

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** 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 3rd Jan.** All welcome. Choice of starter and main with Tea/coffee for £5.99.
- **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.
- **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 16th December 2007 **Third Sunday of Advent**

- 10.00am Family Communion with Sunday School (JRC with guest preacher Gareth Parry)
Hymns: SoF: 456, 154, 347, 44, Anthem: Thanks for the fellowship, 469
Banns: (3rd) Russell Vaughan & Helen Bradbury 27/12/07 12noon
- 11.15am Morning Prayer (Mattins Group)
Hymns: NEH: 3, 7, 456, 443, 186 Psalm 146 Vs 1-6
- 6.30pm Evensong with Holy Communion and Laying on of Hands for Healing (JRC)
Hymns: NEH: 11, 6, 499, 440, Psalm 126

COLLECT

O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,
that at your second coming to judge the world
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever.

Diary for this week

Sunday 16 th	10.00am	Family Communion with Sunday School (JRC with guest preacher Gareth Parry)
	11.15am	Morning Prayer (JRC)
	6.30pm	Evensong with Holy Communion and Laying on of Hands for Healing (JRC)
Monday 17 th	8.30am	Morning Prayer at Cardington
	9.30am	Elstow Lower school rehearsal in Abbey
	10.00am	Toddlers and Tea in Church Hall
	7.00pm	Prayer Group in Summer House
	7.30pm	Kempston Musical Society
Tuesday 18 th	8.30am	Morning Prayer at Cardington
Wednesday 19 th	8.30am	Morning Prayer at Cardington
	11.30am	Coffee morning in Elstow Church Hall
	12.00noon	JRC at Abbey Middle School
	1.30pm	Elstow Lower school Christmas performance in Elstow Abbey
	(6.30pm)	NO Youth Club)
Thursday 20 th	8.00pm	Advent Study at Cardington
	8.30am	Morning Prayer at Cardington
	11.00am	Holy Communion at Elstow (JRC)
	1.00pm	Clergy meeting
	5.30pm	Elstow Carol Singing
Friday 21 st	8.30am	Morning Prayer at Cardington
	10.00am	Crib rehearsal at Elstow Abbey (JRC)
	5.00pm	JRC Meeting with PL
	7.00pm	Choir Practice
	8.00pm	Choir at Rectory for drinks
Saturday 22 nd	8.00pm	Bell Ringing
	2.00-5.00pm	Children's Christmas party in Church Hall

JRC Day Off:

Tuesday 18th December

Next Sunday 23rd December, Fourth Sunday of Advent

23/12/07	10.00am	Young Peoples Service
	11.15am	Holy Communion Service (JRC)
	3.30pm	Cardington Carols (PL)
	6.30pm	Nine Lessons and Carols service at Elstow (JRC)

Elstow Services times are changing

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

30/12/07	10.30am	Joint Holy Communion Service at St Mary's Cardington (PL & NM)
	11.15am	Morning Prayer (Mattins Group)
	6.30pm	Evensong (Robert Heley)
6/1/08	10.00am	Family Communion with Sunday School (Rev Mervyn Terrett)
	11.15am	Morning Prayer (PMcD)
	6.30pm	Evensong (PM)

See monthly magazine for future service times.

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.

Clergy during Rev Jeremy Crocker's Study leave

Rev Peter Littleford (PL)	Peter Moss (PM)
Canon Nigel Morrell (NM)	Robert Heley (RH)
Rev Mervyn Terrett (MT)	Captain David Wells (DW)
Canon Philip McDonough (PMcD)	Canon John Tibbs (JT)