



Welcome to
St Stephen's Church
Elton Bury
 Sunday 24th December
 2023

This Week

Today

8.30 Holy Communion
 10.00 Holy Communion
 6.00 Crib Service
 11.30 Midnight Eucharist

Christmas Day

10.00 Holy Communion

Sunday 31st

10.00 Holy Communion

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.

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.

This Week's Readings

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|--------|------------------------|---------|-----|
| 1st | 2 Samuel 7: 1 - 11, 16 | OT page | 290 |
| 2nd | Romans 16: 25 - end | NT page | 161 |
| Gospel | Luke 1: 26 - 38 | NT page | 54 |
| Psalm | 89: 1- 4, 19 - 26 | OT page | 557 |

In our Prayers

This week we pray for the members of our community who live or work in Bispham Close, Freckleton Drive, Rose Grove and Winmarleigh Close.

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 Kirklees Valley, especially their wardens as they continue in interregnum.

Flower Donations

Book of Remembrance

In memory of Daphne Carol Powell, much loved and sadly missed mother of Barbara Ingham and family.

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.



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



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.

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

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

Luke 1: 26 - 38

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, **27** to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. **28** And he came to her and said, "Hail, O favoured one, the Lord is with you!" **29** But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. **30** And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. **31** And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. **32** He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, **33** and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there will be no end." **34** And Mary said to the angel, "How shall this be, since I have no husband?" **35** And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. **36** And behold, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. **37** For with God nothing will be impossible." **38** And Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

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

The Song of Mary

Magnificat

1 My soul doth magnify the Lord : and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. 2 For he hath regarded : the lowliness of his handmaiden. 3 For behold, from henceforth : all generations shall call me blessed. 4 For he that is mighty hath magnified me : and holy is his Name. 5 And his mercy is on them that fear him : throughout all generations. 6 He hath shewed strength with his arm : he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. 7 He hath put down the mighty from their seat : and hath exalted the humble and meek. 8 He hath filled the hungry with good things : and the rich he hath sent empty away. 9 He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel : as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be : world without end. Amen.

The news sheet can be found on our website @ 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