



Welcome to  
**St Stephen's Church**  
**Elton Bury**

Sunday 27th September  
2026

**This Week**

Today

9.00 Holy Communion  
with Junior Church

Next Sunday

9.00 Holy Communion  
with Junior Church

**Post Communion Prayer**

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, and make us continually to be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**The Pastoral Team are available in the Lady Chapel  
after the service for prayer and support.**

**This Week's Readings**

|        |                       |         |     |
|--------|-----------------------|---------|-----|
| 1st    | Exodus 17: 1 - 7      | OT page | 66  |
| 2nd    | Philippians 2: 1 - 13 | NT page | 194 |
| Gospel | Matthew 21: 23 - 32   | NT page | 22  |
| Psalm  | 78: 1 - 4, 12 - 16    | OT page | 549 |

**In our Prayers**

This week we pray for the members of our community who live or work in Bournville Drive, Fairy Street, Hurst Green Close and Rivington Drive.

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 Tottington Methodist Church.

**Collect for the Seventeenth Sunday after  
Trinity**

Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you: pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself, and so bring us at last to your heavenly city where we shall see you face to face; 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.

**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.

**How to Contact Us**

**Vicar - Rev Sam Eccleston**

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

**Warden - Carol Heyes - Tel: 07354902873**

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

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 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 21: 23 - 32**

**23** When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" **24** Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. **25** Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' **26** But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." **27** So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. **28** "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' **29** He answered, "I will not"; but later he changed his mind and went. **30** The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, "I go, sir"; but he did not go. **31** Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. **32** For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

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

**Exodus 21: 23 - 32**

**1** From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. **2** The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" **3** But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" **4** So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." **5** The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. **6** I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. **7** He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

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

### **What's on**

|                      |                             |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Today                |                             |
| 2.00pm               | Children's Panto rehearsal. |
| Monday 28th          |                             |
| 1.30pm               | Craft Group                 |
| 7.00pm               | Study Group                 |
| Wednesday 30th       |                             |
| 1.30pm               | Midweekers - Beetle         |
| 7.00pm               | Games Night                 |
| Thursday 1st October |                             |
| 7.00pm               | Drama group                 |
| Friday 2nd           |                             |
| 6.00                 | Children's' Drama Group     |
| Sunday 4th           |                             |
| 2.00                 | Children's Panto Rehearsal  |

### **Favourite Hymns**

From September we have introduced 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.

**Harvest Supper** on Friday 9th October in the Centenary Room. Pie & Peas supper, sing-a-long with The Dodgers. Tickets £10 available from Barbara. Raffle prizes to Barbara please.

**100 Club.** The annual renewal letters are available in the porch which confirms your numbers. The payment of £12 per number is due by 31st October to retain them in the draw. If you no longer wish to keep some or all of your numbers please let Anne or Tony know so they can be offered to new members. Numbers 50 & 86 are available.



**Club September Winners**

£25 - 77 - Jean Fitton; £10 - 63 - Dot Fentem; £5 - 60 - Jane Bunn; £5 - 68 - Brian Rigg.

Bury & Radcliffe Bible Society Action Group are holding their Annual Celebration on Friday 25th September at the Bury URC on Parsons Lane Bury at 7.30pm. There will be live music and hymns and a guest speaker Revd Paul Greenlees from Bury Baptist Church. Free admission with donations to the Bible Society. Details are displayed on the notice boards in the porch and centenary room.

Well done to Gary and Jen for winning the Bowl Day, along with runners up Helen & Bob. Thank you to everyone who supported the day.