



Welcome to
**St Stephen's Church
 Elton Bury**
 Sunday 18th February
 2024

This Week

Today

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Holy Communion

Next Sunday

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Holy Communion

Post Communion Prayer

Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Collect for the First Sunday of Lent

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; 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.

This Week's Readings

1st	Genesis 9: 8 - 17	OT page	7
2nd	1 Peter 3: 18 - end	NT page	232
Gospel	Mark 1: 9 - 15	NT page	33
Psalm	25: 1 - 9	OT page	513

In our Prayers

This week we pray for the members of our community who live or work in Connaught Street, Elton Square House, Holcombe Avenue and Ribbleton Close.

We pray for the healing and comfort of those who are sick.

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

As part of Churches Together in Bury we pray for our brothers and sisters at Tottington methodist Church, especially their Deacon, Michelle Brocklehurst.

We are renewing the prayer list for the sick. If you wish for a name to be carried forward or to add a new one please see Celia.

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.

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.



What's on

Monday 19th February
2.00pm Craft Group in the Centenary Room

Wednesday 21st
1.30pm Midweekers - Bingo
7.00pm PCC

Thursday 22nd
7.15pm Pantomime in School

Friday 23rd
7.15pm Pantomime in School

Saturday 24th
7.15pm Pantomime in School

Pantomime 2024 Sleeping Beauty

It's this week! Oh yes it is!!!! Tickets will be on sale after the 10.00am service today and on the nights, adults £7 and children £3. We still need a couple more volunteers to help with the teas and coffees on Thursday and Friday. Please let me know today so I can finalise the rota.

Lent Charity - Water Aid

There is a box at the back of church if you wish to donate throughout Lent for our chosen charity WATER AID. If you can, please GIFT AID. You can alternatively donate at home in a personal jar and return your jar on Easter Sunday. Water Aid leaflets and gift aid envelopes will be provided throughout Lent.

Club

Winners for January are £25 - Helen Archer (39); £10 - Paul Sanderson (79); £5 - Barbara Ingham (12); £5 - Sandra Leaver (4)

APCM - Wednesday 17th April at 7.00pm

The annual report is now being collated. Anyone who wishes to submit an item should email it to tony.parsons67@gmail.com by no later than **TODAY**. The annual revision of the Electoral Roll will be announced soon. However, you can ask to join it at any time. So if you are not on our Electoral Roll and would like to do so to be able to contribute to the business of our church please ask the Wardens for a form and they will be happy to help.

LENT 2024

An introduction to Christian Meditation is a weekly course commencing on Tuesday 20th February, running for six weeks, in the Porch Room from 2.00 to 3.15pm. Contact David or Christine McKenna for details. 07442 534860 or cdm@gmail.com

Bury Parish Church

The Writer Who Inspires Me

Sunday 4.30pm Evensong Sermon

People of the Passion

Study Group Wednesday 7pm

Stations of the Cross

Saturdays 12noon

A Walk on the Wild Side with Jeff Lucas

Tuesdays 1.30-3pm Feb 20, 27, March 5, 12 **St John, Bircle**

Thursdays 7.30-9pm

Feb 22, 29. March 7, 14 **St Thomas**

St John with St Mark Hall

Preparing Our Garden For Growth

Tuesday 20th Feb 7.30pm

The I AM Sayings of Jesus

Tuesday 19th March 7.30pm

The Church of England's Lent theme for 2024 is **Watch and Pray: Wisdom and hope for Lent and life.**

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus kneels in darkness in the Garden of Gethsemane. Though he pleads with his disciples, "Stay here with me ... Watch and pray," they all fall asleep, leaving him alone in his hour of deepest suffering. **Watch and Pray** invites us to seek God in both familiar and unfamiliar places this Lent: in darkness and in quiet; in movement and migration; in the healing and transforming work of the Spirit; in the weeping of Holy Week and in the joy of Easter morning. As usual there are the booklets and also the app which will renew just prior to Lent.

How to Contact Us Vicar

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