we may embrace your holy will
and with her rejoice in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

All **Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work
to your praise and glory
Amen**

Members of Sunday Club are invited to show their work to the congregation

Please stand for:

THE DISMISSAL

The president says

THE BLESSING

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from before your path,
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father†, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

FINAL HYMN

*As the clergy and ministers depart,
please turn to face the back of the church.*

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord:
unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name:
make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might:
powers and dominions lay their glory by;
proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**

**Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word:
firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore.**

The deacon says

All With love and compassion,
come, Lord Jesus.
All With judgement and mercy,
come, Lord Jesus.
All In power and glory,
come, Lord Jesus.
All In wisdom and truth,
come, Lord Jesus.

All Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

**Please stay for special refreshments
which will be served after the service.**

Advent & Christmas Services

24 th Dec	3:00pm	Crib Service	St Stephen & St Agnes Church
	3:00pm	Crib Service & Christingle	All Saints' Church
	6:15pm	Living Advent Calendar	Windsor Parish Church
	11:15pm	Midnight Mass	St Stephen & St Agnes Church
	11:15pm	Midnight Communion	Holy Trinity Church
25 th Dec	8:00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Holy Trinity Church
	10:00am	Family Eucharist with Carols	All Saints' Church
	11:15am	Christmas Morning Praise with Holy Communion	Windsor Parish Church
26 th Dec	10:00am	Said Eucharist (St Stephen's Day)	St Stephen & St Agnes Church
29 th Dec	10:00am	Sung Eucharist	Holy Trinity Church
5 th Jan	10:00am	Sung Eucharist (Epiphany)	St Stephen & St Agnes Church

If you are visiting today or attending for the first time, we hope that you have felt 'at home' here, that you will be refreshed by today's service of worship and that you will return in the future. We shall be delighted if you decide to make our church community your spiritual home.

You are welcome to take this service sheet away with you for private reflection or to give to a friend.

If you would like to know more about the Christian faith, please ask! You can also find out more by following the "Our Faith" link on the Church of England website: www.churchofengland.org



Team Website
www.windsorchurches.org.uk

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