

Welcome to  
**St Stephen's Church**  
**Elton Bury**  
 Sunday 31st December  
 2023

This Week	
<u>Today</u>	
10.00	Holy Communion
<u>Next Sunday</u>	
8.30	Holy Communion
10.00	Holy Communion

### Collect for 1st Sunday of Christmas

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### Post Communion Prayer

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### This Week's Readings

1st	Isaiah 61: 10 - 62: 3	OT page	702
2nd	Galatians 4: 4 - 7	NT page	186
Gospel	Luke 2: 15 - 21	NT page	56
Psalm	148	OT page	594

### Flower Donations

#### Book of Remembrance

Wendy Smillie in memory of Keith Smillie

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.

### In our Prayers

This week we pray for the members of our community who live or work in Belbeck Street, Hamilton Close, Reigate Close and Windsor Drive.

We pray for the healing and comfort of those who are sick, especially today for Ian Francis, Rev. Derek French, Phylis Le Fevre, Roger Broadrick and Elma Hoyle.

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 St. John the Baptist Bircle especially their wardens as they enter in interregnum.

### 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 3rd

1.30pm Midweekers - CD's winter theme  
7.00pm Mothers' Union

Thursday 4th

2.00pm Angel festival removing displays

### Christmas Greetings

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, like I have done for the past few years, to **Stars for Wishes** and hung the **STAR** on the Lady Chapel tree. Please consider doing the same. God Bless and Keep You  
Your Priest and Friend, Paul

The next meeting of the Craft Group will be on Monday 8th January at 2.00pm in the Centenary Room. This will include a debrief following the Angel Festival and ideas for future meetings.

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.



Following on from the past few years once again the CofE have produced a booklet of reflections for the 12 days of Christmas. This is also available online and via an app.

The app also includes Advent and features daily Advent reflections (1 - 23 December) and 12 days of Christmas reflections (24 December - 6 January).

Together, each reflection takes you on a journey that will help you take fresh encouragement and hope from Advent and the Christmas story into the year ahead.

The app is available to download now for free from the CofE website or via a QR code on bookmarks you can pick up in the porch.

**Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke - *Glory to you O Lord.***

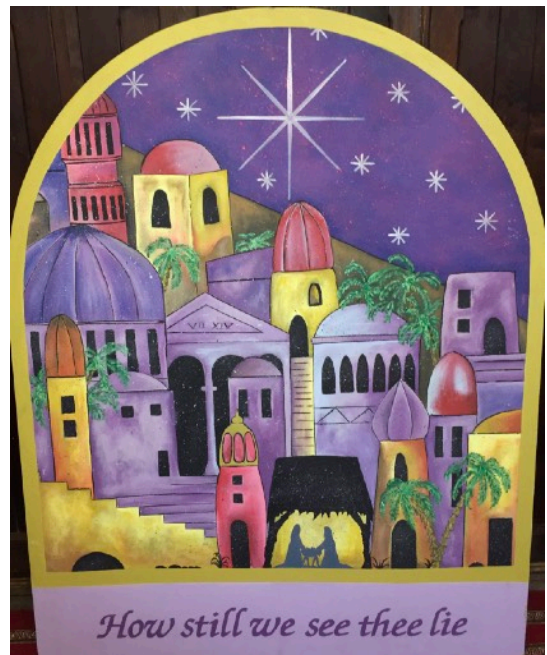
**Luke 2: 15 - 21**

**15** When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us."

**16** And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. **17** And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; **18** and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.

**19** But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. **20** And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. **21** And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

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



### How to Contact Us

#### Vicar

Rev. Paul Sanderson

#### Wardens

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Wendy Smillie

#### Contact details

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#### Reader Emeritus

Celia Dutton

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The news sheet can be found on our website @ [www.ststephenelton.com](http://www.ststephenelton.com)

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

Email [tony.parsons67@gmail.com](mailto:tony.parsons67@gmail.com)