



Welcome to
St Stephen's Church
Elton Bury
 Sunday 12th February 2023

This Week

Today

8.30 Holy Communion
 10.00 Family Service
 6.00 Choral Evensong

Next Week

8.30 Holy Communion
 10.00 Holy Communion
 Wednesday 22nd February
 7.30 Ash Wednesday

Post Communion Prayer

God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your Church: may we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross and enjoy the delights of eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Collect for the Second Sunday before Lent

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever.

In our Prayers

This week we pray for the members of our community who live or work in Ainsworth Road, Bolton Road, Ewood Drive and Henley Close.

We pray for the healing and comfort of those who are sick, especially today for Joseph Atwell, Kath Wells, Ian Francis, Rev. Derek French, Phylis Le Fevre, Janis Howarth, Steven De Rouwe, Matt Ablett and Alan Sheppard.

We pray today for all who mourn the recent loss of a loved one and those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

As part of Churches Together in Bury we pray for our brothers and sisters at Guardian Angels RC, especially their priest Father Paul Cannon.

This Week's Readings

1st	Genesis 1: 1 - 2: 3	OT page	1
2nd	Romans 8: 18 - 25	NT page	154
Gospel	Matthew 6: 25 - End	NT page	6
Psalm	136	OT page	587

Flower Donations

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.

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.



What's on

Wednesday 15th

Midweekers - Pointless

7.30pm

PCC

Thursday 16th

7.00pm

Pantomime rehearsal in school

Sunday 19th

2.00pm

Pantomime dress rehearsal

APCM 2023

This year's APCM will be on Wednesday 19th April, time and venue to be confirmed. Please will all organisations and officers email their reports to tony.parsons67@gmail.com by Sunday 5th March so that the annual report can be created? If you have any questions regarding this please speak to me, Tony Parsons. Thank you.

Junior Church Needs You

From March we will have no Junior Church Leaders. We have 16 children in total who attend several times a year and some most weeks. It is a crucial ministry without which we will lose the children as a full adult service is not appropriate. I appreciate leading needs confidence and skill which I know some of you have from previous employment or experience in leading Junior Church in the past. We need ideally 3 leaders (+ assistants for safeguarding purposes) to each cover 1 Sunday of 3 a month term time only. We use pre prepared worksheets requiring minimal prep. There is normally a choice of an activity - craft, drama etc. which would require a bit more prep. If you want to find out more then have a word with me. There will be a **meeting after Church on 12th Feb.** Children's input to this meeting will be welcome. We will also discuss other roles older children might take on in church and as junior leaders. Please help if you can.

How to Contact Us

Vicar - Rev. Paul Sanderson

Mob: 07795810016 - Email: paul270159@gmail.com

Reader Emeritus

Celia Dutton

Tel: 0161 764 0583

Wardens

Jenny Downham

Tel: 07800845999

Gail Champion

Bible Study Lent 2023 - Dust and Glory

This Lent we are all invited to explore how we can live well with the mess of everyday life.

"Dust and Glory encourages us to take a fresh look at the frustrations and failings that every day brings and, rather than pretending we can always avoid them, seek to learn from them and grow closer to God through them." Archbishops of Canterbury and York

The booklet 'Dust and Glory' is in hard copy (I have 20) or online in various forms or through the App. I would encourage us all to follow this series of 40 reflections, as individuals, as part of our Lenten discipline and to meditate on each day's reflection.

Study Groups: St Stephen's, All Saints & St James

In addition, if you want to explore your thoughts and feelings more then on Monday evenings 7pm we will meet in the Centenary Room. To facilitate this each person will need to keep a simple diary of thoughts/actions for each day and also during the week. Each Session will last approximately an hour with some fellowship time afterwards with tea and bickies (other refreshments will be available. It will consist of :-

- Introduction led by the facilitator(15min)
- Open discussion about the Daily Reflections of the previous week. (30min)
- Prayer – this may be quiet, Compline, Celtic etc. (15min)

The topics will be :-

27/2 Dust and Glory

6/3 What is failure?

13/3 Understanding Sin.

20/3 Sinning as Well as We Can?

27/3 Failure and the Church

3/4 Living Well with Failure (Following Holy Week Compline)

Pantomime 2023

Our performances of The Queen of Hearts will be during the half term holidays, on **23rd, 24th and 25th of February**. Tickets will be on sale in the Centenary Room after the 10.00am service and at school from 2.00pm to 4.00pm; prices are adults £6.00, children £4.00.

We are seeking donations of raffle prizes and people to sell tickets each night; people who will help with refreshments on each night and someone who will be our Hall Manager. If you can help with any of these please speak to Katie, Paul or Tony.

The news sheet can be found on our website

@ www.ststephenelton.com

Follow us on twitter @StStephensElton

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

Email tony.parsons67@gmail.com