

## *Thank you for your welcome!*

**T**hank you so much to everyone for your wonderful welcome to St. Stephen's Hightown for me and my family, from before my licensing service on 25th June, in getting the vicarage and grounds ready, to the wonderful 'Welcome Reception' after my collation. We have all appreciated it so much. It's been lovely to meet so many folks already.



It's really fitting that the Holy Gospel, for my first Sunday here with you, sees Jesus telling his disciples:

*"Whoever welcomes you, welcomes me and whoever welcomes me, welcomes the one who sent me".*

*+Matthew 10:40*

Welcome was, and is, important to Jesus. One of the things that attracted me to discern a calling here, was the welcome I had received from the congregation whilst helping out during the vacancy. During that time, it was clear that 'welcome' is really important to the church community here. We claim on our website to be "welcoming and joyful in worship". I believe we are!

If you have not been to St Stephen's for a while, or never been and don't attend anywhere else, then come and see us at one of our Sunday or midweek services. You will be very welcome.

***Best wishes and God bless,***

***Keith***