



Welcome to  
**St Stephen's Church**  
**Elton Bury**  
Sunday 8th March 2026

### This Week

#### Today

9.00 Holy Communion  
with Junior Church  
6.00pm Choral Evensong

#### Next Sunday

9.00 Holy Communion  
with Junior Church  
Mothering Sunday

### Collect for the 3rd Sunday of Lent

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; 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.

### Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### This Week's Readings

1st	Exodus 17: 1 - 7	NT page	66
2nd	Romans 5: 1 - 11	NT page	151
Gospel	John 4: 5 - 42	NT page	91
Psalm	95	OT page	561

### In our Prayers

This week we pray for the members of our community who live or work in Clayton Close, Finchley Close, Harvey Street and Portingscale Close.

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 the Lighthouse Church especially their pastor, Yemi Olujobi

### Flower Donations

#### Easter Lilies

If you would like an Easter Lily in memory of a loved one please give £3 per flower to a member of the Flower Team.

### How to Contact Us

#### Vicar - Rev Sam Eccleston

[brseclestonop@gmail.com](mailto:brseclestonop@gmail.com) - 07851 121800

**Warden** - Carol Heyes Tel: 07354902873

Email: [ststephenelton@gmail.com](mailto:ststephenelton@gmail.com)

### What's on

Monday 9th

2.00pm

Craft Group

7.00pm

Lent Study Group

Wednesday 11th

1.30pm

Midweekers - Newmarket

7.00pm

Games Night

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. John - *glory to you O Lord***

**John 4: 5 - 42**

5 So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. 7 A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." 8 (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) 9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) 10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." 11 The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? 12 Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" 13 Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 14 but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." 15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." 16 Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." 17 The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; 18 for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" 19 The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. 20 Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." 21 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. 22 You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." 25 The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." 26 Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you." 27 Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" 28 Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, 29 "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" 30 They left the city and were on their way to him. 31 Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." 32 But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." 33 So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" 34 Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. 35 Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. 36 The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. 37 For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' 38 I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labor." 39 Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." 40 So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. 41 And many more believed because of his word. 42 They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world."

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

**APCM - Wednesday 29th April at 7.00pm**

The annual report is now being collated. Anyone who still wishes to submit an item should email it to [tony.parsons67@gmail.com](mailto:tony.parsons67@gmail.com) immediately.

The annual revision of the Electoral Roll begins today and the official announcement can be found in the porch. 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 Warden or our new Electoral Roll officer, Arnold Taylor, for a form and they will be happy to help.

From today, 8th March, forms will be displayed for the nominations of Churchwardens, Deanery Synod, PCC and Sidespersons. Elections and appointments will take place at the APCM. Please be prayerful as to whether you can serve in any of these roles. Forms will be available in the church porch. Speak to the Warden, Carol, or Barbara for further information.

**EASTER BINGO**

**Friday 27th March 7pm** in the Centenary Room. Adults £5, children £2. Tickets available from Anne Broadrick.

**IRISH NIGHT**

**Saturday 21st March at 7pm.** Live entertainment plus supper, BYO drinks. Tickets £10 are available after church on Sundays or from Val, phone 07933986785

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)