



Welcome to
St Stephen's Church
Elton Bury
Sunday 8th January 2023

This Week	
<u>Today</u>	
8.30	Holy Communion
10.00	Family Service
6.00	Choral Evensong
<u>Next Week</u>	
8.30	Holy Communion
10.00	Holy Communion

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.

In our Prayers

This week we pray for the members of our community who live or work in Ainsdale Avenue, Buckingham Drive, Eccleston Close and Glenboro Avenue.

We pray for the healing and comfort of those who are sick, especially today for 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 Elizabeth Pittam and all her family and friends; for Keith Smillie, his mother Wendy, brother Chris and all their family and friends.

As part of Churches Together in Bury we pray for our brothers and sister at St Mary the Virgin, especially their priest, Rev Julian Heaton.

This Week's Readings

1st	Isaiah 60: 1 - 6	OT page	700
2nd	Ephesians 3: 1 - 12	NT page	190
Gospel	Matthew 2: 1 - 12	NT page	1
Psalms	72: 10 - 15	OT page	545

Flower Donations

Christmas Poinsettias

Anyone wishing to take their poinsettia home please see a member of the flower team after the service.

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.

Follow us on twitter @StStephensElton

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

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.



Matthew 2: 1 - 12

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

1 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, **2** "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him." **3** When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; **4** and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. **5** They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: **6** 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel.'" **7** Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; **8** and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." **9** When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. **10** When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; **11** and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. **12** And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

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

Fundraising

A huge thank you for all of the recent effort to raise funds for church. There were a number of events which many of you attended or supported. The amounts raised were as follows.

Mini Market - £236.50
 Christmas Hampers - £355.00
 Quiz Nite - £244.00
 Christmas Magic - £620.80

Please get your think caps on for what events you would like to arrange or support for 2023. Once again a massive thank you for all the time, effort and money you give.

What's on

Wednesday 11th

10.00 - 1.00 Warm Wednesday
 1.30pm Midweekers - Board Games
 7.00pm Games Evening

Thursday 12th

7.00pm Pantomime rehearsal in school

Sunday 15th

2.00pm Children's Pantomime rehearsal

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.

Stamps for Bury Hospice

Please will you collect all the stamps from your Christmas cards and bring them to church. There is a collection box in the porch. Alternatively you can give them to Janis or Ronnie. They are given to Bury Hospice who use them to raise funds. Thank you.

Pantomime 2023

Despite the sudden loss of our Pantomime Queen, Marjorie Atkinson, the whole team have decided, as we firmly believe she would have wished, that the show must go on! We will be staging performances of The Queen of Hearts during February half term holidays, on 23rd, 24th and 25th of February. Full details and tickets will be available shortly.

As many of you know Marjorie was the key to everything, organising and ensuring that each part happened as it needed to. We know a lot, but not everything and without her we will need support from many of you. If you are able to help us in anyway please let us know. We will let you know specifics soon. Thank you in advance.

How to Contact Us

Vicar - Rev. Paul Sanderson

Mob: 07795810016 - Email: paul270159@gmail.com

Reader Emeritus

Celia Dutton

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Wardens

Jenny Downham

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Gail Champion

News sheet deadline - please send all your news items to Tony Parsons by 7.00pm each Thursday.

Email tony.parsons67@gmail.com