**Welcome to St Margaret’s Church Ifield**

***Loved as you are***

**Sunday 26th December 2021**

**St Stephen**

*All are welcome to St Margaret’s and we encourage all to take part fully in this service. If you have* ***mobility issues*** *that make it difficult for you to come and receive communion, should you want to, then do please notify our sides-people, and we will come to you.*

***Due to the Coronavirus please make your responses in a quiet voice in order to minimise the risk of infection***

**THE GATHERING**

***We stand at the entrance of the clergy:***

**THE GREETING**

Celebrant In the name of the Father, and of the Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

**All Amen.**

Celebrant Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**All And also with you.**

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**THE PRAYER OF PREPARATION**

**All****Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF PENITENCE**

Celebrant  Hear the words of the angel to Joseph: ‘You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins’. Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God through Jesus the Saviour of the world.

**All Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past****and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Celebrant 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 GLORIA**

**Glory to God in the highest,**

**and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,**

**we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**THE COLLECT**

Celebrant We give you thanks, O Lord of glory, for the example of the first martyr Stephen, who looked up to heaven and prayed for his persecutors to your Son Jesus Christ, who stands at your right hand; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

***Please sit for the readings:***

**THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**First Reading**

*2 Chronicles 24:20-22*

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

**All****Thanks be to God.**

**Second Reading**

*Acts 7:51-end*

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God**

***Please stand for the Gospel:***

***The Gospel Reading***

*Matthew 10:17-22*

The Lord be with you.

**All** **And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**All** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please remain standing until the preacher has introduced the Sermon:*

**THE SERMON**

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**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Let us declare our faith in God.

**All We believe in God the Father, from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Prayers for the Church, the world, and for all human need. After each petition the following response is used:*

Lord, in your mercy

**All Hear our prayer**

*and at the end of the prayers:*

Merciful Father,

**All accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,**

**our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT**

**The Peace**

Celebrant Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**AllAnd also with you.**

Celebrant Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace by looking at those around you and greeting them with a warm smile.

*As the Body of Christ receives its life from God, and offers its life to God, so we, as members of that Body, greet each other in love.*

**The Preparation of the Table**

**The Taking of the Bread and Wine**

Celebrant Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

**All All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.**

***We sit or stand for:***

**THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

Celebrant The Lord be with you

**All and also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

**All We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Celebrant All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty creator, ever-living God. We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who for love of our fallen race humbled himself was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of your Spirit, and lived as one of us.

In this mystery of the Word made flesh you have caused his light to shine in our hearts, to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

In him we see our God made visible and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name and say our joyful hymn of praise:

**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.**

Celebrant We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: 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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Praise to you Lord Jesus:

**All Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with St Margaret and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever. **Amen**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**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.**

***The 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.**

***The Giving of Communion***

Celebrant Come, not because you are strong, but because you are weak. Come, not because any goodness of your own gives you any right to come, but because you need mercy and help. Come, because you love the Lord a little, and would like to love him more. Come, because he loves you and gave himself for you.

**All We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy.**

**Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us. Amen.**

**All Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:**

**have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:**

**have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:**

**grant us peace.**

*Please follow the directions of the sidespeople who will guide you to receive your Communion.*

*The sacrament will be administered to the congregation in both kinds but by intinction. As the priest offers you the host with the words* ***‘The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ’*** *please respond:* ***Amen****.*

**Prayer after Communion**

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

**All Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ’s body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**NOTICES**

**THE BLESSING**

Celebrant The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds, in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**THE DISMISSAL**

Celebrant We go into the world to walk in God’s light,

to rejoice in God’s love,

and to reflect God’s glory.

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All In the name of Christ. Amen.**



Registered Charity Account no.  1132318

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**Notices**

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| **Service next Sunday:**  *Christmas 2* | **Said Eucharist Service (8.00 am)**  **First Sunday Service (11.00 am)**  **and on Facebook and the parish website** [www.ifieldparish.org](http://www.ifieldparish.org) |