



Welcome to
St Stephen's Church
Elton Bury
Sunday 22nd February 2026

This Week	
<u>Today</u>	
9.00	Holy Communion with Junior Church
<u>Next Sunday</u>	
9.00	Holy Communion with Junior Church

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 2: 15 - 17; 3: 1 - 7	NT page	2
2nd	Romans 5: 12 - 19	NT page	151
Gospel	Matthew 4: 1 - 11	NT page	3
Psalm	32	OT page	518

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.

In our Prayers

This week we pray for the members of our community who live or work in Colville Drive, Hambleton Close, Harwood Drive and Leigh Lane.

We pray for the healing and comfort of those who are ill whether in mind, body or spirit.

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 priest, Rev. Janet Lyssejko.

Gluten free host (communion wafers) are available. If you require one please let the Sidespersons or warden know.

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. There is a Junior Church for 5 year olds and upwards in the Centenary room during the 9.00am service, on most Sundays. There will be songs, readings and crafts for all ages. Speak to Leanne or Carol for more details.

Please join us in the Centenary Room after the 9.00am service for refreshments and fellowship.



Fire Notice - In the event of fire go through the marked fire exit doors and assemble on Stephen Close.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew - glory to you O Lord

Matthew 4: 1 - 11

1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. **2** He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. **3** The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." **4** But he answered, "It is written, "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' " **5** Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, **6** saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you,' and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' " **7** Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' " **8** Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; **9** and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." **10** Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.' " **11** Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

This is the gospel of the Lord - praise to you O Christ

Genesis 2: 15-17; 3: 1 - 7

15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. **16** And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; **17** but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" **2** The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; **3** but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.' " **4** But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; **5** for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." **6** So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. **7** Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loin cloths for themselves.

This is the word of the Lord - Thanks be to God.

What's on

Monday 23rd

2.00pm Craft Group
7.00pm Lent Study Group

Wednesday 25th

1.30pm Midweekers - NO MEETING
7.30pm PCC

Saturday 28th

10.00am Coffee Morning/Bric-a-Brac Sale

APCM

Our annual meeting will be held on **Wednesday 29th April at 7.00pm** in the Centenary Room. In preparation for this please will all officers and groups submit their reports to Tony Parsons by **Sunday 28th February**.

COFFEE MORNING. bric a brac and as new clothes sale. **Saturday 28th February 10am to 12noon**. Centenary Room. £3 entrance including refreshments. There is lots to see and lots to buy.

The direct giving envelopes for the new tax year starting on Monday 6th April 2026 are available at the rear of church from today. If you require any further information about direct giving envelopes or Gift Aid please come and have a word with me Arnold (Gift Aid Secretary).

100 club The winners for February are £25 - Donna Lean (43), £10 - Alan Cook (37), £5 - Wendy Smillie (35), £5 - Chris McKenna (53).

Quiet Day: we will be holding a quiet day for the congregations of both Kirklees Valley and St Stephens Parishes at All Saints Church on **Saturday the 15th of March, from 10-4**. This will be an opportunity to take time out from busy schedules and focus on God in prayer.

How to Contact Us

Vicar - Rev Sam Eccleston

brsecclestonop@gmail.com - 07851 121800

Warden - Carol Heyes Tel: 07354902873

Email: ststephenelton@gmail.com

Reader Emeritus - Celia Dutton Tel: 0161 764 0583

News sheet deadline - please send all your news items to Tony Parsons by 7.00pm each Thursday.
Email tony.parsons67@gmail.com