

# Welcome to St. Peter's

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## PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK:

We pray for;

Formby Befriending

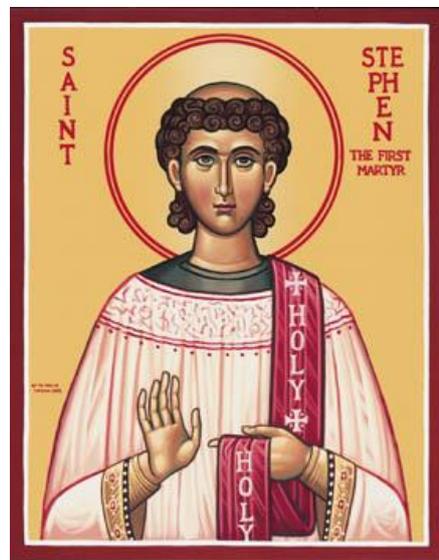
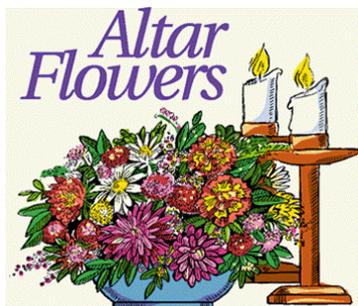
The Samaritans

**For the residents of;** Montagu Road, Golf Road, Timms Lane, Timms Close.

**For the sick;** Ann & Kevin, Barbara, Catherine, Jane, Jim, Margaret, Mike, Penny, Rosemary, those in hospital and our parishioners who are housebound or living in Nursing Homes.

**For the recently departed;** Diana Fox and those whose anniversary of death falls at this time.

The Altar flowers are sponsored by Pat Smith in memory of her mother Robina Winsby and her partner Eric Holdsworth



Parish of St Peter, Formby  
St Stephen's Day  
The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas

26<sup>th</sup> December 2021

## Services for Today:

10.30am Parish Eucharist (Christmas)

**This service will be live streamed.**

Prelude Lloyd-Webber *Good King Wenceslas*

Gathering

83 See, amid the winter's snow

Offertory

298 For all thy saints, O Lord

Post Communion

79 O little town of Bethlehem

Organ Vierne *Final, Symphonie 1*

No Evensong

HAPPY  
NEW YEAR

## The 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. **Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Word;

### The Epistle;

*Our reading today is read by;*

**Acts 7: 51-60**

**Mike Barrett**

‘You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you are for ever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do. 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. You are the ones that received the law as ordained by angels, and yet you have not kept it.’ When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. 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. ‘Look,’ he said, ‘I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!’ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. 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. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’ 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 Reading; **Matthew 10: 17-22**

**Ted Woods**

Jesus said to the twelve: “Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. 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; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.”

### 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. **Amen**

#### Please note -

\*\*\*There will be no Wednesday Eucharist on 29<sup>th</sup> December or 5<sup>th</sup> January

*Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> January – The Epiphany*

8.30am Eucharist (BCP)  
10.00am Parish Eucharist (Live streamed)  
*There will be no Evensong*

