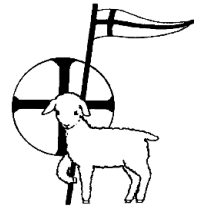


St John the Baptist Church, Tisbury

reflecting Jesus Christ



Sunday 3rd May 2026

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Today's Services

9.30am All-Age Service

Led by Canon Judy Anderson

Songs: 123 I will enter his gates; Be bold, be strong (*words overleaf*); 23 Be still, for the presence of the Lord;
71 Give me joy in my heart

The reading set for today tells about the death of Stephen, the first Christian martyr. We think about the times when things are not going well for us. As usual, there will be an activity for the children, and refreshments will be served near the organ after the service.

Church Annual Meetings

Today's service is followed by the church Annual Meetings, which will begin at 10.45am in St Andrew's Chapel. Do please make every effort to be there!

It's not too late to stand for election to the PCC (Parochial Church Council) – nominations can be made during the meeting.

Next Sunday, 10th May

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

9.30am Parish Communion

President and Preacher: The Revd Canon Michael Goater

Thursday 14th May

Ascension Day

6.30pm Parish Communion

President and Preacher: The Revd Canon Tony Monds

Do come and be part of our celebration of Ascension Day, when the church marks the bodily ascension of Christ into heaven after various appearances to his disciples and others over the 40 days following the Resurrection.

In Memoriam

The funeral of **Elspeth Hulme** will take place on 8th May in the Surrey village where she lived for many years before moving to Tisbury. Please pray for Juliette and all Elspeth's family at this time of loss.

Old Fonthill Abbey Grounds

Open 3rd and 17th May 10.30-4.30

The extensive grounds are open in aid of Cure Parkinson's and local charities this Sunday and again in two weeks' time. Why not spend the afternoon there – or go for a barbecue lunch? Bluebell woods and rhododendrons; lakeside walks and Abbey views; barbecue and home-made refreshments. Suggested entry donation £10, and 'polite dogs' are welcome. The entrance is on the Hindon-Newtown lane, SP3 6SP.

East Window wins national award!

The results of the (national) Art and Christianity Awards 2025/26 were announced on 23rd April. Our Memorial East Window was declared winner of the category 'For a permanent art commission within the building or grounds of a place of worship in the UK.' Congratulations to Tom Denny, the artist, and the East Window Committee!

You can read about the award at <https://artandchristianity.org/awards>

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The Collect for the Fifth Sunday of Easter

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Song: Be bold, be strong

Be bold, be strong
For the Lord your God is with you
Be bold, be strong
For the Lord your God is with you
I am not afraid
I am not dismayed
Because I'm walking in faith and victory
Come on and walk in faith and victory
For the Lord your God is with you

Morris Chapman 1940-2025
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The Reading: Acts 7.55-end

Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw God's glory and Jesus standing at the right side of God. "Look!" he said. "I see heaven opened and the Son of Man standing at the right side of God!"

With a loud cry the Council members covered their ears with their hands. Then they all rushed at him at once, threw him out of the city, and stoned him. The witnesses left their cloaks in the care of a young man named Saul. They kept on stoning Stephen as he called out to the Lord, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" He knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord! Do not remember this sin against them!" He said this and died.

For your prayers

For our linked diocese of Cueibet, South Sudan, we are asked to pray that a volunteer will come forward to be a member of the team for the next visit to the diocese by Chalke Deanery in the autumn.

Please pray for the efforts being made by peacemakers around the world, working to bring peace to war-torn nations and encouraging warring peoples to talk to, and listen to, each other. Pray that world leaders and people of influence would strive for justice, reconciliation and peace around the world. Please pray for all nations of the world, that all will learn to live together with respect and love for one another.



As we remember Stephen, the first Christian martyr, we pray for all who suffer for their faith, asking that they may indeed be bold and strong and that they will know your presence with them.

New services rota

The post of Rector has now been advertised three times, and there have been no expressions of interest. It is felt that one reason for this is that the current pattern of services within the Upper Nadder Benefice is unsustainable. From the beginning of May, we are trialling a new pattern of services, agreed by all the PCCs; we hope that this will make the post of Rector more attractive to potential applicants. A letter from the Rural Dean explaining the rationale is available in church. Services at St John's will be as follows:

1st Sunday 9.30am All-Age Service 2nd Sunday 9.30am Parish Communion 3rd Sunday 6.00pm Choral Evensong
4th Sunday 9.30am Parish Communion On 5th Sundays, a Benefice Service will be held in one of the churches

The full Upper Nadder rota is published each month on the church website: www.tisburyparishchurch.org/unb_rotas/

A date for your diary

The annual Village Fete will take place on **Saturday 13th June**, starting at noon. St John's will again have stalls at the fete – watch out for requests for items to sell! In the meantime, do please put the fete in your diary and plan to come.