



Welcome to
**St Stephen's Church
Elton Bury**
Sunday 26th July 2026

This Week

Today

9.00 Holy Communion
with Junior Church

Next Sunday

9.00 Holy Communion
with Junior Church

Post Communion Prayer

Strengthen for service, Lord, the hands that have taken holy things; may the ears which have heard your word be deaf to clamour and dispute; may the tongues which have sung your praise be free from deceit; may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your love shine with the light of hope; and may the bodies which have been fed with your body be refreshed with the fullness of your life; glory to you forever.

Collect for the Eighth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty Lord and everlasting God, we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, 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 29: 15 - 28	OT page	26
2nd	Romans 8: 26 - end	NT page	154
Gospel	Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52	NT page	14
Psalm	105: 1 - 11, 45b	OT page	567

In our Prayers

This week we pray for the members of our community who live or work in Greenfield Close, Kenmor Avenue, Stephen Close and Wheelton 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 Kirklees Valley, especially their priest Sam Eccleston and curate Ellise O'Hara.

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

Flower Donations

Altar

Wendy Smillie in memory of dear husband Les on his anniversary, 23rd July.

Lectern

Fred & Joyce Keeble remembering with gratitude Fred's kidney donor from 29th July 2001.

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 Berrv 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. There is a Junior Church for children 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 holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew - *Glory to you O Lord.*
Matthew 13: 31 - 33, 44 - 52

31 He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; **32** it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." **33** He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened." **44** "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. **45** "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; **46** on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. **47** "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; **48** when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. **49** So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous **50** and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. **51** "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." **52** And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

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



What's on

Monday 27th
2.00pm Craft Group - NO MEETING
7.00pm Study Group

Wednesday 29th
1.30pm Midweekers - Games
7.00pm Games evening

Thursday 30th
7.00pm Drama Group

Friday 31st
6.00pm Junior Drama Group.

The PCC wish to set up a small working group to oversee the work required following our recent quinquennial inspection. Please would you consider getting involved and give your name to Carol Heyes.

The PCC need someone to take over the booking and cleaning of the Centenary Room on a temporary basis. As the Centenary Room is a source of vital income we need to ensure that the room is clean and tidy for users who hire it. If you can spare some time each week to help with this please let us know. For all details regarding both roles please speak to Carol Heyes, Warden, thank you.

Favourite Hymns

From September we want to introduce a favourite hymn selection for the recessional hymn. A member of our congregation will choose a hymn and introduce it to the congregation after the notices. If you would like to choose your favourite hymn please let the vicar, Sam, know as soon as possible.

Cream Tea

The annual cream tea will be held on the afternoon of Saturday 15th August. Full details to follow. If you have any raffle prizes please let June know.

Children's Society

Please can you return your box to Jane Parsons for counting as soon as you can. If you are interested in getting involved please speak to Jane.

How to Contact Us

Vicar - Rev Sam Eccleston

brsecclestonop@gmail.com - 07851 121800

Warden - Carol Heyes - Tel: 07354902873

Email: ststephenelton@gmail.com

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