



Welcome to
St Stephen's Church
Elton Bury
 Sunday 17th December
 2023

This Week

Today

8.30 Holy Communion
 10.00 Holy Communion
 6.00 Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
 Next Sunday Christmas Eve
 8.30 Holy Communion
 10.00 Holy Communion
 6.00 Crib Service
 11.30 Midnight Eucharist

Collect for Third Sunday of Advent

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion Prayer

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

This Week's Readings

1st	Isaiah 61: 1 - 4, 8 - end	OT page	702
2nd	1 Thessalonians 5: 16 - 24	NT page	235
Gospel	John 1: 6 - 8, 19 - 28	NT page	88
Psalm	126	OT page	584

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.

In our Prayers

This week we pray for the members of our community who live or work in Bank Hall Close, Lyons Drive, Stapleford Grove and Withnell 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 Seedfield Methodist Church especially their priest Rev David Somerfield.

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 20th
6.00pm Christingle Service

Sunday 24th
6.00pm Nativity Service
11.15pm Midnight Eucharist

Monday 25th
10.00am Hoy Communion

Sunday 31st
10.00am Holy Communion

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)



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.

Follow us on twitter **@StStephensElton**

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

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

John 1: 6 - 8, 19 - 28

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. **7** He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. **8** He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light. **19** And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" **20** He confessed, he did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." **21** And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" And he answered, "No." **22** They said to him then, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" **23** He said, "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said." **24** Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. **25** They asked him, "Then why are you baptising, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" **26** John answered them, "I baptise with water; but among you stands one whom you do not know, **27** even he who comes after me, the thong of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." **28** This took place in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptising.

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

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.

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

How to Contact Us

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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