

Welcome to
St Stephen's Church
Elton Bury

Sunday 18th December 2022



Post Communion Prayer

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Collect for Fourth Sunday of Advent

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

In our Prayers

This week we pray for the members of our community who live or work in Fountain Street, Lonsdale Street, Oakwood Close and Wellington House.

We pray for the healing and comfort of those who are sick, especially today for Lynne Mullane, Joseph Atwell, Kath Wells, Ian Francis, Rev. Derek French, Gloria Beecraft, and Phylis Le Fevre.

We pray today for all who mourn the recent loss of a loved one and those whose anniversaries occur at this time. We especially pray for our dearly beloved friend, Marjorie Atkinson, her daughters, Sylvia, Julie and Wendy and all her family.

As part of Churches Together in Bury we pray for our brothers and sister at Brandleholme Methodist Church, especially their Deacon, Michelle Brocklehurst.

Christmas Eve Nativity

Carols around the Christmas Tree & Nativity Story 6pm 24th Dec at St Stephen's Church. Dress your children up as one of the characters from the nativity and bring them to sing carols and take part in telling the story of a special baby. (suitable for children 0 to 100)



This Week's Readings

1st	Isaiah 7: 10 - 16	OT page	646
2nd	Romans 1: 1 - 7	NT page	147
Gospel	Matthew 1: 18 - End	NT page	1
Psalms	80: 1 - 8, 18 - 20	OT page	552

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. We also have a Junior Church for 5 year olds and upwards in the Centenary room during the 10.00am service, when there isn't a family service. There are songs, readings and crafts for all ages.

Please join us in the Centenary Room after the 10.00am service for refreshments and fellowship.



700 Club

We have one spare number, please speak to Anne Broadrick if you are interested in joining. Winners for December are £75 Maureen Cooper (9), £15 Carole Evans (20), £10 Carol Kitchen (65) and £5 Lynn McMahan.

Christmas Cards

We would like to ask you to consider giving a donation to this worthy charity rather than sending Christmas cards to all your friends at church. The board at the back of church will be available for you to send a single card or a star to people at church and a donation box for your gift. Heather Cauldwell has further details about the charity.

Follow the Star theme -The Great Invitation

The Church of England is returning to the very popular Follow the Star theme, with a focus on The Great Invitation. We are encouraging everyone to share the joy of gathering together to celebrate the birth of Jesus with your family, friends and neighbours - especially after two years where this has been impossible for many. Please help yourself to a booklet or access online if you have a PC, Laptop tablet or smartphone. The meditations cover the 12 days of Christmas. Take a booklet, whilst stocks last, for friends, neighbours and family.



What's on

Wednesday 14th
10.00 - 1.00 Warm Wednesday

Flower Donations

Christmas Poinsettias

If you would like to place a poinsettia in church over Christmas to remember a loved one please give their name and £5 to a member of the Flower Team.

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 June Berry on 0161 761 2643.

Warm Wednesday

Every Wednesday, until further notice, from 10.00am to 1.00pm tea and toast and other refreshments are available in the Centenary Room along with a very warm welcome and hospitality. Invite your neighbours along to a warm space where they can have fun and fellowship in a cozy place. No charge.

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 & Ronnie.

How to Contact Us

Vicar - Rev. Paul Sanderson

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Reader Emeritus

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Gail Champion

Follow us on twitter **@StStephensElton**

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

Christmas Message

Last year we hoped that 2022 would be a better year. With regards to Covid it has been, but we have lost a lot of faithful friends and family this year who we will miss this Christmas. We remember them with thankfulness. Christ came at Christmas so death does not have the last word. We celebrate the new-born child who will become the saviour of mankind. 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. Please consider doing the same. God Bless and Keep You. Your Priest and Friend. Paul.

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