

ELSTOW PARISH MAGAZINE



A New Year ahead of us...

A few years ago I went to a lecture given by the senior clergy of the Diocese on how to keep an effective diary, and we were told that a smaller diary is the way forward. So, two years ago, I bought a small diary which started at the beginning of the academic year to follow their advice. But, because I found that the diary did not have enough room for all my appointments and notes, I have since changed back to a bigger one!

Within our culture the 'New Year' is celebrated in different ways and at different times. For a Christian, the New Year begins with Advent Sunday (this year 3rd December). Most of us, though, celebrate New Year on 1st January. Chinese New Year is another different date, and as I have said, the academic New Year is some time in September. So Happy New Year! If that does not immediately involve you, it does involve me. Let me remind you...

On 13th August I will have been living in Elstow for two years, and in September I will be beginning my third year as your Rector. As we begin a new year this is the right moment to review where we are and to publish some thoughts of where we might be in the future.

When I arrived my first aim was to settle and to establish the Team, and to recruit a new Team Vicar. The Revd Stephen Smith has been with us nearly 18 months, and with Peter Littleford and Nigel Morrell, I am very fortunate to have three faithful, kind and loyal colleagues. At Elstow we have and are developing the work with the young people, e.g. the pantomime, the Youth workshops and worship, and the planned Summer Workshop from Monday 7th Aug until Sunday 13th (please see the details in this magazine). We have begun a coffee and soup morning every Wednesday, particularly for those who are bereaved, and thanks to the many volunteers there is an after-funeral care provision for the bereaved. We have completed most of the maintenance that we have chosen to do, namely, the notice boards, the new paths, and a new boiler system. We have shared in a Bible Study, a retreat, and a May Festival – which brought the young people of the two schools and many of the locals together to share in the ancient procession and to get very wet! We have enjoyed some wonderful acts of worship, and hosted some major events at Elstow Abbey.

And what of the year ahead? Well I hope and pray that we shall get funding for a full time Team Youth Worker, to support all that we and the other two churches do, and to "reach out" into our local neighbourhoods. The annual hog roast; afternoon teas; social occasions; the Parish Holiday and Team Council are all attempts to bring all the congregations together. As for a new and worthwhile Church Hall, I hope that we shall get planning permission and the launch of the appeal is planned for Wednesday 18th October, at 7pm in the Church Hall. Finally I will be launching a 'Mums and Tots group, for parents, carers and their children, on Monday mornings beginning on September 18th from 10-11am in the Church Hall, so if you are free please pop in for a cuppa!

So as I begin my third year with you, thank you for the last two years, and, as William Countryman asserts, "Hope is a kind of courage in the face of the unknown." Let us pray for God's Spirit to guide us into the unknown of this coming year.

With Best Wishes,

Jeremy Crocker

John Crookall

A couple of weeks ago Prof. John Crookall asked if I could replace him as Director of Music due to medical reasons. I have reluctantly been forced to agree, and have just advertised for the post which we hope to fill in the autumn. We are all very thankful to John for the dedication and care that he has given to Elstow Abbey. John hopes to continue in a supportive capacity and I will be hosting a Cheese and Wine on 30th September from 7pm at the Rectory to say thank you, to which you are all warmly invited.

Jeremy Crocker

LANDLUBBERS HOLIDAY CLUB

A new club for children aged between 5 - 11 years.

Not at the seaside – in **Elstow Church Hall** – all week

Monday August 7th until Friday August 11th - 10am to 12noon.

On **Saturday, August 12th** we're holding a **Barbecue** at **6pm** in the garden next to the Church Hall. All Holiday Club children and families are invited.

On **Sunday, August 13th** at 9.30am : a special service to mark the end of this week at Elstow Abbey. All are welcome!

Further information: **01234-261477** or e-mail: jeremy.crocker@tesco.net



MUMS AND TODDLERS GROUP

A new group for parents or guardians and their children.

The group will meet each week on Mondays

The first meeting will be:

Monday, September 18th 2006, 10am - 11am, Elstow Church Hall.

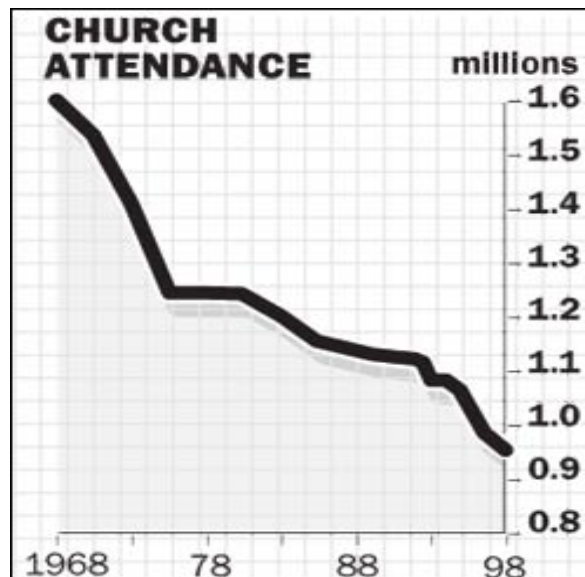
Further information: **01234-261477** or e-mail: jeremy.crocker@tesco.net



EDITORIAL

According to the Church of England website (<http://www.cofe.anglican.org/>), Church attendance rose in 2003 in 19 dioceses (St Alban's not being one of them). This, not unnaturally, was heralded by such as the Guardian in glowing terms but with the following caveat: "In contrast, the vicars' estimates of usual attendances at their churches came up with a 2% decline." The same website, a year later, went on to record a fall in attendance for 2004. Figures for 2005 are not yet available.

In March last year The Times stated: "The generational decline is too advanced to reverse ... as the proportion of people who believe in God is declining faster than church attendance."

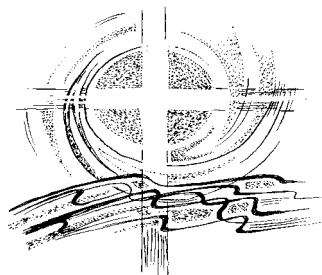


The article went on: "Researchers found that the thousands of people who still go to church do so out of a sense of duty and not because it brings them any fulfilment....." Readers were invited to email in their views and the resulting debate was entirely predictable.

It is well-known that economic, social and political factors play a predominant part in all this; but the main reason for low attendance lies with the post-1939/45-war change in life pattern which has come with the advent of what the recently deceased Professor JK Galbraith christened "the affluent society".

In 2000, the diocese of Chichester wrote as follows in the context of justifying the planned church closures in Brighton now being executed: "Change is never easy and there are many people who would like things to continue much as they have always been. This is not an option."

Do we need such as another world war (¿Iran?), a flood (¿global warming?) or a simple, murderous and indiscriminate plague (¿avian 'flu?) to achieve a rise in attendance? We seem to have lost our way.



BOOK REVIEW

“Ghosts of Spain” by Giles Tremlett (Faber & Faber £16.99)

Giles Tremlett is the Madrid correspondent of the Guardian and has a Spanish partner and two sons. His objective in this book is to write about Spain as in 2006, and to try to explain how it lives with, and has evolved from, the dreadful legacy of its recent past of Civil War (1936-1939) and General Franco (who died in 1975). Whence the “ghosts” of the title.

Tremlett tellingly evokes what it is like to live in Spain and how very different an experience it is from living in the UK. In the first two thirds of the book, he takes us round parts of the country with great sensitivity: through the back streets of Seville, past the sleaze-ridden high-rise developments of Benidorm, out into remote and arid areas of rural Spain. His section on Flamenco, for instance, is outstanding. He combines this with the social and political comment and gossip that form the daily bread and butter of the Resident Correspondent, thus giving the book undeniable zest. I have not read more effective or affecting descriptions of Spain.

There is, though, a down side. To start with there are no maps, photographs or, worse, bibliography. What follows is even more serious: I am selective.

Whilst Tremlett accurately portrays the modern Spaniard’s hostile views about Franco and the Franco régime and legacy, he fails to put across the appalling enormity of such as the symbolic Valley of the Fallen (see the Parish Magazine in late 2004). To younger people, Franco has become a mere remote Stalin-figure, whose statues are to be destroyed or hidden. Tremlett underestimates the strong, if diminishing, empathy among some older Spaniards for Franco: as the years pass, so do the numbers of these dwindle, but they are still a force to be reckoned with.

Next, he is under-informed, plain naïve or, perhaps, ultra-discreet in his assessment of the now historical 1981 attempted *coup d’état* by part of the army, the “*Tejerazo*”. It was the defining moment of Juan Carlos’ relatively new and still unstable monarchy (Lt Colonel Tejero and his men famously appeared on television firing shots into the ceiling of the Spanish Parliament). In contrast, he is up-to-date and accurate about the Madrid bombings of 11 March 2004 when the prime minister José María Aznar committed political suicide in inappropriately and inaccurately apportioning blame to the Basque terrorists. But, regrettably, he notably spoils this overview with facile, patronising, reader-grabbing and inapposite references to Cervantes’ “*Don Quijote*”.

The last third of the book is where it all sadly and definitively unravels. This focuses on the Basque Country and Catalonia, with a slightly more successful look at Galicia at the very end, and it reads like a socio-political tract. His knowledge of the Basque Country is mostly second-hand, despite his spending time there; his knowledge of Catalonia – and he lived in its capital Barcelona for two years and repeatedly states that he would like to go back there to live – is superficial, mainly because he never learnt to speak Catalan. Not learning Basque is wholly forgivable (I speak from experience), but not acquiring Catalan after two years is very revealing. He limply writes, as though in excuse: “I did not learn to speak it but began to feel a creeping sympathy for this language.” As a result, he largely misinterprets Catalan nationalism both historically and in the post-Franco era.

Finally, there are notable gaps in the book. He says nothing, for instance, of such traditionally important places as Salamanca, city or province. His treatment of bullfighting is as brief as it is uncomprehending. This all points to a journalist who is intent on being politically correct, but at the expense of the scholasticism and thoroughness which his subject demands.

The ultimate and ironic paradox is that he really likes the country. I am just sorry that his wonderful and vivid initial descriptions tail off as they do. On balance, I recommend this book to you (many of you go to Spain); but be careful.

Bookworm

THE TOLPUDDLE MARTYRS

This was a wholly unexpected find in *Spurius Historicus*' seminal work "**FAMOUS LITTLE-KNOWN PERSONAGES**". Hitherto, all the chapters, as you know, have been about individuals of greater or lesser significance – and of greater or lesser reality, if not of equal celebrity. And now we have a group coming under the royal microscope. It took me a moment of careful reflection before I understood why **Historicus** was writing about:

- a) a group of people,
- b) very ordinary people,
- c) people who almost certainly did not wash too often, and
- d) people who were packed off to Australia as convicts.

They aroused every prejudice in his extensive repertoire; they were a threat to his well-ordered society; they attracted popular support. Dammit, they were uneducated proletarians, rabid Unionists, dangerous proto-Chartists, smelly farm workers. The fact that their condemnation to transportation for seven years was corruptly and cynically handed down in 1834 under an obsolete and little-known Act of Parliament of 1797 (designed to prevent a recurrence of the Nore mutiny in the Royal Navy) was of no importance to **Historicus**. He simply could not have cared less. However, the fact that Parliament, two years later, was forced by popular pressure to reverse the judgement and have them released utterly infuriated our royal author. "*Gott in Himmel*", he fulminates, "*This not in our day would permitted have been* (Queen Victoria did not succeed to the throne until 1837 and she only married Albert in 1840). *These Schweinhetreiberen* (well, he wasn't far off the mark) *schimpflich* (he was getting ungrammatically carried away by now: I prefer not to translate) *were*. *They many years with hard labour in the Bay of Botany deserved. They should have come back never.*" In the event, only one of them ever did return, the others, perhaps wisely, settling in Canada.

So, why was **Historicus** getting so hot under his royal collar? Why was he writing, for the first time, about people he despised rather than admired? How, for once, were his facts even reasonably accurate?

My theory is that he wrote this chapter fairly early on, perhaps as early as the late 1830s. His extensive reversion in the text to his native tongue suggests that this was in the pre-marriage period when he was struggling to come to terms with English. He was at that time, you will recall, engaged to wed Victoria, the young and not unattractive Queen of England. He was intent on making a good impression. He instinctively distrusted the Common People (you will recall how he surrounded himself exclusively with aristocratic toadies). He was establishing his credentials as an Anglophile. He was, in a word, hypersensitive to any destabilising influence – and influences did not come more threateningly destabilising than the new Trades Unions.

The place was going to the dogs, and **Historicus** did not care for this. The least he could do was try to protect his future wife, of whom he was very fond. And, perhaps more importantly, her – and his – status. The events were recent and the repercussions were continuing. Just think how society was in upheaval from **Historicus**' point of view. In 1832, the Poor Laws had been reformed; in 1833 Slavery was abolished (well, more or less); and that was only the start: it was downhill all the way from then on. This had happened in **Historicus**' recent living memory and was, especially in the instance of the Chartists, an on-going phenomenon.

Besides, as **Historicus** was keen on reminding us (goodness knows where he picked up the quotation: he could never have coined it himself): "*Once you let yourself be swayed by argument, there is an end to all stability.*"

Elstow Timewatch

ELSTOW PARISH COUNCIL

The June meeting of the Parish Council focused on the Wixams development. A representative of Bedford Borough Council explained the proposed new boundaries for the settlement which include part of the existing Elstow parish. The Council is happy for the northern part of the Wixams site to be removed from the parish as it will be used for industrial units and drainage ponds. The Council would however, like the Medbury brook to be retained as the boundary line as this is the historical parish boundary. Three planning applications for landscaping and drainage matters in village 1 were also discussed but as village 1 is in the east of the Wixams in Wilstead parish the Council had no comments.

Planning applications for the discharge of rainwater run-off from the landfill site into the brook and for a new church hall were also considered. The applicants had stated that no chemicals would be discharged from the rainwater into the brook but the Council is concerned about chemicals already being discharged into the water and has advised the Environment Agency accordingly. The Council had no objection in principle to the construction of a new church hall but was concerned that the size of the building would result in it taking business from the Playing Field Hall. We were also concerned about over capacity given that several new halls will be built on the Wixams site.

The Council is hoping to produce a Heritage Map for Elstow this year showing buildings of interest with brief histories. The map will be available to visitors to the village and if anyone has any information or pictures they would like to include on it or if anyone would like to help in preparing it please contact me on 346366. We have also bought a new notice board for Abbeyfields and as soon as David Wilson Homes gives permission it will be fixed near the Lower School.

Unfortunately, the County Council only advised us a couple of days beforehand that the rural skip would be coming to Elstow on 1st and 2nd July so we were unable to advertise widely. The skip will be returning in November and hopefully we will be able to confirm the dates well in advance. We also hope to persuade the County Council to bring the skip to Abbeyfields in future as this is obviously a large part of the village.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is Tuesday, 5th September and if anyone is interested in joining the Parish Council we still have vacancies. Please contact me on **01234-346366** for more details.

Ann Paice (Clerk, Elstow Parish Council)

Hog Roast

Elstow Rectory

Sunday, 17th September from 4pm

All parishioners are welcome!

Please bring your own alcohol. No entrance fee - but donations will be welcomed 😊

Further information: Jeremy Crocker Tel: 01234-261477 E-mail: jeremy.crocker@tesco.net



THE CHURCH CALENDAR

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2006

AUGUST

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| Tuesday 1 st | 3.55pm | Visiting Bell Ringers from Derbyshire |
| Wednesday 2 nd | 11.30am | Coffee Morning followed by a light lunch in the Church Hall |
| Thursday 3 rd | 11.00am | Holy Communion (Revd Jeremy Crocker – “JRC”) |
| Saturday 5 th | 2.00pm | Wedding of David Deane and Amanda Herbert (JRC) |
| | 4.00pm | Wedding of Carl Jenkins and Sara-Lucie Constant (JRC) |
| Sunday 6th | Pentecost 9 – The Transfiguration | |
| | 9.30am | Family Communion with Children’s Groups (JRC) |
| | 11.00am | Morning Prayer (JRC) |
| | 3.00pm | Baptism of Loyla Moxam (JRC) |
| | 3.45pm | Baptism of Ella Wood (JRC) |
| | 4.30pm | Baptism of Leigh Taylor (JRC) |
| | 6.30pm | Evening Prayer (Mr Peter Moss) |
| Monday 7 th | 10 - Noon | ‘Landlubbers’ Holiday Club in the Church Hall |
| | 7.00pm | Prayer Group meet in the Summerhouse |
| Tuesday 8 th | 10 - Noon | ‘Landlubbers’ Holiday Club in the Church Hall |
| Wednesday 9 th | 10 - Noon | ‘Landlubbers’ Holiday Club in the Church Hall |
| | 11.30am | Coffee Morning |
| Thursday 10 th | 10-Noon | ‘Landlubbers’ Holiday Club in the Church Hall |
| | 11.00am | Holy Communion (JRC) |
| Saturday 12 th | 12.00noon | Wedding of Dante Riccio and Debbie Daruvalla (JRC) |
| | 2.00pm | Blessing of the marriage of Laurie Armantrading and Lisa Inchley (JRC) |
| | 6.00pm | Holiday Club BBQ in the Barons Garden |
| Sunday 13th | Pentecost 10 | |
| | 9.30am | Young People’s Service to mark the end of the Holiday Club |
| | 11.00am | Parish Communion (JRC) |
| | 12.00noon | Blessing of the Cruet given in memory of Fred Steele followed by the burial of his ashes in the churchyard (JRC) |
| | 3.00pm | Baptism of Keiran Wooding (JRC) |
| | 6.30pm | Evening Prayer (JRC) |
| Monday 14 th | 7.00pm | Prayer Group meet in the Summerhouse |
| Wednesday 16 th | 11.30am | Coffee Morning followed by a light lunch in the Church Hall |
| Thursday 17 th | 11.00am | Holy Communion (Canon Nigel Morrell – “NPM”) |
| Friday 18 th | 2.00pm | Wedding of Lee Downes and Michelle Maudsley (Revd Peter Littleford – “PL”) |

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| Sunday 20th | Pentecost 11 | |
| | 9.30am | Family Communion with Children's Groups (Revd Len Moore – "LM") |
| | 11.00am | Morning Prayer (Mattins Group) |
| | 6.30pm | Evening Prayer (Mr Robert Heley) |
| Monday 21 st | 7.00pm | Prayer Group meet in the Summerhouse |
| | 11.30am | Wednesday 23 rd Coffee Morning followed by a light lunch in the Church Hall |
| Thursday 24 th | 11.00am | Holy Communion (JRC) |
| Friday 25 th | 12.00noon | Wedding of Alastair Laverty and Laura Kelly (JRC) |
| Saturday 26 th | 2.00pm | Wedding of Charles Kemp and Josephine D'Anna (PL) |
| | 2.00pm | Children's Workshop in the Church Hall |
| Sunday 27th | Pentecost 12 | |
| | 9.30am | Young People's Service (Mr John Hinson – "JEH") |
| | 11.00am | Morning Prayer (LM) |
| | 6.30pm | Evening Prayer with Holy Communion and Healing (Revd Stephen Smith – "SS") |
| Monday 28 th | | NO PRAYER GROUP – BANK HOLIDAY |
| Wednesday 30 th | 11.30am | Coffee Morning followed by a light lunch in the Church Hall |
| Thursday 31 st | 11.00am | Holy Communion (NPM) |
| <u>SEPTEMBER</u> | | |
| Saturday 2 nd | 4.00pm | Blessing of the marriage of Mr & Mrs McCarthy (PL) |
| Sunday 3rd | Pentecost 13 | |
| | 9.30am | Family Communion with Children's Groups (The Revd Mervyn Terrett) |
| | 11.00am | Morning Prayer (Mattins Group) |
| | 6.30pm | Evening Prayer (PL) |
| Monday 4 th | 7.00pm | Prayer Group meet in the Summerhouse |
| | 8.00pm | Meeting of the Trustees and Committee of The Friends of Elstow Abbey in the Church Hall |
| Wednesday 6 th | 11.30am | Coffee Morning followed by a light lunch in the Church Hall |
| Thursday 7 th | 11.00am | Holy Communion (JRC) |
| | 8.00pm | Meeting of the Finance & Standing Committee at 43 Armstrong Close, Wilstead |
| Saturday 9 th | 12.00noon | Wedding of Stephen Welharn and Sarah Partridge (JRC) |
| | | Heritage Open Day 1-5pm |
| Sunday 10th | Pentecost 14 | |
| | 11.00am | Parish Communion with the Baptism of Oscar Barron (JRC) |
| | | Heritage Open Day 12-6pm |
| | 3.00pm | Burial of Ashes of Peter Campbell Maddox (JRC) |
| | 3.30pm | Baptism of Amelia Rose James (JRC) |
| | 6.30pm | Evening Prayer (JRC) |
| Monday 11 th | 7.00pm | Prayer Group meet in the Summerhouse |

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| Deadline for contributions to Elstow Magazine: September 11th 2006 |
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| Wednesday 13 th | 11.30am | Coffee Morning followed by a light lunch in the Church Hall |
| Thursday 14 th | 11.00am | Holy Communion (JRC) |
| | 7.30pm | Meeting of the Elstow Team Council at St. Michael's |
| Saturday 16 th | 1.30pm | Wedding of Marc Patching and Claire Hubball (JRC) |
| Sunday 17th | Pentecost 15 | |
| | 9.30am | Family Communion with Children's Groups (JRC) |
| | 11.00am | Morning Prayer (JRC) |
| | 4.00pm | Parish Hog Roast in the Rectory Garden |
| | 6.30pm | Evening Prayer (Mr Robert Heley) |
| Monday 18 th | 10-11 am | Launch of 'Mums and Tots Group' in the Church Hall (JRC) |
| | 7.00pm | Prayer Group meet in the Summerhouse |
| Wednesday 20 th | 11.30am | Coffee Morning followed by a light lunch in the Church Hall |
| Thursday 21 st | 11.00am | Holy Communion (JRC) |
| | 7.30pm | Meeting of the Parochial Church Council in the Church Hall |
| Saturday 23 rd | 2.00pm | Children's Workshop in the Church Hall |
| Sunday 24th | Pentecost 16 | |
| | 9.30am | Young People's Service (JEH) |
| | 11.00am | Morning Prayer (Mattins Group) |
| | 3.00pm | Baptism of Luke Swinscoe (JRC) |
| | 3.45pm | Baptism of Tennyson Paul (JRC) |
| | 6.30pm | Evening Prayer (Canon Philip McDonough) |
| Monday 25 th | 10-11 am | Mums and Toddlers Group in the Church Hall (JRC) |
| | 7.00pm | Prayer Group meet in the Summerhouse |
| Wednesday 27 th | 11.30am | Coffee morning followed by a light lunch in the Church Hall |
| Thursday 28 th | 11.00am | Holy Communion (JRC) |
| Saturday 30 th | 3.00pm | Interviews for the new Director of Music |
| | 7.00pm | Cheese and Wine party for Dr. John Crookall at the Rectory (all welcome) |

OCTOBER

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| Sunday 1 st | Pentecost 17 | HARVEST FESTIVAL - Animal Welfare Sunday |
| | 10.30am | Family Communion with Preacher The Revd Richard Huband |
| | 12.00noon | Bring and Share lunch in the Church Hall |
| | 6.30pm | Harvest Evening Prayer (JRC) |
| Monday 2 nd | 10-11 am | Mums and Toddler Group in the Church Hall (JRC) |
| | 7.00pm | Prayer Group meet in the Summerhouse |
| Wednesday 4 th | 11.30am | Coffee Morning followed by a light lunch in the Church Hall |
| Thursday 5 th | 11.00am | Holy Communion (JRC) |



PARISH PUMP

House of Bishops issues pastoral statement on Civil Partnerships Act

The House of Bishops has issued a pastoral statement to help the Church as it addresses the implications of the Civil Partnerships Act, which comes into force on 5 December 2005. The statement reaffirms the Church's teaching. It notes that the new legislation makes no change to the law in relation to marriage and that the Government has stated that it has no intention of introducing 'same-sex' marriage. House of Bishops statement says: "What needs to be recognized is that the Church's teaching on sexual ethics remains unchanged."

Faith in rural communities

The Government is keen to discover the extent of the contribution made by rural faith communities to community vibrancy. Rural communities are changing and, for some, the result is disadvantage and exclusion. What helps or hinders faith groups to respond to such changes, for the benefit of local people? Coventry University's Centre for Local Economic Development has been awarded a substantial research grant to discover what it is that faith groups contribute to their local communities. The research has been funded by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs [Defra] and will be carried out in conjunction with the Church of England and the Arthur Rank Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire. The 15 month research project will look in depth at five case studies drawn from communities throughout rural England.

Numbers to be trained as clergy.

A total of 564 men and women were recommended to train as future clergy in the Church of England in 2004 - the highest number in six years. The figure represents an increase of more than 10 per cent over the 505 recommended in 2003. The increase in 2004 was among candidates over 50 years of age - from 150 in 2003 to 210 in 2004.

First courses for BELIEF

Bedford Ecumenical Lay Institute For Education And Faith (BELIEF) is a new venture for autumn 2006. There are two main aspects of its work:

- courses - open to anyone, but recognized by different denominations as preparation for specific ministries in the church.
- working with churches and groups who want to be better equipped to be Christian, perhaps by thinking about some aspect of the Christian faith or thinking through a topic such as how we better do mission in contemporary culture.

BELIEF courses for Autumn 2006

Getting to grips with Luke's Gospel – five Wednesday evenings, beginning on September 13th 2006

Getting to grips with the Old Testament - Saturday September 30th 2006 led by Janet Tollington of Westminster College, Cambridge

Thinking about God – another Wednesday evening course. November 8th - December 6th 2006

'Time to get up and do something: prayer and activity in dialogue' - a retreat at Turvey Abbey, led by Brother John, a member of the community living at the Abbey.

For further details, including of times, venues and costs, please contact BELIEF'S Director, Revd Dr Stephen Heap, on 07746 014 921 or c/o St Andrew's Church Office, Kimbolton Rd., Bedford MK40 2PF.

The BELIEF launch service will include the commissioning of Stephen as Director, on Sunday September 10th at 6.30p.m. at St Luke's Church, St Peter's Street, Bedford.

Grasp – for young people aged 12 to 18 years

These events are hosted by the Rt Revd Christopher Foster, Bishop of Hertford, and will be a chance to meet other young people from across the Diocese, be encouraged, be challenged, engage with God and generally have a great time. Dates: 30th September at St Luke's, Watford, 14th October at Christ Church, Bedford, 18th November at St Mary's, Luton and 25th February 2007 at St Peter's, Stevenage. The Diocesan Youth Service would like to hear from anyone interested in coming to these events. E-mail: admin@voicemail.org.uk or telephone 01727 818160.

Sleepout 2006

The annual 'Sleepout' at St Albans Cathedral will take place this year on December 1st. The charities that will be supported this year are: *Dacorum Emergency Night Shelter, North Herts Sanctuary, Open Door St Albans, and Stevenage Haven*. For more information and to download forms visit the Diocesan website: <http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/news/2006/sleepout06.htm>

Bedfordshire Resource Centre

The Resources Centre for Bedfordshire has moved to St Mark's Community Centre in the Brickhill area of Bedford. From September 2006, resources can be accessed from 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday by calling St. Mark's - Tel: 01234 342613. Schools can access and order resources from the website: www.beds-re-resources.org.uk/ . Register via eshaw@stalbans.anglican.org

Vision for Action

The Bishop of Bedford, the Rt Revd Richard Inwood, took part in the first of a series of mission weekends in parishes recently, visiting the Ouzel Valley Team Ministry in Bedfordshire. Parishes are continuing to share their Vision for Action news. For more information visit the Diocesan website here: <http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/visionforaction/visioncomments.htm> Please feel free to send in your news and experiences (even if it is about how hard some of your work is proving to be) to the following e-mail address: visionforaction@stalbans.anglican.org



Church trails in South Bedfordshire

With the support of South Beds District Council, three church trails have been established. The trails include 14 churches - all of which are open to visitors on the first Sunday of each month from 2-5.00pm until September. The churches are at: *Totternhoe, Eaton Bray, Edlesborough; Harlington, Chalgrave, Toddington, Sundon, Barton le Clay; Leighton Buzzard, Linslade, Billington, Stanbridge and Tilsworth*. A warm welcome awaits you at each church, most offering light refreshments and some offer a guided tour. Together, the churches cover every type of important medieval feature: stained glass, wall paintings, monuments and carving in both wood and stone. Leaflets are available at each participating church or from South Bedfordshire District Council (Telephone: **01582-472222**).

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Dear Sir

I was interested to read Elstow Timewatch's entertaining piece in the Elstow Parish magazine about Titus Oates.

I am writing because your readers may be unaware of the link between the Whitbread family and Oates.

Born in Essex in 1618, Thomas Harcourt, a Jesuit "whose real name was Whitbread" and whose arms bear the hind's head as if to prove it, rose to be Superior of his District and later become Provisional of his Order. While he was visiting the Belgium Colleges of the English province in 1678, Titus Oates, who had already been expelled from one of the Society's other colleges, asked to be admitted to membership of the Order. On being refused, he threatened that he would be "either a Jesuit or a Judas". Later Harcourt was arrested and, after eight uncomfortable months in Newgate gaol, he was tried at the Old Bailey and convicted of complicity in the "Popish plot", partly on Oates perjured evidence. He was executed on the 20th June 1679.

While it is impossible to prove a direct relationship between present day Whitbreads and Thomas, there are records of an Essex branch of the family and Thomas's name has been revered by the family as "blessed Thomas Whitbread" one of the English martyrs.

I hope this is of interest to you.

Yours faithfully

S C Whitbread (Former Patron)

11 July 2006

Sir

“The Catwalk Finds God”

In 2004, I wrote to the Magazine arguing against its unbalanced editorial stance and decision to try to raise funds for the Revd Joanna Jackson's media-financed attempt to have proceedings brought against the two doctors who authorised the termination of a particular pregnancy because the foetus showed that it would have a hare lip. On 17 March 2005, the CPS rightly rejected this initiative and I brought this to your readership's attention.

I read on Sunday 16 July that Ms Jepson is now to take her ministry into the multi-denominational world of the London College of Fashion. The public and media scepticism surrounding her decision is reflected in the phraseology of the heading to this letter. The BBC spoke of: **“A Church of England curate (who) has swapped parish life for the glamorous world of high fashion”**

On Radio Four's "Sunday" programme, today, she was closely questioned as to her motives for making this illogical switch and was most unconvincing in her answers and evasions.

TJ Elliott

23 July 2006

Dear Friends,

I attended Elstow Abbey Church from my birth until I was eighteen years old and thought I would let you know what's happening to myself and my family at the moment. Its been four years since I married Austin at St Paul's Church in Bedford and moved to St Georges in Altrincham and St Mary's in Bowdon where Austin my husband had got a job in church youth work. We got married, moved house, changed

jobs and all that those entail, all in the space of a month. The learning curve was vertical! But the support and friendship we received at both churches encouraged us through those exciting times.

In June 2003, the year after we moved here, Austin and I were over the moon at the arrival of Elizabeth Mae. She has been very lucky to have two very welcoming churches to grow up in. She thrives as a very social child and we are delighted that she has had the space to grow in the time we have been here.



And now, after four years, the end of Austin's contract its time to move on... Austin has been accepted to train for ordination in the Church of England and we have chosen to study at Ripon College in Cuddesdon, which, by chance is where Martyn Percy (a previous curate at St Andrews Bedford- where Austin worked when we first met) is principal. There has been a theological college in Cuddesdon for over 150 years. In 1975 Cuddesdon College merged with Ripon Hall, which had been established at the beginning of the twentieth century, originally at Ripon, and later in Oxford, and which focused on offering ordinands advanced theological study, often through Oxford University. Cuddesdon's distinctive spiritual ethos, with its focus on the discipline of daily prayer and spiritual formation, was brought together with this more academic tradition to create Ripon College Cuddesdon.

We visited Ripon College initially in February and fell in love with the place as soon as we arrived, seven miles south east of Oxford centre, the college is located within a village with nothing but fields around it. We knew that we would all be happy here, and with the increasing presence of families at the college the fact that we were in the middle of the countryside would be nothing but calming and good for focusing the mind. Never mind the space and freedom that a very active three year old will gain!

So we're off, we will have moved in during August although term does not start until the end of September for Austin, most families move in during August so children can settle before term starts. Its going to be a very different and challenging two years for us all but we are looking forward to it so much. Being nearer to Bedford certainly suits Emma so that she and Elizabeth can 'pop home' to see the family whenever I have lots of study on. I still think of Elstow and read the magazine on line when I get chance. All our family are well and still based in Kempston. And we still miss my nanna and grandad who were regular attendees of Elstow Abbey while they were able to.

If you would like to know more about Austin's training and the college, or would like to support us in any way, our new address is:

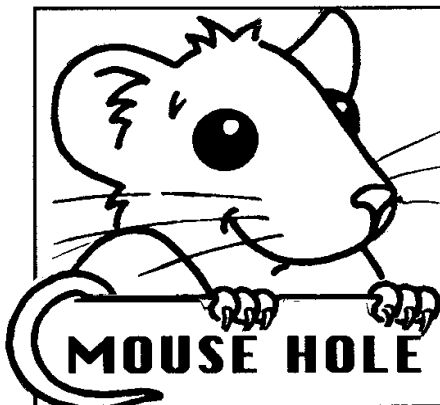
Emma, Austin and Elizabeth Janes,
13 The Runcie Building,
Ripon College,
Cuddesdon,
Oxford, OX44 9EX.

Love to you all.

Emma Janes

16 July 2006

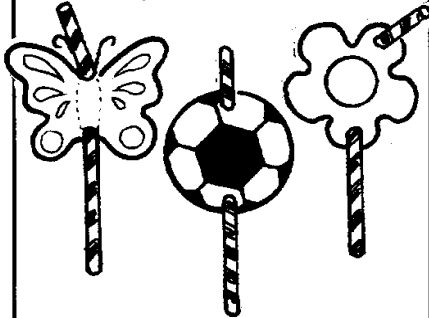
Emma has, very kindly, agreed to write occasionally telling us about what's involved in theological training at Ripon College (Ed.)



MOUSE HOLE

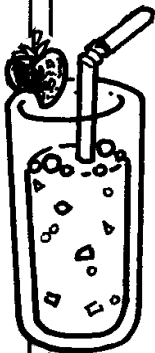
Super Straws

Have fun making these drinking straw decorations for a picnic or a party.



Cut large shapes from coloured card or craft foam. Punch a hole in the top and bottom then push through a drinking straw.

Fruit Whizzzz



Put 100g (4oz) of strawberries and a cut up banana into a liquidizer with 2 tablespoons of natural yogurt and 100ml (3½ floz) milk and whizzzz

together for 1 minute. Pour in a glass and drink!



Have you been on a picnic with your family or friends or with your church?

In his Gospel, **John** tells of how **Jesus** provided food for over 5000 people all from a little boy's picnic of five small barley loaves and two small fish.

Everyone ate all they wanted and there were still 12 baskets of bread left over!



Do you think it was the biggest picnic ever?



Read about how Jesus fed the 5000 in **John** chapter 6:1-13

Picnic Puzzle

All these things have been unpacked from the picnic basket, can you find them on the rug?

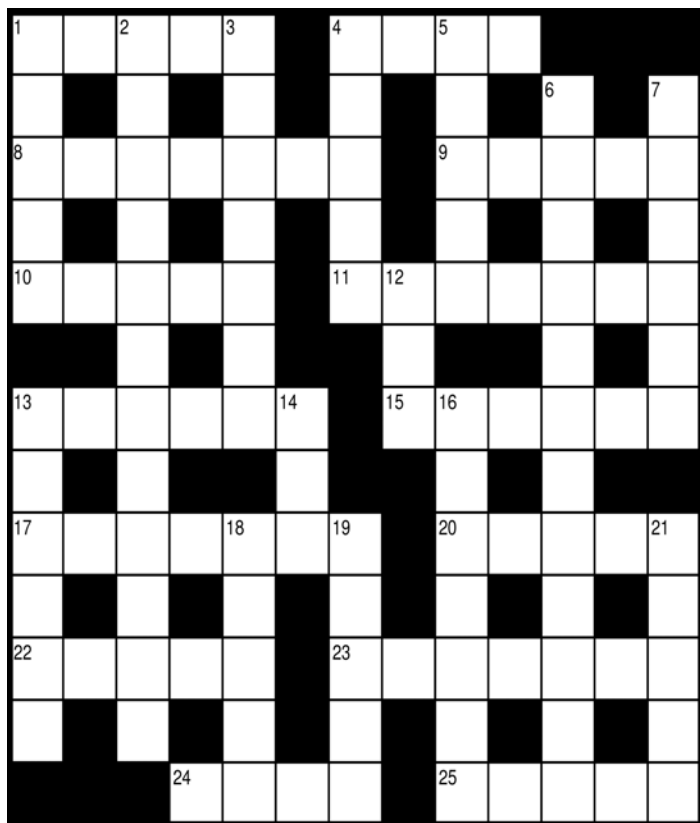
PICNIC
MILK
SANDWICH
SAUSAGE
JARS
PIE
CRISPS
CAKE
SALAD
HAM
CUP
EGG
TEA
DRINK

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | A | U | S | A | G | E | H |
| T | E | P | A | W | P | S | A |
| E | M | I | L | K | I | G | M |
| A | J | C | A | K | E | G | G |
| S | A | N | D | W | I | C | H |
| D | R | I | N | K | C | U | G |
| S | C | R | I | S | P | S | |

Across: 1 Ensur 4 Same 8 Juniper 9 Dress 10 Yearn 11 Galatia 13 Aisles 15 Kissed 17 Scholar 20 Chair 22 Naomi 23 Nunnery 24 Eyes 25 Extol

Down: 1 Enjoy 2 Sunday School 3 Expunge 4 Sprig 5 Model 6 New Testament 7 Island 12 Ark 13 Absent 14 Sea 16 Incense 18 Laity 19 Rings 21 Royal

CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 ..seek peace, and _____ it (1 Pet 3.11) (5)
 4 ..unto the going down of the _____ (Mal 1.11) (4)
 8 Tree under which Elijah sat in 1 Kings ch. 19 (7)
 9 _____ the meat in my sight (2 Sam 13.5) (5)
 10 Have a feeling of loss, like Joseph's bowels in Genesis ch. 43 (5)
 11 The first epistle general of Peter is addressed to the inhabitants of this region, among others (7)
 13 Divisions between seats in church (6)
 15 Laban did this to Jacob in Genesis ch. 29 (6)
 17 He and the teacher cast lots in 1 Chronicles ch. 25 (7)
 20 Seat (5)
 22 Wife of Elimelech in Ruth ch. 1 (5)
 23 Convent (7)
 24 The Philistines put out Samson's in Judges ch. 16 (4)
 25 Enthusiastically praise (5)

Down

- 1 ..therefore _____ pleasure (Ecc 2.1) (5)
 2 Class to teach children about Christianity (6,6)
 3 Remove completely (7)
 4 Shoot produced by the vine in Ezekiel ch. 17 (5)
 5 One who sits for an artist (5)
 6 One of the two major divisions of the bible (3,9) e.g. Melita in Acts ch. 28 (6)
 7 Vessel built by Noah (3)
 12 For though I be _____ in the flesh (Col 2.5) (6)
 14 Into which a herd of swine ran in Mark ch 5 (3)
 16 Aromatic mixture burnt in churches (7)
 18 Lay people, as distinct from clergy (5)
 19 Silver annuli in Esther ch. 1 (5)
 21 Like the diadem in Isaiah ch. 62 (5)

The solution to the crossword can be found at the bottom of the previous page (17)

There were not many weddings in the West Country village and when not in use the verger had the habit of keeping the Banns Register under the seat cushion of the rector's stall. One Sunday there were some Banns to be called and the rector began in the familiar "I publish the Banns of Marriage between . . ." before he realised that the register was not out ready for him. In his very audible Somerset brogue the verger's voice was heard across the chancel - "Between the cushion and the seat!"



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TELEVISION

When did television start? I bet you didn't know that it started on 22nd August 1932 when the British Broadcasting Corporation introduced its first regular TV service in the London area. By the summer of 1949 television began to be available outside London and 1954 saw the first daily news bulletins and weather forecasts. Colour pictures arrived at the end of 1969.

Lots of people moan about what is on television and what a waste of time it is, but there are good things to say for it too. Without the news reports of famine in Africa would we have had Live Aid? And what about Comic Relief and Children in Need?

TV entertains and educates. It helps us to relax, and it can also help us to pray by showing us the world. We see the natural disasters of weather like tsunami and hurricanes. We see people hurt and made homeless by war. And we turn to God and ask him to help those who suffer and we pray for them, remembering that we are God's hands here on earth.

EYE SEE YOU

All the answers to this Bible quiz are to do with eyes and seeing.

Answers at the bottom of the page.

1. What is the name of the village where Jesus healed a blind man? (Luke, chapter 8)
2. What eye can a camel go through more easily than a rich man? (Matthew, chapter 19)
3. Joseph talks about his eyes and the eyes of which one of his brothers? (Genesis , chapter 45)
4. What did Moses see in the desert at Horeb? (Exodus, chapter 3)
5. Where did Jesus send the blind man to wash his eyes? (John, chapter 9)
6. What are the eyes like of the one who rides a white horse? (Revelation, chapter 19)



Why do beavers spend a fortune on the internet?

They never want to log off.



How do you stop the batteries in your Play Station running out?

Hide their trainers.



Answers: 1. Bethsaida 2. the eye of a needle 3. Benjamin 4. a burning bush 5. the pool of Siloam 6. like a flame of fire.