

# ***ELSTOW PARISH MAGAZINE***

***AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2008***

*Welcome to the second double edition of the magazine for the summer. As you can see, Steven and I are safely back from our glorious Italian honeymoon. More about the wedding later! Here's the introductory letter from Jeremy:*

## **Worrying times inside and outside of the Church**

As you read this letter you will probably be wondering what on earth is happening to the Church of England, and will the Church ever settle down, and why does the Church argue and focus so inwardly when the world and this country are facing some serious problems? In early July I attended the General Synod of the Church of England, and as you will have surely read 'Women Bishops' was the major item of debate. Many folk have since asked me about what I think about 'Women Bishops' and the 'Gay' issue. So here goes...wish me luck!

With Women Bishops I have mixed feelings at the moment. Theologically and biblically it would have been more correct to have started with Women Bishops, following the example of Jesus appointing the Twelve Apostles and as they laid hands. For me, I can live with Women Bishops, but I will not accept it at any cost. When attending the General Synod during the debates both Archbishops spoke encouraging some compromise to enable those opposed in conscience to still be able to be full members of the Church. I abstained at the end of the debate, due to my deep sadness at the lack of give and take during the debate, it was quite unpleasant.

In my early years I grew up in an Anglo-Catholic Church and I grew to value enormously the breadth and spirituality that they offer, and then at my Curacy, in Holy Trinity Stevenage, I elected to be trained under a Woman Priest. She gave me the best possible training, and I have moved from my initial hesitation to see the tremendous benefit to the Church that women priests bring. Looking at it from the other way theologically, as we have women priests it is logical to have women bishops but for many this is a step too far, and I respect that and will continue to work for a way that proceeds with all on board.

As for the 'Gay' issue engulfing the Church I have been saddened by the overt, and publicity seeking gestures currently, and over the years that keep stirring up this difficult issue i.e. the gay 'wedding' in London; the preaching of Bishop Gene Robinson in Putney; the Civil Partnership of the Dean of St Albans - all the gestures that 'stoke up the fire' and rub 'salt into the wounds' of some parishioners and some members of congregations. I once sat on a packed train going down to visit my mother, and two guys were sitting opposite me, and they spent most of the

journey kissing each other. I really did not like it at all, nor did I think it respectful of others, but equally I would not want to see a man and a woman doing the same. These issues need to be resolved very quickly and the Church needs to get back to the leading and guiding of morality for all the people that we serve.

As the Bishop of St Albans pointed out, during the five days of Synod, 90% of our time there was inward looking and that we should be ashamed of ourselves. I am very conscious that as a Church here at Elstow we are spending more and more time serving and being part of the local community. As I share with you some of your real concerns namely financial, as we enter a 'World Recession' please be reminded that I am always on the end of a 'phone if I can be of any help in the months and years ahead.

With Best Wishes,

Jeremy Crocker

Team Rector

No doubt many of you will have been following the news from the General Synod, attended by our own Jeremy Crocker, and will have been interested in the debate over the ordination of women bishops. This pastoral letter from the Bishops of St Albans, Hertford and Bedford should help to make matters clearer:

### **Pastoral Letter to All Clergy**

#### **from the Bishop of St Albans, the Bishop of Hertford and the Bishop of Bedford**

#### **The Ordination of Women as Bishops**

There has been some confusion over the past few days about what the General Synod meeting at York actually decided to do about the ordination of women to the episcopate. We hope that this letter will add some clarity.

What the Synod revealed was that a clear majority of its members want women to be able to become bishops. However, the debate was not the end of the process, it was simply the beginning; general aspirations have to be turned into reality and that can only be achieved through the drafting of legislation. The Synod decided we should take that step, recognising that there is no absolute guarantee about what the outcome of the process might be.

The debate in Synod itself was, understandably, long and complex, with deep convictions being expressed by all sides of the argument. It was preceded by group discussions and presentations and during the major debate itself there were times of silence for reflection and prayer. The end result was that the General Synod voted to move the next stage in the process; to prepare draft legislation and a draft national statutory code of practice. The vote, by Houses, was as follows:

House of Bishops 28 in favour, 12 against, 1 abstention.

House of Clergy 124 in favour, 44 against, 4 abstentions

House of Laity 111 in favour, 68 against, 2 abstentions.

The voting figures make clear that there is now broad and general support for the making of women bishops, but what the figures also make clear is that substantial numbers of people are against.

In general terms, the people who are against moving ahead are drawn from part (note the word) of the more Evangelical end of the Anglican spectrum and from the more Catholic end. It would be incorrect to suggest that all Evangelical Anglicans are against or that all Catholic Anglicans are against; some are, some aren't. What needs to be remembered is that all of us, whatever labels we may give ourselves, are Anglicans. It is our particular heritage as Anglicans (and a great heritage it is) to live in a Church which is both Catholic and Reformed. When Cardinal Kasper argues that we need to make up our minds whether we are Protestants or Catholics he, surprisingly, misses the point. We embody both of those dimensions in our worship and our practice.

Ever since the Reformation, there have been those who have wanted to push the Church of England in one direction or the other; the Synod debate is only the most recent example of this. The tension of being both Catholic and Reformed provides a lively dynamic in our corporate life – and we should be much the poorer if that dynamic were to be lost. It is to our great gain to remain together honouring the truths and practices embodied in all parts of the Anglican spectrum.

There are some who feel deeply and strongly that their part of the tradition in Anglicanism has been denied by the Synod vote; whilst others, of equal sincerity and commitment, rejoice that the vote went the way it did. We have a particular duty to love those with whom we may profoundly differ. As we listen to God and each other in the conversations ahead we shall honour, in the Anglican expression of our faith, a commitment to scripture, tradition and reason, and to the lively interplay between each of those elements.

What is required, as the debate over women bishops goes forward, is a renewed commitment to live together in respect and love, recognising that beliefs are held deeply and sincerely by everyone involved; a commitment to create greater understanding and a commitment to try to find ways forward which will enable us to work together in mission.

And what happens next? The General Synod has asked for legislation and a national statutory code of practice to be drafted. This will be brought back to the February 2009 General Synod for debate and refinement, and then it will be sent back to committees and officers in Church House for more work. There will be further debates on the outcome of this work, with revision likely to be completed some time in 2010. It will then be sent to dioceses for further consideration before returning to General Synod in 2012. What will be required finally, if the legislation is to be passed, will be a two-thirds majority in each of the Houses (of bishops, laity and clergy), and only if that is received will the final draft go on its way to Parliament.

There is much work still to be done, not only at General Synod but in every diocese and in every parish. That work consists in the creation of understanding, in committing ourselves to each other, whatever our views may be, and through prayer, thought and fellowship trying to discern the will of God. It is going to require much patience and courage, but above all, a conscious and deliberate commitment to live together within the Church of England, in Christian love and discipleship, one with another. That does not require sophisticated theology nor the ability to win complicated arguments, it requires what all of us, through grace, can give, love marked by the character of our crucified, risen and ascended Lord.

With all good wishes

**The Bishop of St Albans, the Bishop of Hertford and the Bishop of Bedford**

And here is a handy fact file:

- Women bishops were first debated by the General Synod of the Church of England 30 years ago, according to a senior campaigner in favour of female ordination.
- But it is only now that the Church has resolved to press ahead with legislation to introduce them, after a heated and emotional debate among Synod members.
- The first women priests were ordained in 1994 and the Church gave its backing to the principle of women bishops in 2005 and 2006.
- The latest decision means that a legislative drafting group will now begin work on preparing a draft code of practice to accommodate objectors on grounds of religious conscience.
- The legislation will then go to the General Synod next February and with another revision stage possibly taking place in February 2010.
- A majority of the Diocesan Synods of the Church of England would then need to approve the legislation with further consideration by the General Synod in 2011 or possibly 2012.
- There would then be a further delay of possibly a year while the final drafting takes place before it returns to the General Synod for approval.
- The final stages would require a two-thirds majority in each of the three Houses of the General Synod - of Bishops, Clergy and Laity.
- The Church of England has warned that even if every stage is taken as quickly as possible, there is unlikely to be a woman bishop installed before 2014.
- The moves to introduce women as bishops come as the number of women entering training to become priests has grown within the Church.
- About half of those now in training for the ordained ministry are women and there are women in senior posts within the Church.
- Those mentioned as possible contenders to be women bishops are the Very Rev Vivienne Faull, Dean of Leicester, and the Very Rev June Osborne, Dean of Salisbury.
- The Rev Lucy Winkett, Canon of St Paul's Cathedral, and the Rev Dr Jane Hedges, Canon Steward of Westminster Abbey are also prominent figures.

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## Tunes of Glory

Sometimes we sing No. 134, *The head that once was crowned with thorns Is crowned with glory now*, by Thomas Kelly (1769-1855), to the tune St Magnus by Jeremiah Clarke, 1673-1707: I have spoken of the latter before. It has been said that Thomas Kelly was the hymnist of Ireland, as William Williams (Pantycelyn) was of Wales, and Michael Bruce was of Scotland. Elsie Houghton says that Julian, in his *Dictionary of Hymnology*, indicates that several of his hymns rank with the finest hymns of the English language. Most of Kelly's hymns dwell directly on the work of Christ on the cross for us. Although there is an interval between the first and last of nearly 50 years, both speak of the same great truths and in the same way.

Thomas Kelly was the only son of Judge Kelly, of Kellyville near Athy in Queen's County, Ireland. From school he entered Trinity College, Dublin, and after graduation, being designed for the bar, he entered the Temple in London. Before he was called to the bar, the study of Hebrew had led him to the use of Romaine's edition of Calasio's *Hebrew Concordance*. Subsequently he began to inquire about Romaine's evangelical doctrines.

While studying these he became convinced of sin, and was filled with great anxiety about his state before God. In attempts to remove his distress he tried self-reformation, practiced asceticism, and put his life in jeopardy by fasting. At length he had peace with God through the Lord Jesus Christ by that way of 'justification by faith' of which he afterwards became a firm and faithful an advocate. With several other evangelicals he was ordained a minister of the Established Church in 1792.

Kelly met with great opposition from his family, not so much because he became a minister, but because he preached the doctrine of justification by faith alone, and not by works. He is reported to have said that to have gone to the stake would have been less of a trial to him than to have so set himself against those he loved.

When Kelly was 30 he married Miss Tighe of Rosanna in County Wicklow, a member of a family remarkable for its wealth and Christian witness. The gospel was preached in few churches in Ireland in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and Kelly was greatly encouraged in his evangelistic purposes by the visit of Rowland Hill to Ireland in 1793. For a time some young evangelical clergymen gave a Sunday afternoon lecture at St. Luke's Church in Dublin, until their success awakened the opposition of the Rector.

They then preached in another church every Sunday morning, but the Archbishop of Dublin, on hearing of the new doctrine, summoned Kelly and his companions before him. He reproved them and issued a decree closing Dublin pulpits to them. In consequence of this they then preached in two non-episcopal churches in the

city. Soon after ordination, Kelly had felt scruples about his connection with the Established Church. These scruples increased as he studied the Scriptures, until he became a Dissenter, from conviction, and not because he had been persecuted by the Established Church. He possessed ample means and built churches in a number of places. These were independent churches, conducted on a congregational basis. He preached in other places but served as pastor at Athy and Dublin. It has been said of him that, during the 63 years of his ministry, he did not seem to waste even an hour. 'His language, his temper, his recreations, as well as his serious studies, were all regulated by the same rule, to "do all to the glory of God"'.

Kelly was a man of great and varied learning. He was skilled in Oriental languages, and possessed real musical talent which, together with his other talents, was consecrated to the glory of God. He became the friend of many good men and the advocate of every worthy cause. His liberality found ample scope in Ireland, especially during the years of famine in the 1840s. In 1854 while preaching, at the age of 85, he suffered a stroke which resulted in his death the following year. His last words were, 'Not my will, but Thine be done.'

*John Crookall*

\*\*\* **NOTE OF THANKS** \*\*\*

Mavis and I would like to thank all the members of the Church Family who so kindly sent us cards and their good wishes for our Ruby Wedding Anniversary on the 15<sup>th</sup> June. Many of you also gave us gifts personally to mark the occasion in addition to the more formal gift of garden vouchers from the Church Family, presented to us on their behalf by Colin Albon.

We were especially pleased that so many of you were able to accept our invitation to join us in our little celebration evening in the church hall on Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> June. It was a memorable occasion and we hope that everyone there enjoyed it as much as we did.

Eric & Mavis Crossen

## LESSON READERS AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2008

<b>August 3rd Green</b>	10.00am 11.15am 6.30pm	Romans Ch.9 v. 1 - 5 Song of Solomon Ch.5 v. 2 - end 1 Kings Ch.10 v. 1 - 13	Matthew Ch.14 v. 13 - 21 2 Peter Ch.1 v. 1 - 15 Acts Ch.13 v. 1 - 13	Lynn Harris Ann Knight Barbara Routledge
<b>August 10th Green</b>	10.00am 6.30pm	Young People's Service 1 Kings Ch.11 v.41 - Ch 12 v.20	Acts Ch.14 v.8 - 20	Dorothy Steele
<b>August 17th Green</b>	10.00am 11.15am 6.30pm	Romans Ch.11 v's 1&2 & 29 - 32 Jonah Ch.1 2 Kings Ch.4 v. 1 - 37	Matthew Ch.15 v. 21 - 28 2 Peter Ch.3 v. 14 - end Acts Ch.16 v. 1 - 15	Alastair Lavery Peter Batiuk Peter Moss
<b>August 24th Red</b>	10.00am 11.15am 6.30pm	Young People's Service Acts Ch.5 v. 12 - 16 Ecclesiasticus Ch.39 v. 1 - 10	Luke Ch.22 v.24 - 30 Matthew Ch.10 v. 1 - 22	Organist Catherine Parrish
<b>August 31st Green</b>	10.00am 11.15am 6.30pm	<b>Joint Benefice Service at Cardington at 10.30am</b> Jonah Ch.3 v. 1 - 9 2 Kings Ch.6 v's 24 & 25 & Ch.7 v. 3 - end	Revelation Ch.3 v. 14 - end Acts Ch.18 v. 1 - 16	Eric Crossen Barbara Routledge
<b>September 7th Green</b>	10.00am 11.15am 6.30pm	Romans Ch.13 v. 8 - end Jonah Ch.3 v.10 - Ch.4 v. 11 Ezekiel Ch.12 V. 21 - Ch. 13 v. 16	Matthew Ch.18 v. 15 - 20 Revelation Ch.8 v. 1 - 5 Acts Ch.19 v. 1 - 20	Colin Albon Delphine Fordham Margaret Eastwell
<b>September 14th Red</b>	10.00am 6.30pm	Philippians Ch.2 v. 6 - 11 Isaiah Ch.63 v. 1 - 16	John Ch.3 v. 13 - 17 1 Corinthians Ch1 v. 18 -25	John Hinson Glynis Annan
<b>September 21st Red</b>	10.00am 11.15am 6.30pm	2 Corinthians Ch.4 v. 1 - 6 1 Kings Ch.19 v. 15 - end Ecclesiastes Ch.5 v. 4 - 12	Matthew Ch.9 v. 9 - 13 2 Timothy Ch.3 v. 14 - end Matthew Ch.19 v. 16 - end	Barbara Routledge Miriam Clark Peter Moss
<b>September 28th Green</b>	10.00am 11.15am 6.30pm	Young People's Service Philippians Ch.2 v. 1 - 13 Deuteronomy Ch.8 v. 7 - 18	Matthew Ch.21 v. 23 - 32 2 Corinthians Ch9 v. 6 -end	Lizabeth Burrows Catherine Parrish
<b>October 5th Green</b>	10.00am 11.15am 6.30pm	Philippians Ch.3 v. 4 - 14 Isaiah Ch.49 v. 13 - 23 Proverbs Ch.2 v. 1 - 11	Matthew Ch.21 v. 33 - end Luke Ch.12 v. 1 -12 1 John Ch.2 v. 1 - 17	Ken Webb Ann Knight Dorothy Steele

**SIDESMEN'S ROTA**  
**AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2008**

<b>August 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Mrs. A. Morris.</b>	<b>Mrs. S. Brown.</b>
	<b>11.15am</b>	<b>Mrs. E. Burrows.</b>	
	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Mrs. G. Annan.</b>	
<b>August 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Mrs. S. Batiuk.</b>	<b>Mr. P. Batiuk.</b>
	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Mr. P. Moss.</b>	
<b>August 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Mrs. R. Albon.</b>	<b>Mrs. J. Barnicott.</b>
	<b>11.15am</b>	<b>Mrs. A. Knight.</b>	
	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Mrs. V. Whyatt-Routh.</b>	
<b>August 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>The Young People.</b>	
	<b>11.15am</b>	<b>Mr. F.W. Crossen.</b>	
	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Miss. M. Eastwell.</b>	
<b>August 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>NO SERVICE AT ELSTOW. JOINT BENEFICE SERVICE AT CARDINGTON AT 10.30am</b>	
	<b>11.15am</b>	<b>Mrs. M. Crossen.</b>	
	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>NO EVENSONG AT ELSTOW</b>	
<b>September 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Mrs. A. Morris.</b>	<b>Mrs. B. Routledge.</b>
	<b>11.15am</b>	<b>Mrs. E. Burrows.</b>	
	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Mrs. C. Parrish.</b>	
<b>September 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Mr. P. Batiuk.</b>	<b>Mrs. S. Batiuk.</b>
	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Mr. P. Moss.</b>	
<b>September 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Mrs. J. Barnicott.</b>	<b>Mrs. A. Morris.</b>
	<b>11.15am</b>	<b>Mrs. A. Knight.</b>	
	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Mrs. G. Annan.</b>	
<b>September 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>The Young People.</b>	
	<b>11.15am</b>	<b>Mrs. M. Crossen.</b>	
	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Mrs. C. Parrish.</b>	
<b>October 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Mrs. S. Brown.</b>	<b>Mrs. B. Routledge.</b>
	<b>11.15am</b>	<b>Mr. F. W. Crossen.</b>	
	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Miss. M. Eastwell.</b>	

If any of these dates are inconvenient, please would you arrange a swap and let Colin Albon know that you have done so.

**THE CHURCH CALENDAR**  
**AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2008**

**AUGUST**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Friday 2.00pm		Blessing of the marriage of Kieron Mitchell and Melissa Jones (NM)
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sunday		
	Pentecost 12	10.00am	Family Communion with Sunday School (JRC)
		11.15am	Morning Prayer (JRC)
		3.00pm	Baptism of Tracie Child (JRC)
		6.30pm	Evening Prayer (JRC)
4 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	10.00am	Holiday Club at Elstow
		12-1.00pm	Picnic on Green
		2.00pm	Prayer Group
5 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	10.00am	Holiday Club at Elstow
		12-1.00pm	Picnic on Green
6 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	10.00am	Holiday Club at Elstow
		12-1.00pm	Picnic on Green
			NO COFFEE MORNING AND SOUP
7 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	10.00am	Holiday Club at Elstow
		11.00am	Holy Communion (Rev Stephen Smith)
		12-1.00pm	Picnic on Green
			NO THURSDAY LUNCH CLUB
8 <sup>th</sup>	Friday 10.00am		Holiday Club at Elstow
		12-1.00pm	Picnic on Green

9 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday	6.00pm	Holiday Club BBQ in the 'Barons' Garden
10 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday		
	Pentecost 13	10.00am	Holiday Club Celebration – The Team NO COUPLES LUNCH
		2.15pm	Baptism of Isabella and Olivia Caimino (JRC)
		3.00pm	Baptism of Charlie Robinson (JRC)
		3.45pm	Baptism of Harmony Sarfas (JRC)
		4.30pm	Baptism of Kurtis Dandy (JRC)
		6.30pm	Evening Prayer followed by Holy Communion and the Laying on of Hands for Healing. (JRC)
11 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	2.00pm	Prayer Group meet in the Summerhouse
13 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	11.30am	Coffee morning and soup in the Church Hall
		7.00pm	Drinks and nibbles at Rectory for farewell to Diana Hill and welcome to Samantha Nagel. All welcome.
14 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	11.00am	Holy Communion (JRC)
17 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday		
	Pentecost 14	10.00am	Family Communion with Baptism of Jack Wheeler(JRC)
		11.15am	Morning Prayer (Group)
		6.30pm	Evening Prayer (Canon Philip McDonough)
18 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	2.00pm	Prayer Group meet in the Summerhouse
20 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	11.30am	Coffee morning and soup in the Church Hall

21 <sup>st</sup>	Thursday	11.00am	Holy Communion (Revd Stephen Smith)
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Saturday	2.00pm	Children's Workshop in the Church Hall
24 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday		
	Pentecost 15	10.00am	Young People's Service (JEH)
		11.15am	Morning Prayer (Group)
		6.30pm	Evening Prayer (Rev Stephen Smith)
25 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	BANK HOLIDAY NO PRAYER GROUP	
27 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	11.30am	Coffee morning and soup in the Church Hall
28 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	11.00am	Holy Communion (JRC)
31 <sup>st</sup>	Sunday		
	Pentecost 16	10.00am	<b><u>NO SERVICE AT ELSTOW</u></b>
		10.30am	Joint Benefice Service at St Mary's Cardington
		11.15am	Morning Prayer (Group)
		12.30pm	Baptism of Isabel Lily Kemp (JRC)
		3.00pm	Baptism of Thomas Lee Williams (JRC)
		4.00pm	Joint Service with John Bunyan Christian Fellowship on Elstow Green followed by picnic tea
		6.30pm	<b><u>NO EVENING PRAYER AT ELSTOW</u></b>

**SEPTEMBER**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Monday	10.00am	Mums and Toddlers meet in the Church Hall
		2.00pm	Prayer Group meet in the Summerhouse
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Tuesday	10.00am	Sing and Sign in the Church Hall
		4.15pm	Dance Club in the Church Hall
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Wednesday	11.30am	Coffee morning and soup in the Church Hall
		6.30pm	Youth Group meet in the Church Hall
4 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	11.00am	Holy Communion (JRC)
		12.00noon	Monthly Lunch Club at The Red Lion
		7.30pm	Meeting of The Parochial Church Council in the Church Hall
6 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday	10.00am	Youth Group Car Wash and Bring and Buy at Elstow Church Hall in aid of Cancer Research and Keech Cottage Hospice.
7 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	Pentecost 17	
		10.00am	Family Communion with Sunday School (JRC) Preacher from The Church Missionary Society
		11.15am	Morning Prayer (JRC) Preacher from The Church Missionary Society
		4.00pm	Annual Hog Roast at Elstow Rectory Garden All welcome
		6.30pm	Evening Prayer (Peter Moss)
8 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	10.00am	Mums and Toddlers meet in the Church Hall
		2.00pm	Prayer Group meet in the Summerhouse

9 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	10.00am	Sing and Sign in the Church Hall
		4.15pm	Dance Club in the Church Hall
10 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	9.30am	Clergy Chapter with the Bishop of St Albans @ Elstow Abbey
		11.30am	Coffee morning and soup in the Church Hall
		6.30pm	Youth Group meet in the Church Hall
11 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	11.00am	Holy Communion (JRC)
		8.00pm	Finance and Standing Committee meet at 43 Armstrong Close, Wilstead
13 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday		Annual Sponsored Cycle Ride around the Churches
			<b><i>DEADLINE FOR MATERIAL FOR OCTOBER MAGAZINE</i></b>
14 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday		
	Pentecost 18	10.00am	Family Communion with Sunday School (JRC)
		12.00noon	Couples Lunch at The Red Lion
		3.00pm	Baptism of Rhys Foster (JRC)
		3.45pm	Jayden Ajayi (JRC)
		6.30pm	Evening Prayer (JRC)
15 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	10.00am	Mums and Toddlers meet in the Church Hall
		2.00pm	Prayer Group meet in the Summerhouse
		8.00pm	Youth Group Leaders meeting @ the Vicarage
16 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	10.00am	Sing and Sign in the Church Hall
		4.15pm	Dance Club in the Church Hall

17 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	11.30am	Coffee morning and soup in the Church Hall
		6.30pm	Youth Group meet in the Church Hall
18 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	11.00am	Holy Communion (JRC)
		7.30pm	Elstow Team Council meet at St. Michael's Church
20 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday	7.30pm	Barber Shop concert @ St Mary's Cardington
21 <sup>st</sup>	Sunday		
	Pentecost 19	10.00am	Family Communion with Sunday School (JRC & JEH)
		11.15am	Morning Prayer (JRC)
		2.00pm	Baptism of Chloe Mitchell (JRC)
		3.00pm	Renewal of Wedding Vows Tony and Elsie Hare (JRC)
		6.30pm	Evening Prayer followed by Holy Communion with the Laying on of Hands for Healing (JRC)
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Monday	10.00am	Mums and Toddlers meet in the Church Hall
		2.00pm	Prayer Group meet in the Summerhouse
		8.00pm	The Trustees and Committee of The Friends of Elstow Abbey meet in the Church Hall
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Tuesday	10.00am	Sing and Sign in the Church Hall
		4.15pm	Dance Club in the Church Hall
24 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	11.30am	Coffee morning and soup in the Church Hall
		6.30pm	Youth Group meet in the Church Hall

25 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	11.00am	Holy Communion (JRC)
		7.30pm	Meeting of the Elstow Parochial Church Council in the Church Hall
26 <sup>th</sup>	Friday		Set up harvest flowers
27 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday	11-5.00pm	HARVEST FESTIVAL of Flowers (with refreshments)
		2.00pm	Children's Workshop in the Church Hall
28 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday		
			Pentecost 20
			Harvest Festival and Festival of Flowers
		10.00am	Young People's Service (JEH) with John Bunyan Christian Fellowship and Elstow Brownies
		10-7.30pm	HARVEST FESTIVAL of Flowers (with refreshments)
		11.15am	Parish Communion (JRC)
		12.15pm	Bring and Share Harvest Lunch in the Church Hall
		6.30pm	Harvest Evening Prayer (JRC)
29 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	10.00am	Mums and Toddlers meet in the Church Hall
		2.00pm	Prayer Group meet in the Summerhouse
30 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	10.00am	Sing and Sign in the Church hall
		4.15pm	Dance Club in the Church Hall

**OCTOBER**

1 <sup>ST</sup>	Wednesday	11.30am	Coffee morning and soup in the Church Hall
		6.30pm	Youth Group meet in the Church Hall
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Thursday	11.00am	Holy Communion (JRC)
		7.45pm	Churches Together meet at London Road Methodist Church
5 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday		
	Pentecost 21	10.00am	Family Communion with Sunday School (JRC)
		11.15am	Morning Prayer (Group)
		6.30pm	Evening Prayer (JRC)

**DETAILS FROM THE REGISTERS****MAY 2008**

Date	Communicants	Attendance	Collections
1 <sup>st</sup>	14	14	3.00
4th	29	61	187.89
8th	6	6	2.45
11th	75	87	170.35
15th	8	8	3.50
18 <sup>th</sup>	28	90	427.79
22nd	7	7	1.00
25th	24	89	263.79
29th	6	6	16.00
	<b><u>197</u></b>	<b><u>368</u></b>	<b><u>1075.77</u></b>

**BAPTISMS**

May 18<sup>th</sup> Isabella Mary Bernadette Kefford

May 25<sup>th</sup> Alfie Richard Carr  
George Henry Childs-Gatty  
Megan Michelle Craig

**MARRIAGES**

June 7<sup>th</sup> Steven Waterfield and Jacqueline Anne Pryce

June 21<sup>st</sup> Jason Francis Parke and Donna Louise Reed

July 11<sup>th</sup> Jonathon Joseph Prior and Dawn Louise Mather

July 12<sup>th</sup> Daniel Paul Hicks and Georgina May Walker

**BURIALS**

May 20<sup>th</sup> Betty Irene Finch

May 29<sup>th</sup> Kenneth Augustus Black  
David John Howe (Ashes)

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DON'T FORGET, THIS IS **YOUR** PARISH MAGAZINE!

DO YOU HAVE AN ARTICLE, RECIPE, POEM OR PHOTOS YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE? WE'D LOVE TO HAVE IT!

DROP A LINE TO THE EDITOR, EITHER BY E-MAIL ON [jakhat77@hotmail.com](mailto:jakhat77@hotmail.com)

OR BY POST TO:

**JACQUIE WATERFIELD**  
**13 ACORN WAY**  
**BEDFORD**  
**MK42 0QN**

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BEDFORD RIVER FESTIVAL 2008

Weren't the River Festival organisers lucky with the weather? After days of steady rain and sudden downpours, the weekend dawned, if not bright and clear, at least dry and warm, and only improved on the Sunday – perfect for messing about on the river.

We were working on Saturday and busy on Sunday morning, but managed to meet up on the Embankment at about 3pm for an afternoon of fun.

We were just in time to watch a series of exciting raft races while negotiating our way through the throngs of cheering parents, tempting food stalls, craft stands and ice cream vans. Picking a spot on the grass, it was blissful just to relax with a cold drink and listen to the very good bands on the music stage, and the excited shouts from the bouncy castles and funfair – did you see those dizzying rides? It made me feel quite glad my feet were firmly on the ground! The water did look tempting though, especially when the colourful dragon boats started rowing up and down. This was the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bedford's famous river festival, and the organisers had pulled out all the stops to make it an event for everyone to enjoy, including some wonderful concerts and brilliant fireworks. Even if you just meandered through the complex but well-organised one-way bridge system on your way into town, it was a feast for the senses and felt like a joyful community celebration.

Jeremy adds: "After coffee last Sunday morning, a dozen or so of Elstow Congregation met at the Nicholls Brasserie on the Embankment, now called Eat Fish, for a coffee (£2.50!) and a lovely chat in the beautiful warmth of the day. Everywhere we looked there were people and stalls. We all took off over the bridge and found a lovely nook just by the river on the other side, where shaded we enjoyed our picnic together.

We all then followed each other for a little looking in many of the tents and picking up some freebies, and then did our own thing. A wonderful occasion."

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Our bellringers are still racking up the peals, as follows:

Quarter Peal

On Saturday 24 May 2008 in 2hrs and 37mins

A Quarter Peal of 1440 Surprise Minor in 3 methods being one extent of Kelso and Lincoln, and one of Cunecastre

- 1 Helen J Manktelow
- 2 Patrick J S Albon
- 3 Michael R Spencer
- 4 Richard A Horne
- 5 Andrew J Spencer
- 6 Stephen H Stanford

Conducted by Stephen H Stanford

With best wishes to Mrs Amy Tyler for her 90th birthday on 20 May

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The Bedfordshire Association

Elstow, Beds, at the Abbey Church of Ss Mary and Helena

On Saturday 5 July 2008 in 2hrs and 37mins (Tenor 9cwt)

A Peal of 5040 Surprise Minor in 7 methods

being one extent each of Canterbury, Kelso, Lincoln, Coldstream, Cunecastre, Wells and London

- 1 Jennifer S Thompson
- 2 Patrick J S Albon
- 3 Michael R Spencer
- 4 Richard A Horne
- 5 Andrew J Spencer
- 6 Stephen H Stanford

Conducted by Stephen H Stanford

With best wishes to Helen Stanford, conductor's niece, on her 13th birthday



## So how much has Elstow Abbey changed?



As part of my Reader training I have been looking at the changes that have occurred through the centuries in the communion service. For those of you who came to the Maundy Thursday service, you may recall I asked in the sermon what were we actually doing at the service. That led on to the very important question of what role the bread and the wine had and we looked at four different thoughts, ranging from somehow they became the body and blood of Jesus through to they were merely props in a re-enactment of the Last Supper.

My latest topic has given me the chance to look at the communion service from AD140 through to 1550 and how those services may have been different from what we are used to today. It struck me how much you can see of the history of our worship in the fabric of the Abbey Church.

Of course, we all can appreciate that in the very earliest days of Christianity, meetings were held in people's houses. They would have been cosy gatherings, with everyone crammed into a small room. We know from Acts that the services were spontaneous and that everyone was involved for the good of the community as a whole. It was only much later that specific churches were built.

As we go towards 800AD, the Eastern Orthodox Christians were meeting in churches that appeared quite plain from the outside but then were decorated in the most ornate manner inside. We are all familiar with paintings of icons today and I am sure many will have seen paintings inside churches in this country – St Albans Abbey has remains of some paintings on the pillars.

However, following the earlier influence of the Normans, as the Middle Ages progressed, churches in the West became grand structures with towers and turrets and buttresses. Not only did they paint inside the churches but also decorated them inside and out with statues of the saints.

As you approach Elstow Abbey, on left hand side of the west door you will see the remains of statue niches. You may not have noticed the stonework on the side walls

either side of the main altar but you can see quite clearly where the next arch begins and you then realise that the original building continued through what is now the Eastern wall. Imagine the church twice its present length and you will understand what an impressive structure it must have been. By the mid 1400s, Elstow was the eighth most powerful convent in the country.

And so you might now be thinking, what is he telling us this for – what relevance has it to the communion service?

Well, if you take a step back from the eastern wall and look above the organ console, you can see where a screen fitted across the church. You and I and all of the other local people would be on the one side of the screen and the communion would be celebrated at the far end of the church, on the other side of the screen where you couldn't see a thing.

What is more, the service was conducted in Latin – the readings were in Latin as well – not a lot of good for the native Elstonians and there was no congregational participation either. Add to that the fact that the priest received bread and wine but you and I would only receive the bread – and we could only do that if we had confessed our sins to the priest earlier, carried out a penance and been subsequently pardoned by the priest.

We would have felt excluded, not being able to take part in the service, not understanding what was going on, not being able to see what was going on and only receiving the bread. There may have been some music – in an Abbey the size of Elstow I am sure there was – but it would not have been sung by the people but by a choir – in Latin. But at least we were in a nice building and could look at the statues. A hundred years later, in the mid 1500s and there had been massive changes. Henry VIII had rid the land of many holy houses. You may already know that Elstow surrendered in 1539 but had you spotted on the list of priests that a new one started that same year?

The Reformation had swept across Europe. Archbishop Cranmer had just published the first prayer book for the Church in England. The order of the communion service was, on the whole, maintained but now it was in English. We would have been able to understand what was happening and we could listen to the bible readings. Furthermore, many churches took down the screens or brought the service to the congregation in the nave, so now we could also see what was happening AND we received both bread and wine. The screen at Elstow was most probably removed prior to the shortening of the Church in 1580 when the current east wall was built.

Martin Luther had encouraged Church Music and so now the services were comprehensible and the people were able to join in. No longer was there an individual confession but instead, and we still do it today, we confess our sins as a body of Christians and receive absolution together from the priest.

By the middle of the next century the English Civil war was in full swing – Roundheads against Cavaliers. Cromwell was all-powerful and his followers defaced many medieval churches in an attempt to recreate plain, unadorned places of

worship – where you would not be distracted by the man-made beauty around you but, instead, have pure thoughts of God.

Puritanism ruled. It was in that period that a lot of statues and medieval stained glass were destroyed – that is why we have the remnants of the niches outside and also why there are empty plinths either side of the Altar. That is why also there is a damaged and defaced carving above the North door and a destroyed water stoop just inside the same door.

Above the altar is a memorial of a kneeling couple. Did you know that the gentleman's head was missing but was found embedded in the stonework of the wall when restoration work was carried out in 1880? Was that also the work of the Puritans?

From the building we can see that it was once much larger. We can see where the screen fitted. We can see where the statues used to reside and the damage done to those that remained. All these things can all be linked to fundamental changes in our worship through the centuries.

But another thought struck me.

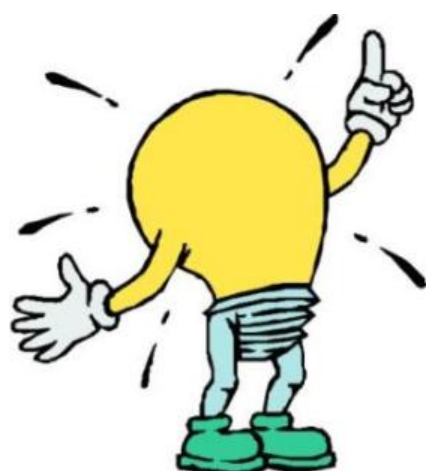
As a little boy, I remember sitting on my mother's knee, and the vicar read the lessons, preached and led the prayers at every service every Sunday every week of the year. In just the last 40 years I have seen massive changes. – children openly welcome (look at the Children's Corner), everyone taking a part in the service – (think how many are involved each week – readers, intercessors, servers, assistants at the communion, different people bringing up the bread and the wine and the prayer box, welcoming visitors at the door etc. etc.) There has been a relaxation in the style of the service – to use a modern term, it is more user-friendly. And I think that word "friendly" is important. You might say that in the last 40 years we have made great strides forwards. I would like to disagree. I think we are making enormous strides backwards.

The earliest Christians were the most effective at spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ. We have all been commissioned with the same task. In the last 40 years we have become more like those earliest Christians, with everyone becoming involved – a feeling of community and working for the good of the whole – even we are now more spontaneous in our worship and more joyous. May we continue to make such backward strides!

***John Hinson***

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In these tough financial times, this article from the United Sustainable Energy Agency in Milton Keynes could help reduce some bills!



### **Make the most of your energy**

If you have little or no insulation in your home, up to 40p in every £1 of heat you pay for could be escaping before you feel warm. Yet, being energy efficient can cut as much as £250 off your annual energy bill and reduce your household's carbon dioxide emissions by around two tonnes. Here's how you can start saving:

#### **1. Look for the logo**

Buy Energy Saving Recommended electrical appliances. These are amongst the most efficient in their class. Using them could save you up to £37 a

year.

#### **2. Switch to energy saving light bulbs**

Energy saving light bulbs last around 10 times longer and come in a range of styles. Each bulb you fit will save up to £60 on electricity over the bulb's lifetime.

#### **3. Have lofty ambitions**

Installing 275mm of loft insulation could reduce your heating bills by a healthy £110 a year. This remains one of the easiest and most cost effective ways to save energy.

#### **4. Insulate wall cavities**

Around 33% of the heat lost in an uninsulated house escapes through the walls. Each year following installation, cavity wall insulation will trim your heating bills by about £90.

#### **5. Give your home an energy health check**

Still not sure which are your home's weak spots? Why not complete a Home Energy Check.

For more free, impartial advice call the Energy Saving Trust's local advice centre free on **0800 512 012**. Act on CO<sub>2</sub> and start saving today.



Now, as some of you may know, I've just got married to the lovely Steven, on Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, at our beautiful church, and on behalf of my new husband (!) and I, we'd like to thank everyone at Elstow who helped us have such a lovely wedding day, from Margaret and Barbara who saw the early preparations of the church by me and my parents (in the pouring rain on Friday afternoon!) to the fantastic bellringers who provided us with a glorious exit after we were safely married! And of course, a big thank you to Jeremy, for not only meeting the smiling bride at the gate (just in time to miss the only few raindrops

of the whole wonderful day) and for a beautiful marriage service, but for being so great throughout all of our planning and preparation. We knew we wanted to feel a part of the community before we got married and we have really been welcomed into the "family" at Elstow - so thank you all, and here are a few pictures of our perfect day!



*Jacque & Steven*

