

At the heart
of Christmas



Welcome to

**St Stephen's Church
Elton Bury**

Sunday 2nd January 2022

This Week

Today

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Holy Communion

Next Sunday

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Family Service

Post Communion Prayer

Lord God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek: may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light discern the glory of your presence in your Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Collect for Epiphany

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Keeping Safe in Church

It is mandatory to wear a mask in church at all times unless you have an exemption.

- 1) Keep contact indoors to a minimum.
- 2) Keep layout in church as it is.
- 3) Keep Gelling.

This Week's Readings

1st	Isaiah 60: 1 - 6	OT page	700
2nd	Ephesians 3: 1 - 12	NT page	122
Gospel	Matthew 2: 1 - 12	NT page	1
Psalm	72: 10 - 15	OT page	545

In our Prayers

This week we pray for the members of our community who live or work in Longridge Drive, Powell Street, Saxon Close and White Street.

We pray for the healing and comfort of those who are sick, especially today for Mohammed, Dorothy Fentom, Irene Black, Annette Maskray, Geoffrey Lay, Lynne Mullane, Joseph Atwell, Kath Wells, Ian Francis and Rev. Derek French.

We pray today for those who mourn the loss of a loved one, remembering the friends of Lilian Bentley as we inter her ashes later today and for Margaret Gill; we pray for her partner Paul and daughters Lisa and Suzanne, may she rest in peace and rise in glory.

As part of Churches Together in Bury we pray for our brothers and sisters at St. Marie's RC, especially their priest, Father William Foley.

**Flower Donations
Lectern**

Margaret Pemberton in memory of Lilian Bentley.

If you would like to celebrate an anniversary or commemorate a loved one by placing flowers on the Altar, Lady Chapel, lectern or Book of Remembrance please speak to a member of the flower team, or contact them as follows.

Ann Sullivan - 0161 797 7534

Barbara Ingham - 0161 764 9466

June Berry - 0161 761 2643

Children

There is a creche area at the back of the Lady Chapel on the left for you and your parents to use during our services.

The news sheet can be found on our website @
www.ststephenelton.com

Follow us on twitter @StStephensElton



Christmas Greetings

In what has been another difficult year I hope that you are able to find some Comfort and Joy this Christmas. Let us hope that 2022 is better. Thank you for your cards and best wishes. And I wish you all a very peace filled Christmas.

In lieu of cards to everyone I have made a donation to **Stars for Wishes** and hung the **STAR** on the tree at the back of church. Please consider doing the same. God Bless and Keep You, Your Priest and Friend, Paul.

Stars for Wishes

Our Stars for Wishes tree is still up. This is a worthy cause. If you put your donation in an envelope and mark it Stars for Wishes we will ensure it gets to them.

100 Cub

The winners for the December Grand Draw are 1st - £75 Debbie Fitton [13]; 2nd - £15 Beryl McClelland [53]; 3rd - £10 Lynda Rigg [68]; 4th - £5 Alan Cook [37]

Quiz

There is a Christmas puzzle available from Ann Sullivan, no charge, just have some fun.

Stamps for Bury Hospice

Please remember to collect your stamps for Bury Hospice. Bring them to church and put them in the box at the back or give them to Janis.

How to Contact Us

Priest in Charge

Rev. Paul Sanderson Mob: 07795810016
Email: paul270159@gmail.com

Readers

Harold Baxter Tel: 0161 764 5979
Celia Dutton Tel: 0161 764 0583

Warden

Ronnie Howarth. Tel: 07870 796895

At the Heart of Christmas

Please help yourself to a booklet (we have less than last year) or if you have a PC, Laptop tablet or smartphone then a bookmark (we have lots and lots) with all the ways you can access the meditations for the 12 days of Christmas. Take a booklet or as many bookmarks as you like for friends, neighbours and family.

Matthew 2: 1 - 12

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew; Glory to you O Lord.

2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, **2** asking, 'Where is the child who has been born King of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' **3** When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, **4** and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he enquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. **5** They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: **6** "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" **7** The Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. **8** Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' **9** When they heard the king, they set out; and there ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. **10** When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. **11** On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. **12** And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

This is the gospel of the Lord; praise to you O Christ.

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News sheet deadline - please send all your news items to Tony Parsons by 7.00pm each Thursday.
Email tony.parsons67@gmail.com