

Notices and Future Events

- **Monthly Thursday Lunch group** The Red Lion is closing for refurbishments in the New Year. Main course and pudding at the Swan **8th January (not 1st)**
- **We welcome Stephen Chilvers** to our organist rota playing for Mattins today. Stephen was director of music at Elstow Abbey from 1975 – 1985. Stephen Chilvers will be replacing John Crookall who has decided to stand down from the rota in the New Year.
- **Claudette a member of the Elstow Congregation** is happy to read to adults who can't do it themselves. If interested call on 01234 216375.
- **Forthcoming Friends of Elstow Abbey Music Festival** 31st Jan 09 12 noon Organ recital by Bedford Organists Association and 28th Feb 09 7.30pm Luton Male Voice Choir.
- **Choir Practice** dates – 9th & 30th January and 6th February 2009.
- **Request for adult help** it is planned in the New Year to start a younger Youth club for those aged 7 – 11 ½ from 5.45 – 7pm, if you'd like to help please can you let Jeremy know.
- **New envelopes for regular Giving.** If anyone would like to start a box please speak to a sideman.
- **Community Resettlement Support Project** looking to recruit & train volunteers to provide befriending support to men aged 21+ who prepare to be released from HMP Bedford please contact Rob Burton 07940211527.
- **The Beginners Course to the Bible**, begins on the 13th January (*date changed*) for 8 weeks @ the vicarage. Looking at Bible stories with film and discussion – all welcome.

JRC Day Off: Friday 26th December 2008

Church Wardens Contact details: Colin Albon 01234 407084 & Barbara Routledge 01234 854369. Wedding/ Baptism Bookings/enquiries or Notices for weekly Bulletin to Samantha Nagel, Tuesday and Thursdays at the Rectory – 01234 261477.

Please Pray For:

Recently Deceased:

Julie Peniston; Thomas Farrell; Hilda Corbett



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

We extend a warm welcome to everyone today

Sunday 21st December 2008 **The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

10.00am	Holy Communion with Sunday School (JRC preach, Rev'd Gareth Parry Preside)
Hymns:	SoF: 410, 443, 347, 19, Anthem: Long ago, prophets new, 32
11.15am	Morning Prayer (JRC) (Preacher the Rev'd Gareth Parry)
Hymns:	NEH: 11, 6, 15, 186, Psalm 89 vs 1-6
3.30pm	Joint Celebration of Carols at the Howard Church
6.30pm	Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols (JRC)

COLLECT for 21st December

O God our redeemer, who didst prepare the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of thy Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he shall come again to be our judge, who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. AMEN

Christmas Eve 24th December

5.00pm	Crib service at Elstow (JRC)
11.30pm	Midnight Mass at Elstow Abbey (JRC)
Hymns:	NEH: 26, 32, 36, 42, 22, 35, Anthem 39: Unto us a boy, 30

COLLECT for Midnight Mass

Almighty God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. AMEN

Christmas Day 25th December

10.30am Holy Communion (JRC)
Hymns: SoF: 23, 491, 155, 36, 602, 420, 314

COLLECT for Christmas Day

Almighty God, who hast given us thy-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, being regenerate and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, now and for ever. AMEN

First Sunday of Christmas

The Holy Innocents

28th December

10.00am Young People's Service (JEH)
11.15am Holy Communion (JRC)
6.30pm Evensong (Mr Robert Heley)

COLLECT for 28th December

Almighty God, who hast wonderfully created us in thine own image and hast yet more wonderfully restored us through thy Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. AMEN

Second Sunday of Christmas

4th January

10.00am Holy Communion with Sunday School (JRC)
11.15am Morning Prayer (Group)
6.30pm Evensong (JRC)
Banns: (1st) 07/02/09 2pm; Peter Gallagher and Claire Beal

COLLECT for 4th January

Almighty God, who in birth of thy Son hast poured upon us the new light of thine incarnate Word and revealed to us the fullness of his joy; who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. AMEN

Diary Dates

22.12.08	10.00am	Mums and Toddlers
	1.00pm	Wedding interview @ vicarage
	2.00pm	Prayer Group meet in Summerhouse
	2.30pm	Funeral of Hilda Corbett at Elstow Abbey
	8.00pm	Advent Study Course 4. Mary, Rev. Peter Littleford @ St Michaels
23.12.08	11.00am	Nativity Rehearsal at Elstow Abbey
	11.30am	Burial of ashes of Hilda Corbett
	4.30pm	NO Dance club
24.12.08	11.30am	NO Coffee or Soup
29.12.08	10.00am	NO Mums and Toddlers
	2.00pm	Prayer Group meet in Summerhouse
	10.00am	NO Sing and Sign
	4.30pm	NO Dance Club
	6.00pm	Wedding Rehearsal at Elstow Abbey
31.12.08	11.30am	Coffee Morning followed by Soup in Church Hall
	6.30pm	NO Youth Club
01.01.09	11.00am	NO Holy Communion
	Noon	NO Monthly lunch on the 8th January
03.01.09	12.30pm	Wedding of Duncan Castle and Kristina Tiplady (JRC)

Future Dates for your diary

- Youth Alpha from Monday 19th January from 6 – 7.30pm for 10 weeks ref David Wells.
 - Pantomime rehearsals from 11th January 3.30 – 5pm until 1st March.
 - Diocesan trip to Taize 19th – 26th July 2009. *Further details in New Year.*
 - Parish holiday to the Isle of Wight 9th August – 15th August. *Further details in the New Year.*
 - Greenbelt festival 28th August – 31st August ref David Wells.
 - Adults beginners to the Bible and Christian life course 8 week course starting **13th January** at the vicarage from 8pm.
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