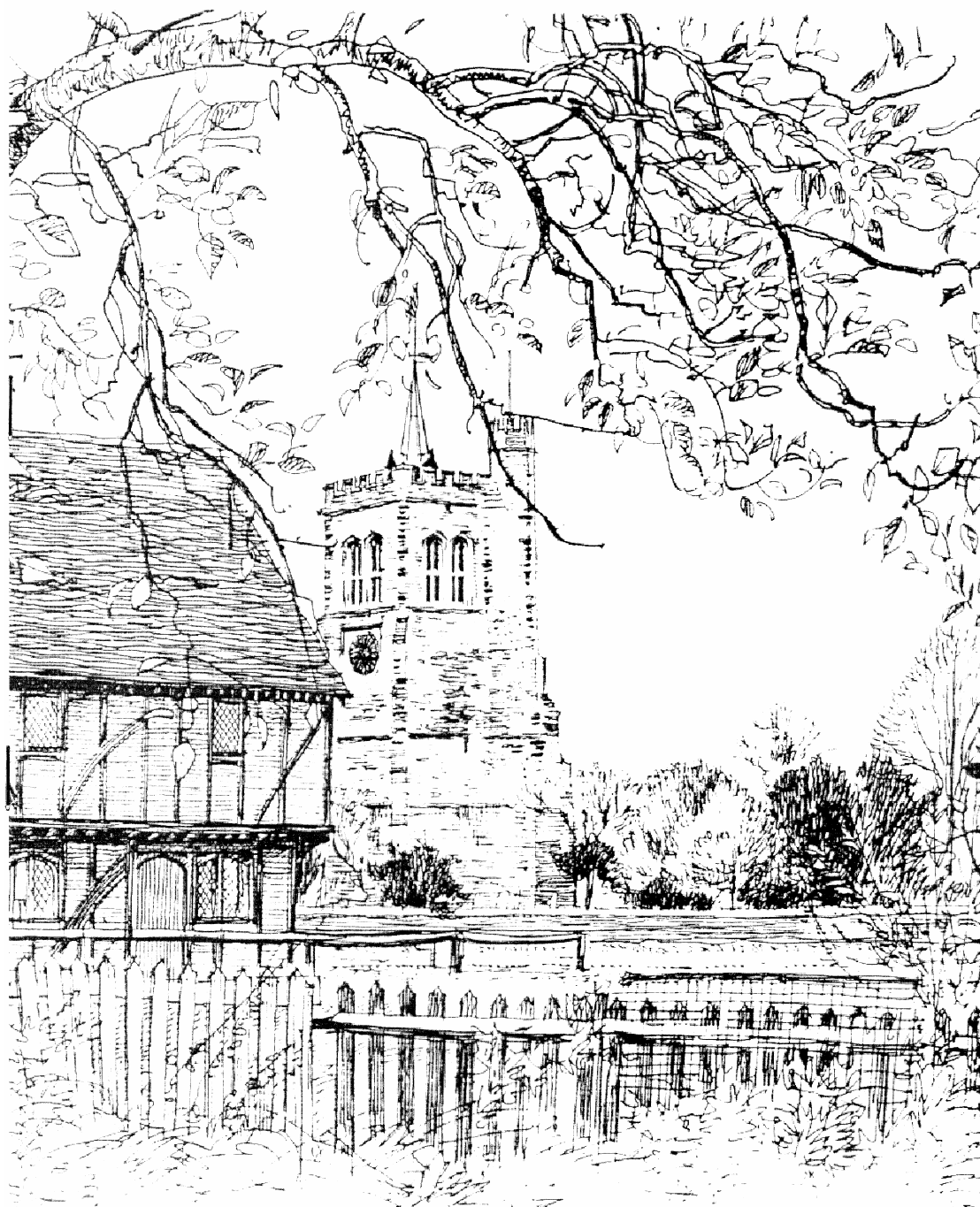


# ELSTOW PARISH MAGAZINE



July-August 2011

## **ELSTOW & ST MICHAEL'S MAGAZINE JULY & AUGUST 2011**

### **Psalms of Life by Revd. Jeremy Crocker**

The book of Psalms, perhaps more so than any other part of the Bible, gives us permission to be real. There can be a tendency in Christian circles to expect of ourselves and others that we always and only praise God and do not express doubts, fears, anger, despair or any other negative emotion or frame of mind. This expectation is a denial of the reality of the life of faith and leads at best to a deformed kind of spiritual growth. It may lead to total loss of faith in those who feel condemned as they fail to live up to these supposed exalted standards. I am eternally grateful that over the years I have learned to be less critical of myself and others following the Christian walk with God and I encourage you, as you read this article, that if you are unduly critical of yourself; or hard on other Christians to read and ponder the Psalms.

John Calvin, (one of my heroes) writing in the sixteenth century, called the book of Psalms "An Anatomy of all the Parts of the Soul" and explained, "for there is not an emotion of which anyone can be conscious that is not here represented as in a mirror". This does not mean that we have permission to have a negative view of life in this world or to indulge in self-pity.

The point of the psalms is that we address God and acknowledge his activity in all of life and his purposes as ultimately fulfilled, no matter how chaotic things may seem at the present time. The psalms of praise, especially those that come after a great deliverance, are the model to which we should always aspire and in pouring out any negative thoughts to God, it must be with this intention. We come as those who do not understand to the one who does, seeking enlightenment, the strength to carry on in faith and a growth towards maturity. In this way we join with God in the battle against the evils of this world, (and there are many) and as we enter into his victory over them.

Over these next few weeks can I encourage you to look, in your private time, at a variety of psalms? Together, we shall learn from those which express faith that everything in the garden is lovely, as well as from those which express a sense of total disaster and impending doom, and we shall have the opportunity to stand on the heights of victory as God is seen as our saviour and deliverer.

#### **A Prayer for the Stressed**

Grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,  
The courage to change the things I cannot accept,  
And the wisdom to hide from those that get on my nerves!

Also help me to be careful of the toes I step on today  
As they may be connected to the feet  
I may have to kiss tomorrow.

Help me always to give 100% at work:  
12% on Monday, 23% on Tuesday, 40% on Wednesday,  
20% on Thursday and 5% on Friday.

And help me to remember that when I am having a bad day  
and it seems that people are trying to wind me up,  
It takes 42 muscles to frown and 28 to smile!

**A Meditation by Cardinal Newman**

God has created me to do Him some definite service;  
He has committed some work to me  
which He has not committed to another.  
I have my mission –  
I may never know it in this life,  
but I shall be told it in the next.

I am a link in a chain,  
a bond of connection between persons.  
He has not created me for naught.  
I shall do good.  
I shall do His work.  
I shall be an angel of peace,  
a preacher of truth in my own place  
while not intending it –  
if I do but keep His Commandments.

Therefore I will trust Him.  
Whatever, wherever I am,  
I can never be thrown away.  
If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him;  
in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him;  
if I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him.  
He does nothing in vain.  
He knows what He is about.  
He may take away my friends.  
He may throw me among strangers.  
He may make me feel desolate,  
make my spirits sink,  
hide my future from me –  
still He knows what He is about.

**With Best Wishes for a good summer....**

***Jeremy***

**From the Revd. Stephen Smith**

With the approach of summer our church receives an increased flow of visitors, and it is very gratifying when they leave a positive comment in the Visitors Book. Many come because of the R101; and Ronnie Barclay’s account of the disaster “We’re Down Lads” is a best seller on the book stall. Others visit through a family connection or because they were married at St Mary’s. Some mention the beauty and calm of the building, a reminder to us all of what a privilege it is to worship in such a place, where generations have built “the best” as an expression of their thanks to God. Visitors often ask the question, “How old is the church?” It is a difficult question to answer. I always mention the continuing generosity of the Whitbread family and the major alteration of 1902, but also the list of vicars, which begins with John in 1227. We are all part of that generosity and witness which has continued for many centuries.

Last month we gave thanks for a wonderful new chancel carpet given by Mrs Gwen Jennion-Miller. The old one was worn out, having sustained over fifty years of people’s shoes walking to and from the altar. An old black and white photograph shows a group of Mothers Union and Young Wives’ members making the carpet in the 1950s, under the leadership of the then vicar’s wife, Mrs Fry. One of the few remaining members of that group is Gwen, who part-made the old carpet, and provided the new, passing it on to us. Gwen’s “chain reaction” which enriches our church is just one example of how things have continued in Cardington from at least John in 1227 and will be maintained into the future.

Fifty days after Easter, the Church celebrates Pentecost, or Whitsunday, a real red letter day even though “Whit” is derived from the white colours of the robes worn by those to be baptised. This year it falls on June 12<sup>th</sup>. The feast recalls how the followers of Jesus were understandably lost after his death; at Pentecost they received the inspiration and fire of the Spirit to begin and continue passing on the Good News of Christ, to the end of their lives. For many the mission would cost them their lives. We still refer to someone who is passionate about something as ‘all fired up’. This event represents the birth of the Church. Pentecost is therefore the birthday all Christians share. The longevity and survival of the faith depends on that same ‘chain reaction’ of Church members passing on their commitment to Christ, which is why Whitsunday is such a major reason to celebrate.

With summer “coming in” perhaps you too will have time to visit another church and experience how others have provided a Christian witness in that place through many different and unspoken ways.

***Stephen***





Following the great success of the 2010 production of  
Macbeth

Elstow Abbey Parochial Church Council

are proud to present Durham University's

In an open air production\* of

William Shakespeare's

## **Much Ado about Nothing**

In the ruins of the Hillersden Mansion, Elstow  
(follow tourist signs to the Abbey Church)

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2011.**

Gates open at 6pm

Performance starts at 7pm.

Tickets on the gate or Phone (01234) 261477

**Prices £8.00 each or a family ticket £20.00**

Please bring chairs and picnics.

Tea, coffee, soft drinks and barbecue available.

\*if wet in Elstow Abbey Church

## Literacy, dignity and freedom



### **An article by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, published in the Evening Standard (7<sup>th</sup> June 2011)**

We have just launched at Lambeth Palace Library a small exhibition to mark the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible. This celebration might well remind us that having a Bible in English was probably the greatest stimulus in British history for people to learn to read.

The same is true, of course, of other countries and languages - not least Welsh. Like all my generation in Swansea, I learned in O-level history about the 18th-century travelling schools that taught an astonishing proportion of Welsh working people to read the Bible and the Prayer Book, and helped to produce one of the most education-hungry and politically sophisticated populations of the Victorian age.

They wanted to read these books because they knew that the contents were a matter of life and death. It mattered to know the stories, the prayers and above all the picture of yourself that these texts could give you - as capable of changing yourself and the world around you, and as a person to be taken seriously. Reading books like these was a way to a new kind of dignity and freedom - which was also why some wanted to restrict their readership. Eighteenth-century slave-owners were not too keen on slaves learning to read the Bible (or anything else); how right they were to be nervous.

Learning to read by learning the Bible may seem a bit odd to 21st-century readers. But the fact is that one of the great incentives was the need to learn what really mattered for your dignity on earth and your salvation in heaven. We may not put it like that these days but literacy is still about dignity and freedom. When we forget this, we are in real trouble.

That's why it was so shocking to learn that rates of improvement in young people's literacy have slowed down disturbingly since 2006 and that a quarter of children and young people do not see any connection between reading and success or stability in their lives. Yet the figures clearly show the correlations between inadequate literacy and a variety of social ills - unemployment, lack of a stable family life, and, significantly, apathy about voting. The percentage of functionally illiterate people in our prisons (nearly 50 per cent) tells its own story.

More worrying still are the figures for young people in London. One in three children does not own a book. One in four leaves primary school with a substandard level of literacy.

Part of the problem is that illiteracy is surrounded by shame and stigma, so that people are unwilling to ask for help. As with any potentially humiliating difficulty or disability, the first step is for society as a whole to take a positive, not a contemptuous, approach and not to blame people who have been let down because of poverty or exclusion or struggling institutions.

All good schools know that they need friends in the wider community. And one of the most effective ways of cementing friendships is through volunteers coming in to help with literacy training. But this needs to be extended further. It is very good news that the Evening Standard is calling for more volunteers to help children with reading on a one-to-one basis at the crucial points in their lives.

There are voluntary groups that are doing exceptional work with adult illiteracy, such as Worth Unlimited, a Christian charity working nationwide with young people from eight to 25 and focusing on issues of exclusion and illiteracy. And there are imaginative projects working with prisoners such as the Shannon Trust, which uses a "buddy" system already developed in schools to improve literacy in prison. The effect is that, on release, prisoners are better equipped for the job market and, even more important, have an enhanced sense of their capacities and skills.

These projects - and lots more like them - need firm and consistent support from parents and governors in schools, from staff in prisons, and, of course, from national government. Whether you want to talk about a Big Society, a good society or just about ordinary common sense and fairness for the disadvantaged, this must be a priority.

Being able to read means being able to change yourself more effectively - to have more at your fingertips. It means being able to see yourself differently and to empathise with others more fully. That's why literacy and democracy go together and why it's no surprise that people with problems in this area are far less likely to vote and less likely (so the figures tell us) to trust others in their community.

In this context, illiteracy is a prison. It traps people in a world where they are always at a disadvantage and always in fear of being "found out". We need to foster a positive attitude that will assure people they are not inferior and that they really can learn and take a fuller part in the world. It is an obvious area in which local civil society can get involved in a way both Left and Right in politics are now advocating.

And we should be aware too that the new social media are not the enemy here. For a lot of young people, enjoying reading and writing is bound up with blogging and Twittering. We need to make the best use of these technologies, not despise them. Given the universal use of such media, how does the school, the workplace, the prison use what's available to encourage questions that will improve literacy and challenge people to become more confident?

The problem won't be solved by travelling schools like those of the 18th century but it can be solved by us adopting the attitudes of those who inspired and ran those schools. They believed they had a responsibility to help people gain the best access to what would change their lives and give them the strength they needed in tough times. If that's what we believe too, we can and we must rise to this challenge for our city and our society.

© Rowan Williams 2011

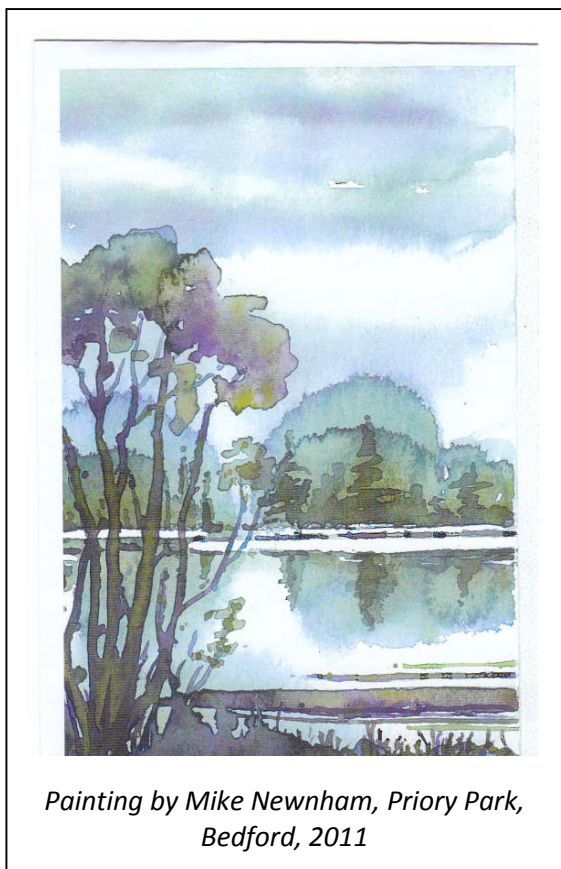
# ART EXHIBITION

**By Steve Bowers & Mike Newnham**

**Cardington Village Hall**

**17<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

**7.30pm-9.30pm**



*Painting by Mike Newnham, Priory Park,  
Bedford, 2011*

Once again, local artists Steve Bowers and Mike Newnham join forces to hold another exhibition, at Cardington Village Hall in September. The pair will donate 25% of the proceeds of sales to the Friends of St Mary's Church, Cardington.

Steve Bowers has been painting for 40 years and continues to produce his popular, quirky figurative work. Steve loves lots of colour and is inspired by everyday events and off-the-wall ideas.

Mike Newnham has lived in Elstow for 16 years. Mike's inspiration comes from the shapes and colours of nature and everyday items. Mike uses watercolours, felt tip pens and crayons. His recent trips to Venice have also inspired him to produce warm, vibrant work. Mike's 20 years of experience with ceramics will also be on display at the exhibition.

"I love Mike's work," says Steve. "He's an artist who

paints with his soul."

All works will be for sale and this year's raffle prize will be a unique painting produced by both Steve and Mike.

Posters advertising the exhibition will appear closer to the event. Refreshments will be available during the evening. Entry is free, and a colourful evening is guaranteed.

# THE CHURCH CALENDAR

## JULY 2011

1 <sup>st</sup>	Friday	7pm 8pm	Choir Practice Bell Ringing
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Saturday	2.30-4.30pm	Cardington Summer Fete
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sunday	10.00am 10.15am 11.20am 1.45pm 6.30pm	Holy Communion (JRC) <i>Holy Communion at St Michael's (NM)</i> Mattins (Group) Baptism of Sienna Thompson (JRC) Evensong (PMc)
4 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	10.00am 12.15pm 2.00pm 7pm	Mums and Toddlers in the Vestry Funeral of Betty Barclay at Bedford Crematorium Prayer Group in the Vestry Shakespeare's " <b>Much Ado About Nothing</b> " performed in the ruins. Tickets £8, or family ticket £20. Doors open at 6pm
5 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	1.45-2.30pm 3.45-5.15pm 6.30-8pm 6.30pm	Sing and Sign in the Vestry. <b>Last session until September.</b> After school club at St Michael's Youth Club – silly games Elstow Lower and Abbey Middle Governors' meeting (JRC)
6 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	All Day 9.15-10.15am 10.45 11.30am 6pm	Woofyt Day Music group for under 5s and their carers in the Vestry. Run by Wilstead Children's Centre. All welcome. No Charge. Funeral of Richard Edwards at Crematorium Coffee and Soup in the Vestry JRC to Southill Estate
7 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	09.30am 11.00am 6.15-7.15pm 7-8.30pm 7.30pm	Morning Prayers at St Michael's (JRC + SS) Holy Communion (JRC) Yoga (for mixed abilities) <b>Elstow Abbey Church</b> for more details call June Hannigan 07817601686 London Road Youth Club. <b>It's a knockout</b> South Beds council of Churches AGM
8 <sup>th</sup>	Friday	7pm 8pm	Choir Practice Bell Ringing
9 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday		<b>Benefice Family day out at Stanwick Lakes.</b> Meet at Stanwick Lakes at 11am. It is a nature reserve, with lovely walks around the lakes, open spaces, a fantastic adventure playground, an unique water play area and assault course for the more adventurous! Entrance is free, but there is a car parking charge of £3 per car. There is also a café and shop on site.
10 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	10.00am 10.15am 11.20am	Holy Communion + Sunday School (JRC) <i>Holy Communion at St Michael's (RC)</i> Mattins (JRC)

		5.30	Wedding Interview
		6.30pm	Evensong (JRC)
11 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	10.00am	Mums and Toddlers in the Vestry
		2.00pm	Prayer Group in the Vestry
		7.30pm	<b>Holiday Club Planning Meeting for anyone who would like to be involved - vicarage</b>
12 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	9.30	Visit to Abbey
		3.45-5.15pm	After school club at St Michael's
		6.30-8pm	Youth Club – silly games
		6.30pm	Elstow Lower and Abbey Middle Governors' meeting (JRC)
13 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	09.15-10.15am	Music group for under 5s and their carers in the Abbey. Run by Wilstead Children's Centre. All welcome. <b>Last session.</b>
		11.30am	Coffee and Soup in the Vestry
		7.30pm	St Michael's PCC
14 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	09.30am	Morning Prayers at St Michael's (JRC + SS)
		11.00am	Holy Communion (JRC)
		6.15-7.15pm	Yoga (for mixed abilities) <b>Elstow Abbey Church</b> for more details call June Hannigan 07817601686
		7-8.30pm	London Road Youth Club – <b>Swimming @ oasis</b>
		7.30pm	PCC
15 <sup>th</sup>	Friday	7pm	Choir Practice
		8pm	Bell Ringing
16 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday	2.30pm	Wedding of Katy-Ann Christina Plumb & Kevin Richard Nash
		3.30pm	Training for lesson readers
		4.15pm	Training for Chalice bearers
17 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	10.00am	Holy Communion + Sunday School (RC)
		10.15am	<i>Holy Communion at St Michael's (JRC)</i>
		11.20am	Mattins (RC)
		3.00pm	Baptism of Allannah Brown
		6.30pm	Evensong (JRC)
18 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	10.00am	<b>Mums and Toddlers in the Vestry. Last session until September</b>
		2.00pm	Prayer Group in the Vestry
19 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	2.30pm	Meeting with Bishop Bedford
		3.45-5.15pm	After school club at St Michael's. <b>Last one until September.</b>
		6.30-8pm	Youth Club – BBQ – <b>last club night until September</b>
		7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting
20 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	11.30am	Coffee and Soup in the Vestry
			<i>JRC Quiet day until Thursday Evening</i>
21 <sup>st</sup>	Thursday	09.30am	Morning Prayers at St Michael's (JRC + SS)
		11.00am	Holy Communion (JRC)
		6.15-7.15pm	Yoga (for mixed abilities) <b>Elstow Abbey Church</b> for more details call June Hannigan 07817601686
		7-8.30pm	London Road Youth Club - <b>Barbeque</b>

22 <sup>nd</sup>	Friday	<b>Schools break up for the summer</b> 7pm <b>No Choir Practice</b> 8pm Bell Ringing
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Saturday	2pm Visit of St Thomas church Letchworth
24 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	10.00am Family Service (JEH) 10.15am <i>Holy Communion at St Michael's (PL)</i> 11.20am BCP Holy Communion (JRC) 12Noon Burial of Ashes of Alan and Elise Chapman (JRC) 6.30pm Evensong (Robert Heley) 7.30pm Holiday Club Set up – all help gratefully received
25 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	<b>Holiday Club this week</b> 10-12 Noon Holiday Club, open to all children aged 5-12 years. 12-1pm Picnic and games on the green for holiday club members and parents/helpers 2pm Prayer Group
26 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	10-12 Noon Holiday Club, open to all children aged 5-12 years. 12-1pm Picnic and games on the green for holiday club members and parents/helpers
27 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	10-12 Noon Holiday Club, open to all children aged 5-12 years. <b>11.30am No Soup</b> 12-1pm Picnic and games on the green for holiday club members and parents/helpers 2pm Baptism interview (JRC)
28 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	09.30am Morning Prayers at St Michael's (SS) 10-12 Noon Holiday Club, open to all children aged 5-12 years. <b>11am No Holy Communion</b> 12-1pm Picnic and games on the green for holiday club members and parents/helpers 2pm Clergy and ministers meeting at Stephen Smith's house <b>6.15pm No Yoga</b>
29 <sup>th</sup>	Friday	10-12 Noon Holiday Club, open to all children aged 5-12 years. 12-1pm Picnic and games on the green for holiday club members and parents/helpers <b>6pm Holiday Club Barbeque</b> 8pm Bell Ringing
31 <sup>st</sup>	Sunday	<b>10.00am End of Holiday club service at Elstow Abbey</b> <b>11.00am Benefice 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Service at St Mary's, Cardington</b> <b>11.20am No Mattins at Elstow Abbey</b> <b>12Noon Coach departs to the Isle of Wight on Parish Holiday</b> 6.30pm Evensong (TBA)

## **AUGUST 2011**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Monday	2.00pm <b>NO Prayer Group in the Vestry</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Wednesday	11.30am Coffee and Soup in the Vestry

4 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	09.30am 11.00am 12NoonMonthly 6.15-7.15pm	Morning Prayers at St Michael's Holy Communion (TBC) Lunch at The Red Lion Yoga (for mixed abilities) <b>Elstow Abbey Church</b> for more details call June Hannigan 07817601686
5 <sup>th</sup>	Friday	8pm	Bell Ringing
6 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday	5pm	Coach returns from the Isle of Wight trip
7 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	10.00am 10.15am 11.20am 6.30pm	Holy Communion + Sunday School (JRC) <i>St Michael's Holy Communion (NM)</i> Mattins (JRC) Evensong (JRC)
8 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	2pm	Prayer Group in the Vestry
10 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	11.30am	Coffee and Soup in the Vestry
11 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	09.30am 11am 6.15-7.15pm	Morning Prayers at St Michael's (SS + JRC) Holy Communion (JRC) Yoga (for mixed abilities) <b>Elstow Abbey Church</b> for more details call June Hannigan 07817601686
12 <sup>th</sup>	Friday	8pm	Bell Ringing
13 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday	1.30pm	Wedding of Tanya Anne Billington and Christopher Henry Neal (JRC)

**Deadline for the September Parish Magazine to **Jacque** Waterfield @ 269 Goldington Road, Bedford, MK41 9PH or [jakhat77@hotmail.com](mailto:jakhat77@hotmail.com)**

14 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	10.00am 10.15am 11.20am 1.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Communion + Sunday School (JRC) <i>St Michael's Holy Communion (RC)</i> Mattins (JRC) Baptism of Ashley Honey Lorn (JRC) Evensong (Robert Heley)
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***Jeremy on holiday from Sunday afternoon until the evening of Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> August***

15 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	2.00pm	Prayer Group in the Vestry
17 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	11.30am	Coffee and Soup in the Vestry
18 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	09.30am 11.00am 6.15-7.15pm	Morning Prayers at St Michael's (SS) Holy Communion (RC) Yoga (for mixed abilities) <b>Elstow Abbey Church</b> for more details call June Hannigan 07817601686

19 <sup>th</sup>	Friday	8pm	Bell Ringing
21 <sup>st</sup>	Sunday	10.00am 10.15am 11.20am 6.30pm	Holy Communion + Sunday School (RC) <i>St Michael's Holy Communion ss</i> Mattins (Group) Evensong (Capt David Wells)
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Monday	2pm	Prayer Group in the Vestry
24 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	11.30am	Coffee and Soup in the Vestry
25 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	09.30am 11.00am 6.15-7.15pm	Morning Prayers at St Michael's (SS) Holy Communion (RC) Yoga (for mixed abilities) <b>Elstow Abbey Church</b> for more details call June Hannigan 07817601686 <i>Jeremy returns from holiday late tonight.</i>
26 <sup>th</sup>	Friday		<b>Greenbelt Weekend – Fri, Sat, Sun and Monday.</b> <b>Please speak to David Wells for more information.</b> 8pm Bell Ringing
28 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	10.15am <b>10.30am</b> 2.15pm 6.30pm	<i>Holy Communion at St Michael's (PL)</i> <b>Family Communion</b> (JRC) Baptism – Sharleen and Katrina Jarrold(TBC) Evensong + healing(JRC)
29 <sup>th</sup>	Monday		Bank Holiday Monday
31 <sup>st</sup>	Wednesday	11.30am 7.30	Coffee and Soup Benefice treasurers Meeting

### SEPTEMBER 2011

1 <sup>st</sup>	Thursday	11.00am 12Noon 6.15-7.15pm 7.45pm	Holy Communion (JRC) Monthly Lunch at The Red Lion Yoga (for mixed abilities) <b>Elstow Abbey Church</b> for more details call June Hannigan 07817601686 Wedding rehearsal in the Abbey for Saturday (JRC)
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Friday	8pm	Bell Ringing

**Date for your Diary**

# Harvest Supper

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September

Abbey Middle School Hall

Music, Dancing, Supper, Auction of promises,

To raise money for the final phase of our new church and community hall

**Everyone Welcome**



**To all who have a heart for Bedford**

This is an invitation to join with us for

**""LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS - a Service of  
Thanksgiving and Celebration  
Of Bedford Street Angels**

To be followed by

**A Fellowship Meal  
Saturday 8 October  
Christ Church Bedford  
4pm**

Please make a note in your diary of this event which is for all churches in Bedford and around, further details will be given later. Find out what God is doing in our town through BSA.

**SIDEMENS ROTA****JULY**

3 <sup>rd</sup>	10am	Mrs A Morris	Mrs A Barfoot
	11.15am	F.W. Crossen	
	6.30pm	Mrs C Parrish	
10 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Mrs S Batiuk	Mrs G Freeman
	11.15am	Mrs D Fordham	
	6.30pm	Miss M Eastwell	
17 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Mrs J Barnicott	Mrs S Brown
	11.15am	Mrs M Crossen	
	6.30pm	Mrs G Arran	
24 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Mrs A Morris	Mr A Freeman
	11.15am	Mrs A Knight	
	6.30pm	P. Moss	
31 <sup>st</sup>	10am	No morning prayer at Elstow	
	11am	Benefice Service at Cardington	
	6.30pm	Mrs C Parrish	

**AUGUST**

7 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Mrs A Morris	Mrs G Freeman
	11.15am	F.W. Crossen	
	6.30pm	Miss M Eastwell	
14 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Mrs S Batiuk	Mr P Batiuk
	11.15am	Mrs D Fordham	
	6.30pm	Mrs G Annan	
21 <sup>st</sup>	10am	Mrs J Barnicott	Mrs A Barfoot
	11.15am	Mrs A Knight	
	6.30pm	P. Moss	
28 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Mrs A Morris	Mrs S Brown
	11.15am	Mrs M Crossen	
	6.30pm	Mrs C Parrish	

**SEPTEMBER**

4 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Mrs G Freeman	Mr A Freeman
	11.15am	Mrs D Fordham	
	6.30pm	Mrs G Annan	

## LESSON READERS FOR JULY AND AUGUST 2011

3rd July	10.00 am	Ephesians 2: v.19-end	John 20: v.24-29	Phillip Bettles
<b>Trinity 2</b>	11.15 am	2 Samuel 15: v.17-21	John 11: v.1-16	Tim Elliott
	6.30 am	Job 42: v.1-6	1 Peter 1: v. 3-12	Dorothy Steele
10th July	10.00 am	Genesis 25: v. 19-end	Matt 13: v.1-9 & 18-23	Tim Harris
<b>Trinity 3</b>	11.15 am	Deuteronomy 28: v.1-14	Acts 28: v. 17-end	Delphine Fordham
	6.30 pm	2 Samuel 7: v. 18-end	Luke 19: v. 41--20: v. 8	Catherine Parish
17th July	10.00 am	Genesis 28: v.10-19a	Matt 13: v.24-30 & 36-43	Glynis Freeman
<b>Trinity 4</b>	11.15 am	Deuteronomy 30: v. 1-10	1 Peter 3: v. 8-18	Eric Crossen
	6.30 pm	1 Kings 2: v.10-12 & 3: v. 16-end	Acts 4: v. 1-22	Glynis Annan
24th July	10.00 am	<b>Family Service</b>		
<b>Trinity 5</b>	11.15 am	H.C. Genesis 29: v. 15-28	Matt 13:v.31-33 & v 44-52	Barbara Routledge
	6.30 pm	1 Kings 6: v.11-14 & v. 23-end	John 6: v. 1-21	Peter Moss
31st July	10.00 am	<b>End of Holiday Club Service at Elstow Abbey</b>		
<b>Trinity 6</b>	11.00 am	<b>Joint Benefice H.C. Service at St Mary's Cardington</b>		
	6.30 pm	1 Kings 10: v. 1-13	Acts 13: v. 1-13	Dorothy Steele
7th August	10.00 am	Genesis 37: v.1-4 & v.12-28	Matt 14: v. 22-33	Barbara Routledge
<b>Trinity 7</b>	11.15 am	Song of Solomon 8: v.5-7	2 Peter 3: v. 8-13	Peter Batiuk
	6.30pm	1 Kings 11: v.41 -- 12: v.20	Acts 14: v. 8-20	Ann Knight
14th August	10.00 am	Genesis 45: v. 1-15	Matthew 15: v.10-28	Stephen McDonald
<b>Trinity 8</b>	11.15am	Jonah 1	2 Peter 3 v. 14-end	Tessa Wood
	6.30 pm	2 Kings 4: v. 1-37	Acts 16: v. 1-15	Barbara Routledge
21st August	10.00 am	Exodus 1: v.8 --2: v.10	Matthew 16: v. 13-20	Hinson Family
<b>Trinity 9</b>	11.15am	Jonah 2	Revelation 1	David Ewbank

6.30 pm 2 Kings 6: v. 8-23 Acts 17: v. 15 -end Catherine Parish

28th August **Joint Family Communion Service**

**Trinity 10** 10.30 am Exodus 3: v. 1-15 Matt 16: v. 21-end Lynn Harris

6.30 pm 2 Kings 6: v.24-25; 7: v.3-end Acts 18: v. 1-16 Ann Knight

4th Sept 10.00 am Exodus 12: v. 1-14 Matthew 18: v.15-20 Lynne Faulkner

**Trinity 11** 11.15 am Jonah 3: v.10 --4: v.11 Revelation 8: v.1-5 Delphine Fordham

6.30 pm Ezekiel 12: v.21--13: v.16 Acts 19: v. 1-20 Glynis Annan

If any of the above dates are inconvenient, please arrange a swop and let Ann Knight know that you have done so. Thank you. (Tel: 01234 854036)

**DETAILS FROM THE REGISTERS**

**BAPTISMS**

June 5<sup>th</sup> Harry Benjamin Welham

Leo Peter Neal

Steven Wood

**MARRIAGES**

May 28<sup>th</sup> Luisa Solitro and Luigi Luca Magliaro

**BURIALS**

April 20<sup>th</sup> Robert William Smiles

May 18<sup>th</sup> Stephen Andrew Barr

June 9<sup>th</sup> Campbell Victor Fraser

.....  
Can you help us look after our pennies (and our thousands of pounds)?

The new **North Bedfordshire Circuit** is still seeking a **Part-time Circuit Finance Officer** who will be essential in helping to advance the circuit’s future mission.

Working from home based on 10 hours per week @ £9.00 per hour.

We are looking for someone with experience in finance in business or charity work with an understanding of accruals accounting.

Do **YOU** have the skills to undertake this key role, or do you know someone who has?

If so, please contact Peter Fletcher 01525 713243, email [pletcher@ormail.co.uk](mailto:pletcher@ormail.co.uk) for an application form and further details. Closing date for applications 29<sup>th</sup> July 2011. Interviews scheduled for 10<sup>th</sup> August. Appointment starts 1<sup>st</sup> September 2011.

**People with a non-Methodist background are also welcome to apply and appropriate support will be given.**

## BOOK REVIEW



### “The Popes – a History” by John Julius Norwich (Chatto & Windus 2011)

There have been many histories of The Papacy, sometimes interminable and boring (but with Walter Ullman’s scholarly study being a notable exception). Few writers, apart perhaps from Eamon Duffy (“Saints and Sinners” – 1997) have written about the Popes with the objective light-heartedness, knowledge, forthrightness and sense of the absurd which are all so vital a part of Viscount Norwich’s literary armoury. He may state in his introduction that he is nothing more than an agnostic Protestant and write elsewhere self-deprecatingly of his second-hand scholarship, but we should not be deceived when he almost decries the book as being mere “entertainment”. We should believe him when he talks of offering us an “honest, objective and accurate account”. He is nothing if not serious in his aims and I guarantee that “The Popes” will have surprises for you.

“Pope-bashing” has for centuries been a well-recognised sport. Edward Gibbon, for instance, wrote memorably in the 18<sup>th</sup> century about many Popes, and the following quotation relating to John XXIII’s trial in 1416 will serve as a good sample: “The most scandalous charges were suppressed; the Vicar of Christ was only accused of piracy, murder, rape, sodomy and incest.” Our modern Media, too, are sometimes less than complimentary about the papacy and, to be fair, there are many issues today, such as contraception, homosexuality, same-sex marriages and the ordination of women, which prompt this. Many people, even Catholics, wonder if the Pope is living on the same planet as the rest of us.

Norwich, although generally entertainingly dispassionate, does not entirely escape this stigma of pope-bashing: he has a visceral loathing for Pius XII (the so-called Hitler’s Pope) a detestation exacerbated by the current move to canonise him. The reason for this antipathy is Pius’ record of apparent anti-semitism before, during and after the war. You may recall John Cornwell’s 1999 book “Hitler’s Pope”<sup>1</sup> on the topic which sparked off so violent a reaction in the Vatican. If I mention this, it is because anti-semitism is a recurrent theme in any history of the Popes and all historians have commented on it. But it is, sadly, only one of a multiplicity of papal flaws.

Likewise, there are inaccuracies in Norwich’s account, especially about the very early years of the Church – but I do not want to be side-tracked in this review into listing these: they do not detract from the book’s ability to edify the reader while greatly entertaining him. Indeed it is the succession of anecdotes which, with a guiding explanation of what was happening elsewhere in Europe, is the glue which holds the book together. The Popes played a decisive part in European politics until events in the 1870s led, in Pius IX’s pontificate, to their being forced to restrict themselves primarily to matters religious. But the reason why Rome became dominant as a temporal as well as a spiritual power is left by Norwich as one of history’s great puzzles.

Earlier, many Popes’ arrogance, depravity and sheer lack of Christian charity are sometimes eye-wateringly scandalous. Indeed, as Norwich tells us, an amazingly high proportion of the Popes were disgracefully venal, driven by self-interest, a determination to enrich themselves and their families and by their often relentless search for exotically sensuous pleasure. And yet, paradoxically, such men could sometimes also be deeply pious and morally strict, especially the more bucolic ones plucked for political reasons from rural obscurity by the College of cardinals.

Norwich’s book is in consequence full of invariably pithy comment both scurrilous and lapidary, as indeed the topic demands. He writes very much in the tradition we have seen exemplified by Gibbon who, like him, was struck by the insensitive and bigoted intransigence of so many Popes, an aspect of the papacy which greatly alarms certain Catholics even today in 2011.

*Bookworm*

<sup>1</sup> See my review in the magazine for November 2005.

**A Quick Quiz by Jeremy Crocker – Good Luck!**

**EXAMPLE 7 = D in a W**

**7 = Days in a Week**

- 26 = L of the A
- 7 = W of the W
- 1001 = A.N.
- 12 = S of the Z
- 54 = C in a P (with Js)
- 13 = S on the A.F.
- 32 = D.F. at which W.F.
- 18 = H on a G.C.
- 90 = D in a R.A.
- 4 = Q in a G
- 3 = B.M. (S.H.T.R.)
- 24 = H in a D
- 1 = W on a U
- 57 = H.V.
- 29 = D. in F in a L.Y.
- 40 = D and N in the G.F.
- 76 = T in the B.P.
- 12 = L in P
- 5 = G.R.
- 16 = O in a P
- 9 = P in the S.S.
- 88 = P.K.
- 200 = P for P go in M
- 64 = S on a C.B.

**Youth Group Bike Ride**



**Elstow Abbey Holiday Club 2011**

## Up, Up, Up and Away

10am – 12 noon

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2010

### BBQ

For all the Travellers and their families

Friday 29th July 6pm

### **Family Prizegiving Service**

Sunday 31st July at 10am

**Up, Up, Up and Away** is a five day holiday club which will be held in Elstow Church and Garden. Each day there will be crafts, songs, games, stories, competitions and prizes, along with Bible teaching based on an aeroplane as we go on an adventure to find out more about Jesus.

**Up, Up, Up and Away** is **FREE** and **OPEN** to ALL (5 – 12 years old). If you want to join us and take part in **Up, Up, Up and Away**, please complete the registration form and send it back before the start of the club.

Places are limited and will be allocated on receipt of the fully completed registration form and consent form. If you do not hear from us, please assume that you have been allocated a place. If the club is full we will contact you and put you on the reserve list.

Please send the form, marked as “Holiday Club” to

Elstow Vicarage, Church End, Elstow MK42 9XT

# Up, Up, Up and Away

## Up, Up, Up and Away Registration Form

(please use a separate form for each child)

**Up, up, up and away** will take place from Monday 25th - Friday 29th July, 10am - 12 noon  
at Elstow Abbey Church

Childs full Name		Gender M/F
Date of Birth	School	Year
Please register my child for <b>Up, Up, Up and Away</b>		
Parent/Guardian full Name		
Address		
Phone number		
e-mail address		
I give permission for the church to send details of other events/activities by e-mail		
I give permission for my child's name to be entered onto the church database		
<i>Any other person or organisation will not use this information. We may send you details of other events and activities</i>		
<b>Up, Up, Up and Away Consent Form</b> (please use a separate form for each child)		
Emergency contact 1	Phone Number	
Emergency contact 2	Phone Number	
GP Name	GP phone Number	
Any known Allergies, illness or condition		
In an emergency, and if I cannot be contacted, I give permission for my child to be given hospital treatment (including anaesthetic) as deemed necessary by health care professionals. I understand that every effort will be made to contact me as soon as possible		
I give permission for my child to be photographed and the photos used within the church magazine and publicity		
Signature		Date