

ELSTOW PARISH MAGAZINE



August – September 2009

From Jeremy Crocker

A Tribute to Sam Clark, husband, father, farmer, friend of this village & Chair of Elstow Parish Council

Sermon preached at his funeral on Thursday July 16th, Elstow Abbey

In the reading we have just heard from Mark Chapter 4:26-32 from Sam's son Samuel, it is a very short parable but filled with unmistakable truths.

Firstly, the farmer does not make the seed grow. It has the secret of life and of growth within itself. No man has ever possessed the secret of life; no man has ever created anything in the full sense of the term. Man can discover things; he can rearrange them; he can develop them; but create them he cannot. We do not create the Kingdom of God; the Kingdom is God's. It is true that we can frustrate it and hinder it; or we can work with it to make it a more beautiful place, to give our world the opportunity to see it all more fully in all of its beauty. For farmers, for all of us it is on God whom we depend, for the sun; wind and the rain for our growth.

Sam has run a successful farm for many years, following on from generations, and he has also served the Elstow community faithfully, often quietly. I used to regularly have a pint with Sam in the Swan at noon on a Sunday; we would talk about all sorts. He was a great support to the Abbey, and every Remembrance he would come as Chair of the Parish Council, arriving just in time. Except this year he arrived without the wreath. "Bugger" he said, "I've left it in the car!" He liked the word Bugger!

Secondly, if we see a plant every day we cannot see its growth taking place. It is only when we see it, and then see it again after an interval of time that we notice the difference. It is so with the Kingdom, the beautiful world that we live in. Sam has planted seeds in the village for many years, and it is a tribute to him that we have so many here, from all walks of life, professional, non professional, villagers, farmers, family, friends, rich and poor, young and old. These are the seeds that Sam has quietly planted. I enjoyed the seeds of bumping into Sam one evening in St Helena's Restaurant and the wine that they left, Raff gave me a lovely glass full, one of the nicest I've ever had, (valued at £750!)

And thirdly there is nothing so powerful as growth. Whenever I saw Sam and Gemma at Medbury they were just about to work on the farm or had just finished. Nothing can stop growth. Nothing can stop the purposes of God.

We are all on a journey of life, with some we walk along some of the path together, with others we just pass. Each of us observing different things and sharing our discoveries. At times we lag behind on our journey, and we have to be urged on, sometimes we will dash ahead, sometimes we want to share with others, sometimes we just want to savour on our own, and on other occasions we need someone to help us – In the five years I have known Sam I have seen him in all of these aspects. Fighting fit, struggling with cancer, recovered

and looking forward, and most recently with the news that cancer has come back, not to mention all the years he has enjoyed before.

Sam is now at the eventual satisfaction of arriving at his final destination, and we are here with the sadness and shock that that brings as we come to say a big thank you for his life and for our part in that journey.

So I leave you with a short poem:

God looked around his garden
And found an empty place,
He then looked down upon the earth
And saw your tired face.
He put his arms around you
And lifted you to rest.
God's garden must be beautiful
As he always takes the best.
He knew that you were suffering;
He knew you were in pain.
He knew that you would never
Get well on earth again.
He saw the road was getting rough
And the hills were hard to climb.
So he closed your weary eyelids
And whispered, 'Peace be Thine'.
It broke our hearts to lose you
But you didn't go alone,
For part of us went with you
The day God called you home.

AMEN.



Tunes of Glory

To God be the glory! great things he hath done. Mrs Frances Jane van Alstyne (1820-1915) is better known by her maiden name of Fanny J Crosby. This hymn is in our Songs of Fellowship No. 559, not in New English Hymnal. Blind almost from birth, she was educated at a New York school for the blind, where later she was a teacher. In 1858 she married Alexander van Alstyne, a blind musician. Her output of hymns and gospel songs was enormous, estimated as nearly 8,000 in all. Among those still in use, in addition to the above, are 'Blessed assurance', 'Safe in the arms of Jesus' and 'Rescue the perishing'.

Frank Colquhoun says that 'To God be the glory' took on a new lease of life through Billy Graham's crusades, and owes its popularity in part to its tune by W H Doane (1832-1916). It is a hymn which has something positive to say, and something about God: *Great things he hath done!* That is the keynote. Fanny Crosby was no theologian, but she would have agreed with Dr John Mackay's assertion that the primary element in the Christian religion is not a great imperative, something that man should do, but a great indicative, something that God has done, his redemptive act in Christ. The hymn is about God's great indicative. He so loved the world that he gave his Son, who made atonement for the sin of mankind and opened the gate of life to all who truly believe in him. So to God be the glory! Great is our rejoicing here and now; but how much greater will be our rapture 'when Jesus we see' and to Fanny Crosby in her blindness that last word had a special meaning.

Frances was descended from an intrepid family who emigrated to America's New England in the 17th century. She was born in 1820 in New York State, and when only six weeks old, having inflammation of the eyes, a doctor recommended hot poultices, which destroyed her sight. Elsie Houghton says that when speaking of this in later years Fanny said, 'I have not for a moment felt a spark of resentment against him, for I have always believed that the good Lord, in His infinite mercy, by this means consecrated me to the work that I am still permitted to do. When I remember how I have been blessed, how can I repine?' Her father died before she was a year old, and her mother, grandmother and a Christian lady in whose house they lived, were her first instructors. Her longing for knowledge became a passion, and when quite a child she learned by heart the four Gospels and a large part of the first four books of the Old Testament. When she was told that she was going to the Institution for the Blind in New York she clapped her hands, saying 'Thank God! He has answered my prayers.' So at the age of 14 she made the long journey to New York, remaining in the Institution for 23 years, 8 as a pupil and 15 as a teacher. Fanny was converted at a revival meeting in a Methodist church.



Fanny J Crosby

With others, Fanny was taken to the US Congress to demonstrate the good results for attending systematic teaching of the blind, and she held her audience captive by the recitation of a poem she had written for the occasion. From that time she was a friend of United States Presidents, including Abraham Lincoln, but especially Grover Cleveland who was Secretary to the Institution for the Blind. She was brought more into contact with him and often went to him when she wanted a sympathetic friend.

At the age of 38 Fanny married Alexander Van Alstyne, a gifted blind student whom she had known at the Institution for 15 years. She said of him, 'He is a firm trustful Christian, a man of kindly deeds and cheering words. Our tastes are congenial and he composed the music of several of my hymns.' They lived happily together for 44 years, she surviving her husband by another 13 years. Joyousness was one of the characteristics of her life. When she was a child she resolved that her blindness should not make her unhappy or prevent her from being useful in the world; she never allowed those round about her to pity her because she was blind. She wrote, 'Darkness may throw a shadow over my outer vision, but there is no cloud that can keep the sunlight of hope from a trustful soul.'

Fanny had written a large number of secular and religious poems, but her writing of hymns really began when she left the Institution and became associated with some notable Christian leaders. Altogether she wrote 8,000 hymns and poems, one of the best known being 'Pass me not, O gentle Saviour'. Ira D Sankey said, 'No hymn in our collection was more popular than this one at the meetings in London in 1874. It has been translated into many languages.' Her hymn 'Safe in the arms of Jesus' has an interesting story attached to it. A friend coming to her house and saying that he had 40 minutes to catch his train asked her to write words to music which he played to her. She left the room and, returning after 20 minutes, read to her friend the words of 'Safe in the arms of Jesus'.

An enjoyable presentation by John Matthews in The Hymn Society considers the contributions of the hymn writers Moody and Sankey, and also incidentally mentions Fanny Crosby. He says that at a Music Hall in Dublin two comedians came on stage made up as the two evangelists. One said "I'm feeling Moody today" and the other answered "That's funny, I'm feeling Sankeymonious". They were both booed off the stage!

Fanny said that her mother and grandmother took pains that she should know the Bible better than any other book. 'All that I am and all that I ever expect to be, in literature or life, is due to the Bible'. And, at 90 years of age, she again said her love for the Holy Bible and its sacred truth was stronger and more precious at 90 than at 19. This book is to me is 'God's Treasure House'; there is nothing I love better than to have my friends read to me from the sacred page. She was living in the sight of Eternity's sunrise. Her simple trust in God's goodness never failed during these many years. In a verse of her hymn, 'Saved by Grace', she wrote: *Some day the silver cord will break, And I no more, as now, shall sing, But oh! the joy when I shall wake, Within the palace of the King! And I shall see Him face to face, And tell the story - saved by grace.* The 'silver cord' broke on February 12 1915 and Fanny Crosby went to be with Christ. She was rich in faith, hope and love, and some of her hymns will live for ever. Many of Fanny Crosby's hymns are full of joy and praise to the Lord.

John Crookall

A THANK YOU NOTE



Doris M Simmonds writes to say: "Many thanks for our lunch at the Swan, which I enjoyed very much, as I did the rest of my birthday celebrations.

"Thank you for all the cards and flowers I received."

LESSON READERS FOR AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2009

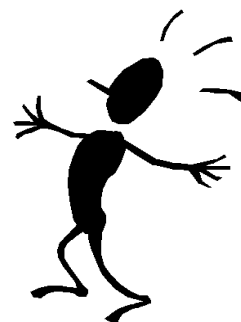
August	10.00am	Ephesians Ch. 4 v. 1-16	John Ch. 6 v. 24-35	Peter Batiuk
2nd	11.15am	1 Maccabees Ch. 3 v. 1-12	2 Peter Ch. 1 v. 1-15	Stephen McDonald
Green	6.30pm	Job Ch. 28	Hebrews Ch. 11 v. 17-31	Dorothy Steele
August	10.00am	Youth Service to conclude Holiday Club		
9th	6.30pm	Job Ch. 39 v. 1- Ch. 40 v. 4	Hebrews Ch. 12 v. 1-17	Ann Knight
Green				
August	10.00am	Ephesians Ch. 5 v. 15-20	John Ch. 6 v. 51-58	Lynne Faulkner
16th	11.15am	Jonah Ch. 1	2 Peter Ch .3 v. 14-end	Eric Crossen
Green	6.30pm H.C.	Hebrews Ch. 13 v. 1-15	Luke Ch. 12 v. 49-56	Barbara Routledge
August	10.00am	Young People's Service		
23rd	11.15am H.C.	Ephesians Ch. 6 v. 10-20	John Ch. 6 v. 56-69	Delphine Fordham
Green	6.30pm	Exodus Ch 4 v. 27 - Ch. 5 v.1	Hebrews Ch.13 v. 16-21	Glynis Annan
August	Joint Service at Elstow Abbey			
30th	10.30am	James Ch. 1 v. 17-end	Mark Ch. 7 v. 1 -23	Alastair Laverty
Green	6.30pm	Exodus Ch. 12 v. 21-27	Matthew Ch. 4 v. 23 - Ch. 5 v. 20	Catherine Parrish
September	10.00am	James Ch.2 v. 1-17	Mark Ch. 7 v. 24-end	John Hinson
6th	11.15am	Jonah Ch. 3 v.10 - Ch. 4 v. 11	Revelation Ch. 8 v. 1-5	Peter Batiuk
Green	6.30pm	Exodus Ch. 14 v. 5 - end	Matthew Ch. 6 v. 1-18	Margaret Eastwell
September	10.00am	James Ch. 3 v. 1 -12	Mark Ch. 8 v. 27 - end	Ken Webb
13th	6.30pm	Exodus Ch. 18 v. 13-26	Matthew Ch. 7 v. 1 - 14	Barbara Routledge
Green				
September	10.00am	James Ch. 3 v 13 - Ch 4 v. 3, 7, 8a.	Mark Ch. 9 v. 30 -37	Lynn Harris
20th	11.15am	Isaiah Ch. 45 v. 9 - 22	Revelation Ch. 14 v. 1- 5	Miriam Clark
Green	No Evensong at Elstow - Tour, picnic and Evensong at St. Mary's, Cardington			
September	Young People's Service + H.C. for Harvest Festival, followed by lunch in Church Hall			
27th	10.30am	James Ch. 5 v. 13 - end	Mark Ch 9. v. 38 - end	Alastair Laverty
Green	6.30pm H.C.	Exodus Ch. 24	Matthew Ch. 9 v. 1- 8	Catherine Parrish

SIDESMANS ROTA AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2009

August 2 nd	10am	Mrs S Brown & Mrs A Morris
	11.15am	F W Crossen
	6.30pm	Mrs V Whyatt-Routh
August 9 th	10am	Mrs A Morris
	6.30pm	Miss M Eastwell
August 16 th	10am	Mrs J Barnicott & Mrs S Brown
	11.15am	Mrs D Fordham
	6.30pm	Mrs G Annan
August 23 rd	10am	Mrs B Routledge
	11.15am	Mrs M Crossen
	6.30pm	Mrs C Parrish
August 30 th	10.30am	Mrs S Batiuk & Mr P Batiuk
	6.30pm	Miss M Eastwell
Sept 6 th	10am	Mrs S Brown & Mrs A Morris
	11.15am	Mrs A Knight
	6.30pm	P Moss
Sept 13 th	10am	Mrs S Batiuk & Mr P Batiuk
	6.30pm	Mrs G Annan
Sept 20 th	10am	Mrs S Brown & Mrs J Barnicott
	11.15am	Mrs D Fordham
		NO EVENSONG AT ELSTOW – TOUR, PICNIC & EVENSONG AT CARDINGTON
Sept 27 th	10am	Mrs B Routledge
	11.15am	Mrs M Crossen
	6.30pm	Mrs C Parrish
Oct 4 th	10am	Mrs S Brown & Mrs A Morris
	11.15am	Mr F W Crossen
	6.30pm	Mrs V Whyatt-Routh

MESSAGE OF THANKS...

I would like to thank all those members of the Elstow Church Family who so very kindly contributed towards the cheque that was presented to me on Sunday 5th July to mark my retirement as Churchwarden after 35 years; the kindness and generosity shown was very much appreciated.



The cheque has been put towards a new television as ours had become too expensive to repair. So now we have a new up to date television with DVD/VHS recorder, if only we knew how to work it – this is where our granddaughter Sophie will come into her own!

Rosemary and I would also like to thank all those members of the Church Family who sent cards, emails and personal gifts - we have been quite overwhelmed by the kindness of so many people.

35 years have passed very quickly and I can still remember very clearly the late Peter Hartley asking me one Sunday evening if I would stand for election as People's Warden (in those distant days there was a People's Wardens and a Vicars Warden, at that time the late Stanley Marriott). At the time of election I found myself not only Churchwarden but also Secretary to the Parochial Church Council and Stanley was also Treasurer. I managed in due course to give up being Secretary only to become Treasurer when Stanley retired and then Covenant Secretary. A further short spell as Treasurer came some 15 or so years ago. Over the years I also managed to cover as Magazine Editor for some 15 years plus a spell as Restoration Appeal Director whilst we raised some £150,000 00 towards much needed work on the fabric of our ancient Abbey Church. On the completion of the Restoration Appeal, Richard Huband and I set up The Friends of Elstow Abbey and I happily undertook some two periods as Chairman, the first for five years and the second for just two years.

At their Annual General Meeting in May, members of The Friends of Elstow Abbey very generously presented me with a Samsung Memory Camcorder and Rosemary with a bouquet of flowers to mark our retirement and we were able to record some memories of our recent holiday on Exmoor. Later in the year we are going to Egypt so we shall be able to record details of our trip to watch on those cold dark winter evenings, when instead of turning out in the cold for church meetings, I shall be able to stay at home in the warm.

As I said at the presentation, I served under 5 Vicars and three Curates, all of whom brought to Elstow their own distinctive styles and ways of working; some were more of a challenge than others but on the whole working relationships have always been good. Most memorable occasions of which there have been many, have to be the visit of Archbishop Robert Runcie in June 1988 and the visit of Terry Waite in July 1992, plus of course my marriage to Rosemary 12 years ago. Rosemary has been a wonderful support since our marriage and had it not been for her support I am sure that I should have retired before now.

So thank you for all your kindness and support over so many years as we have tried to serve God in Elstow and out in the world beyond. Elstow and all our many friends will always have a special place in our hearts.

Colin Albon



CONFIRMATION

On Thursday 11th June 5 members of the Elstow Abbey Church Family were confirmed at Maulden Church by the Bishop of Bedford.

Rebecca
Melanie
Laura
Becca
Bethany
&
Olivia



Support from the Church Family at Elstow was as usual, amazing, much appreciated and made the candidates feel very special. Please remember them all in your prayers over the coming weeks.

Thanks must also be given to David Stephen and Jeremy for the confirmation classes leading up to this special event.



From Prophet to Paul

Dear Reader

In a recent magazine I shared some thoughts with you about the Prophet Amos. I had been studying the book of Amos as part of my Readership course. I am very pleased to say that I passed that particular part and have moved on to something completely different. My sixth essay has been looking at Paul's letters to the Corinthians and so let me start with a little quiz for you.

- 1 Where is Corinth – could you point to it on a map?
- 2 What was Corinth like?
- 3 What did Paul write to the Corinthians about?
- 4 Have you ever read one of the letters in one go – at one sitting – or have you only ever heard “bits” as lessons read on a Sunday?

If I had seen those questions five or six weeks ago my answers would have been 1) Not a clue and No - but it might be somewhere near modern day Turkey / Greece sort of area. 2) Not a clue. 3) Not a clue (again) but he mentioned love in his first letter.

You can see why I need to study! I am sure that you would have done a lot better than me.

The real answers are Corinth is in modern day Greece, on the Turkey side fairly near the bottom where the big bottom lump of Greece is attached to the bigger top bit by a narrow (4 mile wide) land bridge. Wise people then thought that to save sailing all around the bottom of Greece you only had to unload your cargo at Corinth – travel 4 miles and shove it on another ship saving time, money and seafaring danger. They later built a canal so they moved the cargo onto smaller boats to avoid the haulage over land. It follows then that it was a busy commercial centre with thousands of people buying and selling. Ships mean sailors and, unfortunately sailors usually mean trouble of one sort or another.

Various Pagan religions were established there and the great temple to Aphrodite, the goddess of love, stood on the hill of the Acropolis overlooking Corinth. That temple alone employed at least a thousand priestesses who were sacred prostitutes. Many of the temples encouraged the practice of sexual immorality and idol worship and the Greek word *korinthiazesthai* meaning “to live like a Corinthian” came to mean “to practice sexual immorality”.

And that was where Paul travelled to establish a Church. A more hostile environment in which to preach the Christian gospel it would be difficult to describe. And yet that was where he preached for about 18 months. I would encourage you to sit and read one of his letters as though it was a letter. Because I often do things the wrong way round I read 2 Corinthians first and I was amazed at how fascinating it was. There are references to more than one previous letter, to a visit he made which went badly wrong and to a harsh letter he sent them, which they didn't like. That harsh letter may, in fact, be the final few chapters of what we now know as the second letter to the Corinthians.

There had, undoubtedly, been problems in the Church Family. The new converts to the Christian faith must have had great difficulty in following a Christian way of life in such a pagan society. When Paul had moved on in his travels some members of the church began to preach their own version of the Gospel. You can imagine the sequence of events. Paul reprimands the “new” preachers, they don’t like it and so make personal attacks on him and on his authority to preach. Paul tried to visit them and it went wrong, he wrote again and they didn’t like that either. He sent Titus to help them and then, having heard from Titus how they had changed their ways, he wrote to them again asserting his authority – 2 Corinthians.

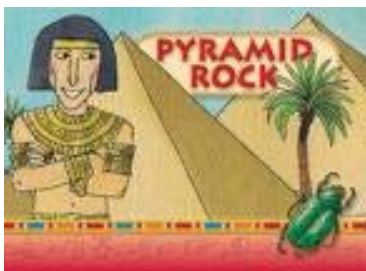
It sounds as though they were at risk, at one stage, of splitting into groups, one following one preacher and others following their own preferred leader. Clearly Paul had to be firm with them and yet, throughout, the one thing that struck me was how very meek he was. Many times he apologises for boasting, argues a point, often in an autobiographical manner, but despite that, instead of the letter being “Me! Me! Me!” he always directs the reader back to “God! God! God!”

He speaks to them as a father speaks to a child – a metaphor he uses more than once. His love for the Church is evident, but over-riding that is his love of, and faith in, the risen Christ.

So I would challenge you to read Paul’s letter to the Corinthians – be a rebel and start with the second one! – Try to put yourself in the recipient’s place. They have been through tough times – would they be looking forward to Paul’s next visit? Would they be able to amend their ways before he came to them? And now come back to the present day. Could Paul be writing to this country, or to the Church at Elstow? Could he be writing to you? Are there false teachers in our Church? Do we boast or do we always turn to Christ? Are we more obsessed with the “Me! Me! Me!” than the “God! God! God!”?

It will only take half an hour or so. Will you take up that challenge?

John Hinson



Pyramid Rock

August 3rd - 9th 2009

Holiday club for all children

Aged 5 - 12

Craft, Games, Singing, Dancing, Bible Teaching and lots of fun

Based on

The Story of Joseph and his Multi-coloured Coat.

THE CHURCH CALENDAR

August-September 2009

August

2nd Sunday

10.00am Holy Communion with Sunday School with the baptism
of Christian and Madeline Clark (JRC)
11.15am Morning Prayer (JRC)
2.00pm Thanksgiving service of Rio Arzu (JRC)
6.30pm Evening Prayer (JRC)

3rd Monday

No Mums and Toddlers
10-12noon Children's Holiday Club in the Church Hall
12-1pm Optional lunch and games on the Moot Hall Green
2.00pm Prayer Group meet in the Summerhouse

4th Tuesday

No Sing and Sign
10-12noon Children's Holiday Club in the Church Hall
12-1pm Optional lunch and games on the Moot Hall Green

5th Wednesday

10-12noon Children's Holiday Club in the Church Hall
12-1pm Optional lunch and games on the Moot Hall Green
11.30am No soup: **Lunch @ Noon in Red Lion**
No Youth Group
8.00pm Team Bible Study @ Centenary Room, Cardington

6th Thursday

The Transfiguration
10-12noon Children's Holiday Club in the Church Hall
12-1pm Optional lunch and games on the Moot Hall Green
11.00am Holy Communion (Revd Stephen Smith)
12 noon Monthly Lunch @ the Red Lion – all welcome
4.00pm Wedding rehearsal @ Elstow Abbey

7th Friday

10-12noon Children's Holiday Club in the Church Hall
12-1pm Optional lunch and games on the Moot Hall Green

		7.00pm	Leaders Supper @ Rectory
		8.00pm	Bellringing
8 th	Saturday	12.30pm	Wedding of Jamie Stead and Sarah Whiterod (JRC)
		2.30pm	Wedding of Jadeep and Jana (JRC)
		6.00pm	Holiday Club BBQ in the Caretakers Garden
9 th	Sunday		
		10.00am	Youth Service (JEH, TH, MB, DW)
		11.30am	Coach arrives for Parish Holiday to Isle of Wight
		6.30pm	Evening Prayer (Captain David Wells)
10 th	Monday		No Mums and Toddlers
		2.00pm	Prayer Group meet in the Summerhouse
11 th	Tuesday	10.00am	Sing and Sign in the Church Hall
12 th	Wednesday	11.30am	Coffee Morning and Soup in the Church Hall No Younger or Older Youth Groups
		8.00pm	Team Bible Study @ Centenary Room, Cardington
13 th	Thursday	11.00am	Holy Communion (Canon Nigel Morrell)
		6-7pm	Yoga (for mixed abilities) Elstow Church Hall for more details call June Hannigan 07817 601686
		6.30pm	Wedding Rehearsal @ Elstow Abbey (Revd T Horlock)
14 th	Friday	5.00pm	Wedding rehearsal @ Elstow Abbey
		8.00pm	Bellringing
15 th	Saturday	12.30pm	Wedding of Stephen Guile and Claire Kemp (Revd Tim Horlock)
		5.00pm	Coach returns from the Parish Holiday
16 th	Sunday		
		10.00am	Holy Communion with Sunday School (JRC)
		11.15am	Morning Prayer (Group)
		1.00pm	Baptism of Ethan Changa (JRC)
		1.45pm	Baptism of Macy Armatrading (JRC)

		2.30pm	Baptism of Liam Tomlinson (JRC)
		3.15pm	Baptism of Massey? (JRC)
		6.30pm	Evening Prayer (Canon Philip McDonough)
17 th	Monday		No Mums and Toddlers
		2.00pm	Prayer Group meet in the Summerhouse
18 th	Tuesday	10.00am	Sing and Sign in the Church Hall
19 th	Wednesday	11.30am	Coffee Morning followed by soup in the Church Hall No Youth Group
		8.00pm	Team Bible Study @ Centenary Room, Cardington
20 th	Thursday	11.00am	Holy Communion (Revd Len Moore)
		1.30pm	DACORUM National Trust Assoc. visit to Elstow Abbey
		6-7pm	Yoga (for mixed abilities) Elstow Church Hall for more details call June Hannigan 07817 601686
21 st	Friday	8.00pm	Bellringing
22 nd	Saturday		No Youth Workshop
23rd	Sunday		
		10.00am	Young People's Service (DW)
		11.15am	Holy Communion (Group)
		6.30pm	Evening Prayer (Mr Robert Heley)
24 th	Monday		No Mums and Toddlers
		2.00pm	Prayer Group meet in the Summerhouse
25 th	Tuesday	10.00am	Sing and Sign in the Church Hall
26 th	Wednesday	11.30am	Coffee Morning followed by soup in the Church Hall No Youth Club
		8.00pm	Team Bible Study @ Centenary Room, Cardington
27 th	Thursday	11.00am	Holy Communion (JRC)

		6-7pm	Yoga (for mixed abilities) Elstow Church Hall for more details call June Hannigan 07817 601686
		7.00pm	Wedding Rehearsal @ Elstow Abbey (JRC)
		8.00pm	Wedding Rehearsal @ Elstow Abbey (JRC)
28 th	Friday	7.15-8pm	Choir Practise
		8.00pm	Bellringing
29 th	Saturday	12.30pm	Wedding of Mark Hurst and Emily Scott (JRC)
		2.30pm	Wedding of Lee Oakley and Gemma Eastwood (JRC)
30 th	Sunday	10.30am	Joint Benefice Service with Sunday School
		1.45pm	Baptism of Lily Wooding (JRC)
		2.30pm	Baptism of Bethany and Luke McCready (JRC)
		3.30pm J	oint service on the Green with John Bunyan Christian Fellowship NO EVENSONG AT ELSTOW
31 st	Monday		No Mums and Toddlers
		2.00pm	Prayer Group meet in the Summerhouse

September

1 st	Tuesday	10.00am	Sing and Sign in the Church Hall
2 nd	Wednesday	11.30am	Coffee morning followed by soup in the Church Hall
		5.45pm	Younger Youth Group meet in Church Hall - Games
		6.30pm	Older Youth Group Meet in Church Hall - Games
		8.00pm	Team Bible Study @ Centenary Room, Cardington
3 rd	Thursday	11.00am	Holy Communion (JRC)
		12 noon	Monthly Lunch @ the Red Lion – all welcome
		6-7pm	Yoga (for mixed abilities) Elstow Church Hall for more details call June Hannigan 07817 601686
		8.00pm	Finance and Standing meet @ the Hinsons
4 th	Friday	7.15pm	Choir Practise
		8.00pm	Bellringing

6th	Sunday	10.00am	Holy Communion with Sunday School (JRC)
		11.15am	Morning Prayer (JRC)
		12.30pm	Wedding rehearsal @ Elstow Abbey (JRC)
		6.30pm	Evening Prayer with Holy Communion and the laying on of hands (JRC)
7th	Monday	10.00am	Mums and Toddlers in the Church Hall
		1.00pm	Wedding of Michael Thompson and Elaine Gee (JRC)
		2.00pm	Prayer Group meet in the Summerhouse
8th	Tuesday	10.00am	Sing and Sign in the Church Hall
9th	Wednesday	11.30am	Coffee Morning followed by soup in the Church Hall
		5.45pm	Younger Youth Group meet @ Priory Marina for a Treasure Hunt
		6.30pm	Older Youth Group Meet @ Priory Marina for a Treasure Hunt
		8.00pm	Team Bible Study @ Centenary Room, Cardington
10th	Thursday	11.00am	Holy Communion (JRC)
		6-7pm	Yoga (for mixed abilities) Elstow Church Hall for more details call June Hannigan 07817 601686
11th	Friday	11am-5pm	Penguin Classic Literature Festival for local schools
		8.00pm	Bellringing
12th	Saturday	11am -4pm	Penguin Classic Literature Festival for community
13th	Sunday	10.00am	Holy Communion with Sunday School (JRC)
		4.00pm	Annual benefice Hog Roast in Vicarage Garden – all welcome
		6.30pm	Evening Prayer (Captain David Wells)
14th	Monday		Deadline for the October Parish Magazine to

Jacque Waterfield –

Email: jakhat77@hotmail.com

Post: 13 Acorn Way, Bedford MK42 0QN

		10.00am	Mums and Toddlers meet in the Church Hall
		2.00pm	Prayer Group meet in the Summerhouse
		7.00pm	Wedding Rehearsal @ Elstow Abbey (JRC)
		8.00pm	Team Council meeting @ St Michael's Church
15 th	Tuesday	10.00am	Sing and Sign in the Church Hall
16 th	Wednesday	11.30am	Coffee Morning followed by soup in the Church Hall
		5.45pm	Younger Youth Group meet @ Church Hall
		6.30pm	Older Youth Group Meet @ Church Hall
		8.00pm	Team Bible Study @ Centenary Room, Cardington
17 th	Thursday	11.00am	Holy Communion (JRC)
		6-7pm	Yoga (for mixed abilities) Elstow Church Hall for more details call June Hannigan 07817 601686
		7.30pm	Meeting of the Parochial Church Council in the Hall
18 th	Friday	7.15pm	Choir Practise
		8.00pm	Bellringing
19 th	Saturday	2.00pm	Wedding of Oliver Bayford and Lucy Sneddon
		2.30pm	Consecration and welcome of the Bishop of St Albans, Rt Revd Alan Smith @ St Albans Abbey
20 th	Sunday	10.00am	Holy Communion (JRC)
		11.15am	Morning Prayer (Group)
		4.30pm	Picnic, tour and Evening Prayer @ St Mary's Cardington
		6.30pm	No Evening Prayer @ Elstow Abbey
21 st	Monday	10.00am	Mums and Toddlers meet in the Hall

		2.00pm	Prayer Group meet in the Summerhouse
22 nd	Tuesday	10.00am	Sing and Sign in the Church Hall
23 rd	Wednesday	11.30am	Coffee Morning followed by soup in the Church Hall
		8.00pm	Team Bible Study @ Centenary Room, Cardington
		8.15pm	Wedding rehearsal @ Elstow Abbey (JRC)
24 th	Thursday	11.00am	Holy Communion (Canon Nigel Morrell)
		6-7pm	Yoga (for mixed abilities) Elstow Church Hall for more details call June Hannigan 07817 601686
25 th	Friday	8.00pm	Bellringing
26 th	Saturday	12.30pm	Wedding of Kevin Martin and Katie Errick (JRC)
27 th	Sunday		HARVEST FESTIVAL
		10.30am	Joint Harvest Celebration with Holy Communion Followed by bring and share Harvest Lunch in the Hall
		3.00pm	Baptism of Precious Night (JRC)
		6.30pm	Harvest Evensong (JRC)
28 th	Monday	10.00am	Mums and Toddlers meet in the Hall
		2.00pm	Prayer Group meet in the Summerhouse
		8.00pm	Meeting of the Friends of Elstow Abbey - Church Hall
29 th	Tuesday	10.00am	Sing and Sign in the Church Hall
30 th	Wednesday	9.30am	Clergy Chapter @ Elstow Abbey?
		11.30am	Coffee Morning followed by soup in the Church Hall
		8.00pm	Team Bible Study @ Centenary Room, Cardington
		7.30pm	Diocesan Synod @ Elstow Abbey with the Rt Revd Alan Smith, Bishop of St Albans.

OCTOBER

1 st	Thursday	11.00am	Holy Communion (JRC)
		12 Noon	Monthly Lunch @ the Red Lion
		6-7pm	Yoga (for mixed abilities) Elstow Church Hall for more details call June Hannigan 07817 601686
		7.45pm	South Bedford Churches Together meet at London Road Methodist Church
2 nd	Friday	8.00pm	Bellringing
4 th	Sunday	10.00am	Holy Communion with Sunday School (JRC)
		11.15am	Morning Prayer (JRC)
		6.30pm	Evening Prayer (JRC)

Bike or Hike?



The annual sponsored walk and cycle ride for the historic Churches trust will soon be here. It is to be held on Saturday 12th September 2009. One half of the money raised is given to a church nominated by the person raising it e.g. Elstow Abbey. The rest goes to the Historic Churches Trust to be given as grants to churches that need restoring.

Last year Linda Green, Anita Sherratt and Sheila Batiuk walked from St Michael's church around the town, ending up at Bunyan Meeting in Mill Street.

The walk was most enjoyable as well as beneficial to health. There were meetings with fellow travellers along the route. The churches visited were hospitable and many provided refreshments. If anyone else would like to join in this year, please speak to one of the above.

The Right East Window - The Ascension

John Crookall

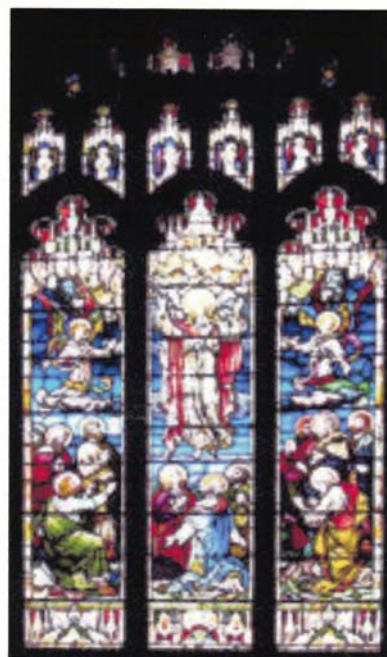
The most prominent windows are those at the East End, immediately facing you as you enter and worship in the church, They are known as the Wigram Memorial Windows, and their depictions are both central and essential to the Faith. The panel on the right depicts **"The Ascension"**.

Completion of the stained glass windows was acknowledged in the *Bedford Mercury* of 1887¹. The benefactor was Mr Wigram, of Elstow parish, who indicated that the windows had been donated in memory of his father and mother.

Right-hand window shows the eleven disciples on the earth, in attitudes of prayer, submission, and adoration, while above them in the centre, Jesus is ascending heavenward towards the Celestial City. The inscription is "I ascend unto my Father, to my God and your God".

Christ ascended from Bethany, near the Mount of Olives². That was the garden in which his sufferings began; there he was in his agony. Those that would go to heaven must ascend thither from the house of sufferings and sorrows. The disciples did not see him rise out of the grave; his resurrection could be proved by their seeing him alive afterwards. But they saw him ascend into heaven, and they could not otherwise have a proof of his ascension. He lifted up his hands, and blessed them. As he arose, so he ascended, by his own power. They worshipped him. This fresh display of Christ's glory drew from them fresh acknowledgements. They returned to Jerusalem with great joy.

Christ's departure was necessary to the Comforter's coming³. Sending the Spirit was to be the fruit of Christ's death, which was his going away. His bodily presence could be only in one place at one time, but his Spirit is everywhere, in all places, at all times, wherever two or three are gathered together in his name. Christ's ascension into heaven, and to receive and plead for us, is unspeakably comforting, and essential to our faith.



¹ Bedford Mercury, Saturday 19 February 1887.

² Luke 24:50-53

³ John 16, 7-15

The Acts unites the Gospels. It contains many particulars concerning the apostles Peter and Paul, and of the Christian church from the ascension of our Saviour to the arrival of St. Paul at Rome, a space of about thirty years. St. Luke was the writer of this book; he was present at many of the events he relates, and attended Paul to Rome. But the narrative does not afford a complete history of the church during the time to which it refers, nor even of St. Paul's life. The object of the book has been considered to be:

1. To relate in what manner the gifts of the Holy Spirit were communicated on the day of Pentecost, and the miracles performed by the apostles, to confirm the truth of Christianity, as showing that Christ's declarations were really fulfilled.
2. To prove the claim of the Gentiles to be admitted into the church of Christ.

A large portion of the Acts is occupied by the discourses or sermons of various persons, the language and manner of which differ, and all of which will be found according to those by whom they were delivered, and the occasions on which they were spoken. It seems that most of these discourses are only the substance of what was actually delivered. They relate nevertheless fully to Jesus as the Christ, the anointed Messiah.

They were earnest in asking about that which their Master never had directed or encouraged them to seek⁴. Our Lord knew that his ascension and the teaching of the Holy Spirit would soon end these expectations, and therefore only gave them a rebuke; but it is a caution to his church in all ages, to take heed of a desire of forbidden knowledge. He had given his disciples instructions for the discharge of their duty, both before his death and since his resurrection, and this knowledge is enough for a Christian. It is enough that He has engaged to give believers strength equal to their trials and services; that under the influence of the Holy Spirit they may, in one way or other, be witnesses for Christ on earth, while in heaven he manages their concerns with perfect wisdom, truth, and love. When we stand gazing, the thoughts of our Master's second coming should quicken and awaken us: when we stand gazing and trembling, they should comfort and encourage us. May our expectation of it be steadfast and joyful, giving diligence to be found of him blameless.

Peter's sermon shows that he was thoroughly recovered from his fall, and thoroughly restored to the Divine favour; for he who had denied Christ, now boldly confessed him⁵. His account of the miraculous pouring forth of the Spirit, was designed to awaken the hearers to embrace the faith of Christ, and to join themselves to his church. It was the fulfilling of the Scripture, and the fruit of Christ's resurrection and ascension, and proof of both. Though Peter was filled with the Holy Ghost, and spake with tongues as the Spirit gave him

⁴ Acts 1:6-11

⁵ Acts 2:14-21

utterance, yet he did not think to set aside the Scriptures. Christ's scholars never learn above their Bible; and the Spirit is given, not to do away the Scriptures, but to enable us to understand, approve, and obey them. Assuredly none will escape the condemnation of the great day, except those who call upon the name of the Lord, in and through his Son Jesus Christ, as the Saviour of sinners, and the Judge of all mankind.

Nothing can render God's promises more certain: his giving them through Christ, assures us they are his promises; as the wonders God wrought in the life, resurrection, and ascension of his Son, thus confirming the faith. The Holy Spirit makes Christians firm in the faith of the gospel: the quickening of the Spirit is an earnest of everlasting life; and the comforts of the Spirit are an earnest of everlasting joy. Our strength and ability are owing to our faith; and our comfort and joy must flow from our faith.

Only a year or so ago we were pleased to receive a fascinating lecture by the former Bishop of St Albans, Christopher Herbert, who had studiously examined many images of the Resurrection from across Europe. It was interesting to have his reaction to these our Windows, provided by Mr Wigram, of Elstow Church.

John Crookall

DETAILS FROM THE REGISTERS

MAY 2009

Date	Communicants	Attendance	Collections
3rd	32	32	226.78
7 th	9	9	2.00
10th	42	75	137.05
14 th	6	6	1.00
17th	37	73	265.43
21st	12	12	2.00
24th	17	91	319.30
28th	9	9	11.00
31st	--	35	207.23
	<u>164</u>	<u>342</u>	<u>1171.79</u>

JUNE 2009

Date	Communicants	Attendance	Collections
4th	10	10	3.00
7 th	40	80	212.60
11th	7	7	2.00
14 th	48	76	143.42
18th	7	7	7.00
21st	29	96	68.97 (FEPOW)
			196.47
25th	7	7	11.00
28th	15	57	252.12
	<u>163</u>	<u>340</u>	<u>896.58</u>

BAPTISMS

May 24th Jack Alexander Welham

May 31st Sophie Baynes
Tyler Joseph Clarke
Nick Anese
Michael Bailey
Kelly Marie Buchanan

June 14th Madeline Aitchison
Emily Marie Lowe
Julie Anne Bailey
Charlie Max Grayson
Kimberley May Grayson

MARRIAGES

June 20th Felice Plava and Laura Paula Maria Gibney

June 26th Thomas Patrick Brennan and Carly Louise Meeks
Paul David Atkins and Nicola Michelle Pratt

June 27th Daniel Paul Bandy and Kerry Margaret Louise Primonato
Colin Paul Wignall and Benita Gray (Blessing)

July 11th Paul Mark Nigro and Carmelina Di Lorenzo

BURIALS

June 23rd Teresa Brownley

JOKES, JOKES, JOKES

Enjoy the summer holidays – here are some silly jokes to keep you going!

How did the telephones get married?

In a double ring ceremony!

Why did the child study in the aeroplane?

He wanted a higher education!

Why was the broom late?

It over swept!

Do you know the time?

No, we haven't met yet!

What kind of hair do oceans have?

Wavy!

What runs but never walks?

Water!

How do you make milk shake?

Give it a good scare!

What's red and flies and wobbles at the same time?

A jelly copter!

Waiter, this soup tastes funny

Then why aren't you laughing?

Why did the clock get sick?

It was run down!

What do you call a man whose father was a Canon?

A son of a gun!

What do you get if you cross a road with a safari park?

Double yellow lions!