

Notices and Future Events

- **Christmas Stamps** Royal Mail has traditionally alternated between sacred and secular designs for their Christmas stamps and this year it is the turn for a religious image. Royal Mail has issued two sets of designs for this year. The main set of designs available in all the main denominations is of angels, which vaguely Christian but not explicitly so and certainly not specifically Christmassy. They have also issued a Madonna and Child' design for first and second class only. Post Office staff have been instructed to only sell this design if people specifically request it, but obviously people can't request it if they don't know it exists! If people don't buy these stamps, Royal Mail will claim there is no demand for religious Christmas stamps and not produce them in future. Please therefore ask for 'Madonna and Child' stamps when you do your Christmas posting and also tell your friends, contacts etc. to do the same. Thank you. Kind regards, Jim May, Diocesan Pastoral & Advisory Secretary.
Forwarded to the Archdeacon of Hertford with a request for it to be publicised.
- **Advent Study Course** meets 8pm. Next meeting is on Tuesday 11th Dec at Elstow led by Canon Nigel Morrell and the final meeting is 19th Dec 8pm at St Mary's Cardington led by Rev Jeremy Crocker.
- **Thursday Lunch** usually the 1st Thursday of the month after the communion service, at the Red lion Pub, from 12 noon. **Next date 13th Dec.** All welcome. Special Christmas Menu – See Festive Feasts flyer at the back. Please advise Barbara of your choices by Thurs 6th Dec. £6.00
- **Parish Holiday** details are at the back of church and in the Elstow Parish Magazine. We will be staying at the Sandown Hotel on the Isle of Wight 20th – 26th July 2008.
- **Rachel Marchbank** History of Elstow book is on sale until Christmas at the special price of £3.50. (Usual price £5) See the Friends Table by the Vestry.
- **Bellringers Dates** Tues Dec 11th 11-12 noon Bedford District "Tailenders" monthly ringing.
- **Christmas Cracker** Bedford Hospital Choir and Bedford Brass Band present "Christmas Cracker" – Christmas music and carols at the Corn Exchange, Friday Dec 14th at 7.30pm. Tickets: £7 or £5 from Bedford Box office 269519. All proceeds to Sue Ryder care, St Johns Hospice.
- **Panto** 15th December 6.30pm followed by bring and share Supper in the church hall. Dress rehearsal 15th December, 4-6pm in the Church Hall.
- **Annual Concert of Christmas Music** at Elstow Abbey by Kempston Musical Society in aid of "The Friends of Elstow Abbey" Monday 17th December at 7.30pm. Admission for Members of Friends £5 and non members £5.50.
- Wedding Bookings/enquiries or Notices for weekly Bulletin to Diana Hill, Tuesday or Thursday mornings at the Rectory - 01234 261477.



THE ABBEY CHURCH OF ST MARY AND ST HELENA, ELSTOW *Part of the Elstow Team*

We extend a warm welcome to everyone today

Sunday 9th December 2007 Second Sunday of Advent

- 10.00am Family Communion with Sunday School (JRC)
Hymns: SoF: 393, 120, 410, 423, Anthem: Mine eyes have
seen the glory, 559
- Banns: (2nd) Russell Vaughan & Helen Bradbury 27/12/07 12noon
- 3.30pm Christingle Service at Elstow (JRC)
- 4.00pm Christingle Service at St Michael's (PL)
- 6.30pm Evensong (JRC)
Hymns: NEH: 5, 407, 12, 368, 252, Psalm 19 Vs 1-6

COLLECT

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power
and come among us,
and with great might succour us;
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness
we are grievously hindered
in running the race that is set before us,
your bountiful grace and mercy
may speedily help and deliver us;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honour ad glory, now and forever.

Diary for this week

Sunday	10.00am	Family Communion with Sunday School (JRC)
9 th	3.30pm	Christingle Service at Elstow (JRC)
	4.00pm	Christingle Service at St Michael's (PL)
	6.30pm	Evensong (JRC)
Monday	8.30am	Morning Prayer at Cardington
10 th	10.00am	Toddlers and Tea Christmas Party in Church Hall
	1.00pm	JRC at St Albans
	7.00pm	Prayer Group in Summer House
	7.30pm	Confirmation Service at Elstow Abbey with Bishop of Bedford
Tuesday	8.30am	Morning Prayer at Cardington
11 th	11.00am	Bell Ringers Tailenders monthly Ringing
	7.00pm	Wedding interview
	8.00pm	Advent Study at St Elstow (Canon Nigel Morrell)
Wednesday	8.30am	Morning Prayer at Cardington
12 th	10.00am	Abbey Middle School Christmas production in Elstow Abbey
	11.30am	Coffee morning in Elstow Church Hall
	6.30pm	Youth Club Christmas Party
Thursday	8.30am	Morning Prayer at Cardington
13 th	10.30am	Burial of Ashes of Marjorie Roberts (JRC)
	11.00am	Holy Communion at Elstow (JRC)
	12.00noon	Thursday monthly lunch Christmas meal at Red Lion
	6.00-7.00pm	Carol Singing at Bunyans Mead
	7.30pm	Team Council meeting at Cardington
Friday	8.30am	Morning Prayer at Cardington
14 th	8.00pm	Bell Ringing
Saturday	2.00pm	Wedding Rehearsal for Russell Vaughn and Helen Bradbury (JRC)
15 th	4.00-6.00pm	Dress Rehearsal in Church
	6.30pm	Panto Production followed by Bring and Share Supper in the Hall

JRC Day Off:

Friday 14th December

Next Sunday 16th December.

Third Sunday of Advent

10.00am	Parish Communion with Sunday School (JRC)
11.15am	Morning Prayer (Mattins Group)
6.30pm	Evensong with Holy Communion and Laying on of Hands for Healing (JRC)

Elstow Services times are changing

During the trial of the new times the pattern for the next few weeks will be:

23/12/07	10.00am	Young Peoples Service
	11.15am	Holy Communion Service
	3.30pm	Cardington Carols
	6.30pm	Nine Lessons and Carols service at Elstow
30/12/07	10.30am	Joint Holy Communion Service at St Mary's Cardington
	11.15am	Morning Prayer
	6.30pm	Evensong
6/1/08	10.00am	Family Communion with Sunday School
	11.15am	Morning Prayer
	6.30pm	Evensong

General Pattern of Services: 1st & 3rd Sunday: 10am Family Communion with Sunday School, 11.15am Morning Prayer, 6.30pm Evensong, **2nd Sunday** 10am Parish Communion with Sunday School, 6.30pm Evensong **4th Sunday:** 10am Young Peoples service, 11.15am Holy Communion, 6.30pm, Evensong with Holy Communion and Laying on of hands for Healing.

Please pray for:

The Sick: William Coward, John Wagstaff, Barbara Gale, John Emerson, Clare Knox, Pearl Briars

The Recently Deceased:

Mary Bartram, Judy Carpenter