

## **ELSTOW MAGAZINE JUNE/JULY 2010**

**Christian Aid Talk given at the Churches Together in South Bedford Service 2010**

**(A talk based on John Ch 14: v23-29, Revelation Ch 21 v1-6, Ch 22 v1-5 and information supplied by Christian Aid)**

I think that many of you know that I enjoy caravanning. However, as I have got older I have become more particular about the sites I will use! In the early years, a tap and a hole in the ground were all I needed. But nowadays, if the toilet block isn't heated then I will want to move on to another site with better facilities!

However, I do know that the slums of Nairobi contain toilets which I would be extremely reluctant to use - I'm not at all keen on balancing on a couple of planks over a hole in the ground, especially if the muddy ground is slippery, as it would be in the rainy season. This means that I can quite understand why some people use what are called flying toilets - you use a plastic bag and then throw it away, preferably onto someone else's land!

I feel sure that if some of the people from the slums of Nairobi could use the toilets I prefer to use, then they would think that they were in paradise! And then they would no doubt want to think about how such facilities could be made available to them in their home town. They would be filled with what we could call a vision for change.

In the passage from St John's gospel, the focus is on a significant point in Jesus' ministry. Here, Jesus was trying to get his followers to understand what would happen after his suffering on the cross and how he would continue to help and support them through the power of the Holy Spirit. He stressed that those who love him would also keep his word Jesus - in other words, they would love God and their neighbour, and that they would be helped to do this by the support which they would get from the Holy Spirit.

In the passage from the Book of Revelation, the emphasis is on the completion of the perfect kingdom which has become possible through Christ's redemptive work. It is a kingdom which is both now and also yet to come. The city is a perfect society, one which is large and also open to all, a place without pain, death and suffering. It's a place where God and people can live together because there is nothing to spoil their relationship, or the relationship between people. And that city would be full of abundant health, with reference being made to 'the spring of the water of life', 'the river of life' and 'the tree with leaves for the healing of the nations'.

If we think about the vision of following the teachings of Jesus, which we had in our gospel reading, and the promise of fulfilment of his rule of love and justice which are in Revelation, then we cannot help but be challenged when we hear about life in the slums of Nairobi. The question we are faced with is 'What can we do to help our neighbour?'

Christian Aid Week always falls in the liturgical season of Easter - when we celebrate the sure and certain hope which Jesus has won for us. And, when we think about it, the suffering of people in the slums of Nairobi reminds us of the suffering of Jesus on the cross. But, Christ's resurrection tells us that there is not only an alternative vision, but also another end to the story, and that if we can get involved in the story of sacrifice, then there is abundant life to be found.

If we have no vision about what we can do, then we are quite likely to fall into despair. However, if we have vision without action, without doing something, then we have fantasy. But it's when we have vision and action, it is then that we are starting to play our part in

bringing the kingdom of heaven to earth. The vision of a world without pain and suffering, which we find in Revelation, is not just a hope for the future, but is a challenge for us now, something to aim for.

Christian Aid believes that we can bring poverty to an end, and our resurrection faith leads us to believe that what might seem impossible can, and must, happen. The people living in the slums of Nairobi know that such change can happen - new toilets have been built in part of their area - and the work is needed to continue. The hope of change is something solid, and all it needs is merely the commitment of others for it to happen.

Well, how can we bring this change about? The answer is simple: through sacrificial love. As Christians we have been challenged to follow Jesus' teachings - to love as Jesus loves. We see in Jesus' life, ministry, and his passion his absolute love for us. And while Jesus was living on this earth he showed a great compassion for poor and marginalized people. The passage in John's gospel comes shortly after his washing of the feet of his disciples, and the message is clear - this is how we are to love; this is how we are to follow. Love doesn't shy away from the unclean, unpleasant and unsanitary things of the world: it drives us to respond to them through transforming love.

It's very difficult for us to love as Christ loves, but we have been given the Holy Spirit to support us. Through the Holy Spirit's life in us, and through us, we can become changed, empowered and enabled. We can become filled with the power of the Holy Spirit and so full of love, peace, kindness, and patience.

Christian Aid is not embarrassed to ask us to do something to show that we are followers of Jesus, and it can help us to work for a vision of a changed and renewed world.

The question is: are we thirsty for change? Are we ready to rise to the challenge that is before us? The challenge is large, there's a lot to be done. But could it be that what stands in our way is not the size of the problem, but the size of our thirst for change?

As the Christian Aid supporters who visited Kenya have reported: "very small sacrifices can make a huge change possible."

It's up to us: the challenge is there, and we could provide toilets in Nairobi which everyone would be happy to use!

***Peter Littleford***

## READERS' LIST FOR JUNE & JULY 2010

June 6th	10.00am	Galatians 1: v.11-end	Luke 7: v.11-17	John Hinson
	11.15am	Deuteronomy 6: v.10-end	Acts 22: v.22 --23:11	Tim Elliott
	6.30pm	Genesis 8: v.15 --9: v.17	Mark 4: v.1-20	Glynis Annan
June 13th	10.00am	Galatians 2: v.15-end	Luke 7: v.36--8: v.3	Lynn Harris
	11.15am	Deuteronomy 10:12--11:1	Acts 23: v.12-end	Delphine Fordham
	<b>6.00pm - Open Air Service at Cardington</b>			
June 20th	10.00am	Galatians 3: v.23 -end	Luke 8: v. 26-39	Barbara Routledge
	11.15am	Deuteronomy 11: v. 1-15	Acts 27: v.1-12	Ann Knight
	6.30pm	Genesis 24: v.1-27	Mark 5: v.21-end	Peter Moss
June 27th	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Young People's Service</b>		
	<b>11.15am H.C.</b>	Galatians 5: v.1, 13-25	Luke 9: v. 51-end	Tessa Wood
	<b>6.30pm H.C.</b>	Genesis 27: v.1-40	Mark 6: v. 1-6	Margaret Eastwell
4th July	10.00am	Galatians 6: v.1-16	Luke 10: v.1-11 & 16-20	Peter Batiuk
	11.15am	Deuteronomy 24:v.10-end	Acts 28: v. 1-16	Tim Elliott
	6.30pm	Genesis 29: v. 1-20	Mark 6: v. 7-29	Dorothy Steel
11th July	10.00am	Colossians 1: v. 1-14	Luke 10: v. 25-37	Lynne Faulkner
	11.15am	Deuteronomy 28: v. 1-14	Acts 28: v. 17-end	Eric Crossen
	6.30pm	Genesis 32: v. 9-30	Mark 7: 1-23	Barbara Routledge
18th July	10.00am	Colossians 1: v. 15-28	Luke 10: v. 38-end	John Hinson
	11.15am	Deuteronomy 30: v. 1-10	1 Peter 3: v. 8-18	Ann Knight
	6.30pm	Genesis 41: v 1-16 & 25-37	1 Corinthians 4: v. 8-13	Catherine Parrish
25th July	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Young People's Service</b>		
	<b>11.15 H.C.</b>	2 Corinthians 4: v. 7-15	Matthew 20: v. 20-28	Tessa Wood
	<b>6.30pm H.C.</b>	Jeremiah 26: v. 1-15	Mark 1: v. 14-20	Glynis Annan

1st Aug	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Young People's Service (Holiday Club)</b>		
	11.15am	Song of Solomon 5	2 Peter 1:v. 1-15	Tim Elliott
	6.30pm	Genesis 50 v. 4-end	1 Corinthians 14: v. 1-19	Peter Moss

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

## SIDESMANS ROTAS JUNE-JULY 2010

<b>June 6<sup>th</sup></b>	10am	Mrs S Brown	Mrs A Morris
	11.15am	Mrs D Fordham	
	6.30pm	P Moss	
<b>June 13<sup>th</sup></b>	10am	Mrs S Batiuk	Mrs A Barfoot
	11.15am	Mrs A Knight	
	6.30pm	Mrs C Parrish	
<b>June 20<sup>th</sup></b>	10am	Mrs J Barnicott	Mrs S Brown
	11.15am	F W Crossen	
	6.30pm	Mrs G Annan	
<b>June 27<sup>th</sup></b>	10am	Mrs B Routledge	Mrs A Morris
	11.15am	Mrs M Crossen	
	6.30pm	Miss M Eastwell	
<b>July 4<sup>th</sup></b>	10am	Mrs G Freeman	Mrs A Morris
	11.15am	Mrs D Fordham	
	6.30pm	Mrs G Annan	
<b>July 11<sup>th</sup></b>	10am	Mrs S Batiuk	P Batiuk
	11.15am	Mrs A Knight	
	6.30pm	Mrs C Parrish	
<b>July 18<sup>th</sup></b>	10am	Mrs J Barnicott	Mrs A Barfoot
	11.15am	F W Crossen	
	6.30pm	P Moss	
<b>July 25<sup>th</sup></b>	10am	Mrs B Routledge	Mrs A Morris
	11.15am	Mrs M Crossen	
	6.30pm	Miss M Eastwell	
<b>August 1<sup>st</sup></b>	10am	Mrs A Barfoot	Mrs A Morris
	11.15am	Mrs D Fordham	
	6.30pm	Mrs C Parrish	

# **THE CHURCH CALENDAR**

## **JUNE 2010**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Tuesday	1.30-2.30pm	Sing and Sign in the Church Hall
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Wednesday	11.30am	Coffee Morning followed by soup in the Church Hall
		4-15-4.30pm	New Dance Class meet in the Church Hall
		4.30-5.30pm	New Dance Class meet in the Church Hall
		5.45-8pm	No Youth Groups
		8.00pm	Team Bible Study @ Centenary Room, Cardington
		8.00pm	Deanery Synod at Oakley
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Thursday	11.00am	Holy Communion (RC)
		12 Noon	Monthly Lunch at the Red Lion
		1.30-2.30pm	Elstow Art and Craft Club in the Church Hall
		6-7pm	Yoga (for mixed abilities) Elstow Church Hall
4 <sup>th</sup>	Friday	10.30am	Wedding Rehearsal for Gareth Koby & Lee Carla Knox @ Elstow Abbey
		11.30am	Wedding Rehearsal for blessing of Anthony White & Sharon Warren @ Elstow Abbey
		12.30pm	Adults' Confirmation Class
		7.15pm	NO Choir Practice
		7.30pm	Golden Jubilee & Consecration of the church of Christ the King, Harrowden Road
		8.00pm	Bellringing
5 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday	2.00pm	Wedding of Gareth Koby & Lee Carla Knox @ Elstow Abbey
		3.30pm	Wedding Blessing of Anthony White & Sharon Warren @ Elstow Abbey
		4.30pm	Wedding of Keith Thompson and Linda Helen Margaret Thompson @ Elstow Abbey
		Pm	Bell ringing call change competition

6 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	10.00am	Holy Communion with Sunday School (JRC)
		10.30am	Joint St Michael's and London Rd Methodist Open air service and lunch
		11.15am	Mattins (Group)
		11.25am	<i>JRC to Cardington.</i>
		1.30pm	Baptism of Ethan Francis Wordworth Griffiths (JRC)
		5pm	Songs of Praise at London Road Methodist
		6-7.30pm	Yoyo Group for years 8 and over at David Wells' house
		6.30pm	Evening Prayer (JRC & RC)
7 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	10.00am	Mums and Toddlers in the Church Hall
		2pm	Prayer Group in the Church Hall
		8pm	Confirmation service rehearsal at St Michael's
8 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	10.15am	JRC to Elstow Lower School
		1.30-2.30pm	Sing and Sign in the Church Hall
		2.00pm	Friends trip to Southill Park. Meet in the Church car park and car share to Southill Park.
9 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	11.30am	Coffee Morning followed by soup
		4-15-4.30pm	New Dance Class meet in the Church Hall
		4.30-5.30pm	New Dance Class meet in the Church Hall
		5.45-8pm	Youth Club – Summer Treasure Hunt
		8.00pm	Team Bible Study @ St Mary's
10 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	11.00am	Holy Communion (JRC)
		1.30-2.30pm	Elstow Art & Craft Club in the Church Hall
		2pm	Clergy meeting at the Vicarage
		6-7pm	Yoga (for mixed abilities) Elstow Church Hall for more details call June Hannigan 07817601686
11 <sup>th</sup>	Friday	7.15pm	Choir Practice
		8pm	Bell Ringing
12 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday	9.30am	JRC to Biggleswade Diocesan Synod
		3pm	Wedding interview at the Vicarage
13 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	10.00am	Holy Communion with Sunday School (JRC)

		11.00am	@ St Mary's Cardington – Roger Chapman
		11.15am	Mattins (Canon Philip McDonough)
		3pm	JRC at Licensing of Fiona Wheatley
		6pm	Open air evening service at St Mary's Cardington
		6.30pm	NO EVENSONG
		6-7.30pm	Yoyo Group for years 8 and over at David Well's house
14 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	10.00am	Mums and Toddlers in the Church Hall
		2.00pm	Prayer Group meet in the Church Hall
		2.00pm	Memorial service and Burial of ashes of Janet Slaughter at Elstow Abbey (JRC)
		7.30pm	Confirmation at St Michael's with the Bishop of Bedford
15 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	All day	JRC at diocesan Bishops' conference in Hatfield University
		1.30-2.30pm	Sing and Sign in the Church Hall
		7.30pm	Elstow Parish Council Meeting (Playing fields hall)
16 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	All day	JRC at Lambeth Palace
		11.30am	Coffee Morning followed by soup in the Church Hall
		4-15-4.30pm	New Dance Class meet in the Church Hall
		4.30-5.30pm	New Dance Class meet in the Church Hall
		5.45-8pm	Youth Club – Games & Juniors up the tower
		7pm	JRC to John Bunyan final governors' meeting
17 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	11.00am	Holy Communion (JRC)
		1.30-2.30pm	Elstow Art & Craft Club in the Church Hall
		6-7pm	Yoga (for mixed abilities) Elstow Church Hall for more details call June Hannigan 07817601686
		7.30pm	Hall Fundraising Committee Meeting @the Hinson's
18 <sup>th</sup>	Friday	7.15pm	Choir Practice
		8.00pm	Bellringing
19 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday	10.30am	Burial of Ashes of Reginald Pestell (JRC)
		Noon	Confirmation Candidates trip to St Albans Abbey

20 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	10.00am	Holy Communion + Sunday School (JRC)
		11.15am	Mattins (JRC)
		6.30pm	Evensong ,Holy Communion + laying on of hands (JRC)
		6-7.30pm	Yoyo Group for years 8 and over at David Wells' house
21 <sup>st</sup>	Monday	10.00am	Mums and Toddlers in the Church Hall
		2.00pm	Prayer Group meet in the Church Hall
		8.00pm	Team Council meeting at Elstow Church Hall
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Tuesday	1.30-2.30pm	Sing and Sign in the Church Hall
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Wednesday	11.30am	Coffee Morning followed by soup in the Hall
		4-15-4.30pm	New Dance Class meet in the Church Hall
		4.30-5.30pm	New Dance Class meet in the Church Hall
		<b>6-7.30pm</b>	Youth Club summer swim at Oasis
		7pm	Hall Fundraising meal at St Helena's
24 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	09.15am	JRC to Cotton End Lower School
		11.00am	Holy Communion (JRC)
		1.30-2.30pm	Elstow Art & Craft Club in the Church Hall
		6-7pm	Yoga (for mixed abilities) Elstow Church Hall for more details call June Hannigan 07817601686
		8pm	Finance & Standing Meeting at the Vicarage
25 <sup>th</sup>	Friday	7.15pm	Choir Practice
		8.00pm	Bellringing
26 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday	09.30-12.30pm	Bell ringing peal
27 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	10.00am	Youth Service (JRC)
		11.15am	Holy Communion (JRC)
		3pm	JRC Baptisms at St Andrew's Biggleswade
		<i>6pm</i>	<i>Evensong at St Andrew's Biggleswade – Jeremy Crocker</i>
		6-7.30pm	Yoyo Group for years 8 and over at David Wells' house
		6.30pm	Evensong (Canon Philip McDonough)
28 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	10.00am	Mums and Toddlers in the Church Hall

		2.00pm	Prayer Group meet in the Church Hall
29 <sup>h</sup>	Tuesday	1.30-2.30pm	Sing and Sign in the Church Hall
30 <sup>h</sup>	Wednesday	11.30am	Coffee Morning followed by soup in the Church Hall
		4-15-4.30pm	New Dance Class meet in the Church Hall
		4.30-5.30pm	New Dance Class meet in the Church Hall
		5.45pm	Youth Club – Meet at Ampthill Park
		8.00pm	Team Bible Study @ Centenary Room, Cardington

### JULY 2010

1 <sup>st</sup>	Thursday	11.00am	Holy Communion (JRC)
		12 Noon	Monthly Lunch at The Red Lion
		1.30-2.30pm	Elstow Arts and Crafts Group in the Church Hall
		7.45pm	JRC to South Beds Council of Churches AGM
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Friday	7.15pm	Choir Practice
		8.00pm	Bellringing
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Saturday	9.00am	Church Work Party – come and help to maintain the church and church yard. Lunch provided
		2pm	Cardington Fete
4 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	10.00am	Holy Communion + Sunday School (JRC)
		11.15am	Mattins (Group)
		11.25am	<i>JRC to St Mary's Cardington</i>
		2.15pm	Baptism of Lilly Watson (JRC)
		3pm	Baptism of Rebecca Larter (JRC)
		6-7.30pm	Yoyo Group for years 8 and over at David Well's house
		6.30pm	Evensong (JRC)
5 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	10.00am	Mums & Toddlers in the Church Hall
		2.00pm	Prayer Group in the Church Hall
6 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	12.30pm	Team Rectors' Meeting
		1.30-2.30pm	Sing and Sign in the Church Hall
		7.00pm	<b>"MacBeth"</b>

**to be performed in the ruins of the Hillersden Mansion**

**Durham University Castle Players**

**Picnic from 6pm**

**Barbecue**

**Please see details elsewhere in the magazine**

7 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	11.30am	Coffee Morning followed by soup in the Church Hall
		4-15-4.30pm	New Dance Class meet in the Church Hall
		4.30-5.30pm	New Dance Class meet in the Church Hall
		5.45-8pm	Youth Group - The Elstow Olympics
		8.00pm	Team Bible Study @ Centenary Room, Cardington
8 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	11.00am	Holy Communion (JRC)
		1.30-2.30pm	Elstow Art and Craft Club in the Church Hall
		6-7pm	Yoga (for mixed abilities) Elstow Church Hall
9 <sup>th</sup>	Friday	All Day	JRC at General Synod until Tues 13 <sup>th</sup> July
		7.15pm	Choir Practice
		8.00pm	Bellringing
11 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	10.00am	Holy Communion with Sunday School (NM)
		11.15am	Mattins (DW)
		6-7.30pm	Yoyo Group for years 8 and over at David Wells' house
		6.30pm	Evening Prayer (TBC)

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

12 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	10.00am	Mums and Toddlers in the Church Hall
		2.00pm	Prayer Group meet in the Church Hall
13 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	1.30-2.30pm	Sing and Sign in the Church Hall
14 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	11.30am	Coffee Morning followed by soup in the Church Hall
		4-15-4.30pm	New Dance Class meet in the Church Hall – <b>Last one</b>
		4.30-5.30pm	New Dance Class meet in the Church Hall – <b>Last one</b>
		5.45-8pm	Youth Club – BBQ – <b>Last Youth Club until September</b>
15 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	11.00am	Holy Communion (JRC)

		1.30-2.30pm	Elstow Art & Craft Club in the Church Hall
		6-7pm	Yoga (for mixed abilities) Elstow Church Hall for more details call June Hannigan 07817601686
		7.30pm	Elstow PCC in the Church Hall
16 <sup>th</sup>	Friday	7.15pm	Choir Practice
		8.00pm	Bellringing
17 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday & Sunday		Bedford River Festival
18 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	10.00am	Holy Communion + Sunday School (JRC)
		11.15am	Mattins (Canon Philip McDonough)
		6.30pm	Evensong (JRC)
		6-7.30pm	Yoyo Group for years 8 and over at David Wells' house <b>last one until Sept</b>
19 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	10.00am	Mums & Toddlers in Church Hall – <b>Last one until Sept</b>
		2.00pm	Prayer Group meet in the Church Hall
20 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	1.30-2.30pm	Sing and Sign in the Church Hall – <b>Last one until Sept</b>
		7.30pm	Elstow Parish Council Meeting (Playing fields hall)
21 <sup>st</sup>	Wednesday	11.30am	Coffee Morning followed by soup in the Hall
			<b>Schools break up for the Summer holidays</b>
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Thursday	TBC	Set up for the Holiday Club
		11.00am	Holy Communion (JRC)
		6pm	Wedding Rehearsal for Stuart Nicholls & Laura Champkins
		7pm	Wedding Rehearsal for Richard Blackwell & Sophie Larkman
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Friday	TBC	Set up for the Holiday Club
		8.00pm	Bellringing
24 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday	TBC	Set up for the Holiday Club
		12.30pm	Wedding of Richard Blackwell & Sophie Larkman (JRC)
		3pm	Wedding of Stuart Nicholls & Laura Champkins (JRC)
25 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	10.00am	Youth Service (DW)
		11.15am	Holy Communion (JRC)

TBC                      Set up Holiday Club

3pm                      Baptism Keira Zane Masih, Jane Bruney & Anand Sampla

6.30pm Evensong , Holy Communion + laying on of hands (JRC)

**Holiday Club Week**

26 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	10-12noon	Holiday Club
		12-1pm	Picnic & Games on the Green (optional)
		2.00pm	Prayer Group meet in the Church Hall
27 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	10-12noon	Holiday Club
		12-1pm	Picnic & Games on the Green (optional)
		1.30-2.30pm	NO Sing and Sign in the Church Hall
28 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	10-12noon	Holiday Club
		11.30am	NO SOUP
		12-1pm	Picnic & Games on the Green (optional)
29 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	10-12noon	Holiday Club
		11.00am	Holy Communion (RC)
		12-1pm	Picnic & Games on the Green (optional)
30 <sup>th</sup>	Friday	10-12noon	Holiday Club
		7.00pm	BBQ for leaders & Helpers @ the Vicarage
		8.00pm	Bellringing
31 <sup>st</sup>	Saturday	6pm	Holiday Club BBQ for children & families

**AUGUST 2010**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Sunday	10.00am	Holiday Club Youth Service (JH, TH & DW)
		11.15am	Mattins (Group)
		Noon	Coach leaves for the Isle of Wight
		6.30pm	Evensong (Canon Philip McDonough)

**A big thank you to all the people who have helped with the Christian Aid collections. We have raised £600 so far!**



**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July**

**7pm**

**Durham University Castle  
Players**

**Present**

# **Macbeth**

**“Shakespeare in the Ruins”**

**(If wet in the Church)**

**Gates open 6pm**

**Bring a Picnic**

**Barbecue available**

**Tickets on the gate £8 each (Family Ticket  
£20)**

**In aid of the Elstow Community Hall Fund**

**Further details from Jeremy Crocker or Tracey Hinson**



## **SHORT STORY COMPETITION**

John Bunyan Upper School recently held a short story competition and the two winners were **Anika Akhter** and **Ross Sherratt**.

Here is Ross' winning short story for you to enjoy:

### **Pilgrims Progress Remake – Journey Today!**

In the dull, damp city of Runcorn a man called Christian was trying to escape poverty. Many people in this town were depressed and under living standards. He wanted a life of freedom and luxury and the only way to get it was to get to London and find a well paid job. So early in the morning he got on his bicycle and set off.

He cycled onto the M56 where he rode past an injured man; he stopped to see if he could help. The injured man was called Johnny. He said he fell off his motorbike and broke his ankle. Christian wanted to help this man, so he rang the hospital and they sent an ambulance to get him. Johnny told Christian he could take his motorbike for helping him.

So Christian continued his journey down the M56 when he noticed a man dancing on the hard shoulder; Christian pulled over to see why the man was dancing. Christian asked the man why he was dancing. The man said he wanted to bring happiness to the world. Christian replied by saying "that is a lovely way to give back to the world". Christian then gave the man £50.

Christian then got on his motorbike and drove until the next junction where he took the exit and drove onto the M6. There were heavy delays on the M6 due to road works, so he stopped at a service station. He bought a KFC bargain bucket so he could gain extra energy! But then he set off for 5 miles of road works. Once he started to gain a fast speed of 90mph he got pulled over by the police.

The police man was called P.C. Grumpy. Christian got charged with careless driving and got a six month sentence. Whilst he was in prison he planned a new journey to Dubai but all the pain of being in prison taught him that, wherever you go, the same problem may occur.

It was the day of his release and he was ready to go back to life in Runcorn. As soon as he walked out of the prison he noticed an old school friend. She was called Joy Hope. She was the smartest woman in his secondary school. "What are you doing here?" said Christian, "I was waiting for you", Joy replied. It was love straight away between Christian and Joy and they lived in Runcorn as millionaires.

***By Ross Sherratt***

## DETAILS FROM THE REGISTERS

### APRIL 2010

Date	Communicants	Attendance	Collections
1 <sup>st</sup>	18	18	--
2 <sup>nd</sup>	--	35	Good Friday
"	--	17	
3 <sup>rd</sup>	--	27	--
4 <sup>th</sup>	66	111	312.90
8 <sup>th</sup>	12	12	5.00
11 <sup>th</sup>	47	72	75.83
15 <sup>th</sup>	9	9	4.00
18 <sup>th</sup>	60	100	295.32
22 <sup>nd</sup>	9	9	3.00
25 <sup>th</sup>	26	73	204.56
29 <sup>th</sup>	9	9	12.00
	<b><u>256</u></b>	<b><u>492</u></b>	<b><u>£912.61</u></b>

### BAPTISMS

#### **APRIL**

- 18<sup>th</sup>** Amy Barron  
Emma Game  
Rosanna Elizabeth Barron
- 25<sup>th</sup>** Alfie David Castle

#### **MAY**

- 2<sup>nd</sup>** Callum David Parke
- 9<sup>th</sup>** Miles Lucas Henry Enderby
- 16<sup>th</sup>** Harriet Frances May Owen

### MARRIAGES

## **APRIL**

**24<sup>th</sup>** Claire Louise Das and Daniel Paul Clark

## **BURIALS**

## **APRIL**

**19<sup>th</sup>** Margaret Abrahams (Ashes)

**28<sup>th</sup>** John King (Ashes)

**29<sup>th</sup>** Mary Doreen Housden

## **MAY**

**15<sup>th</sup>** Doris Miriam Simmonds (Ashes)

## **TRIP TO SOUTHILL PARK**



Charles Whitbread, Patron of Elstow Abbey, has kindly invited a group of 40 people from Elstow Abbey, to visit his home, Southhill Park, on Tuesday 8 June 2010. Charles will personally show the group round Southhill Park, telling them about its history, and tea is provided afterwards. The group will meet at Elstow Abbey at 2pm and travel to Southhill Park

in private cars. All proceeds from the cost of the trip will go towards refurbishing and maintaining Elstow Abbey.

Southhill Park has been the home of the Whitbread family for over 200 years. The Friends of Elstow Abbey were very privileged to receive this personal invitation, as Southhill Park is only opened for two weeks a year to a small number of local groups and charities.



## **BRING ON THE BBQ!**

It's this time of year when everyone likes to wheel out the BBQ, get the charcoal smoking nicely and grill up an outdoor feast, but if you're planning a BBQ this summer, here are some safety tips to bear in mind - and a recipe to get you started!

### **BBQ SAFETY:**

Make sure your barbecue is in good working order. Ensure the barbecue is on a flat site, well away from a shed, trees or shrubs.

Keep children, garden games and pets well away from the cooking area.

Never leave the barbecue unattended.

Keep a bucket of water or sand nearby for emergencies.

Ensure the barbecue is cool before attempting to move it.

### **Charcoal Barbecues**

Use only enough charcoal to cover the base to a depth of about 50mm (2 inches).

Only use recognised fire lighters or starter fuel and only on cold coals - use the minimum necessary and never use petrol.

Never put hot ashes straight into a dustbin or wheelie bin - they could melt the plastic and cause a fire.

### **Gas Barbecues**

Make sure the tap is turned off before changing the gas cylinder.

Change cylinders outdoors if possible or in a well ventilated area.

If you suspect a leak to the cylinder or pipe work, brush soapy water around the joints and watch for bubbles - tighten to fix but do not overtighten.

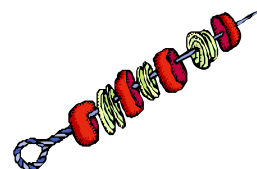
After cooking, turn off the gas cylinder before turning off at the controls to ensure any residual gas in the pipe work is used up.

### **BBQ RECIPE:**

4 wooden skewers

4 skinless, boneless chicken breasts, cut into 2.5cm cubes

Oil, for brushing



250ml coconut milk

1 mild red chilli, deseeded and sliced

Grated zest and juice of 1 lime

3cm piece root ginger, grated

Place 12 wooden skewers in cold water and leave them to soak for 30 minutes. Stir together the ingredients for the marinade and tip into a shallow dish. Add the chicken cubes, mix well, cover and chill for 25 minutes. Remove the chicken and discard the marinade. Remove the skewers from the water and pat dry. Divide into twelve piles and thread the cubes onto the skewers. Brush with oil and barbecue over direct medium heat for 8 to 10 minutes, or until the chicken is cooked through, turning once.

### SUMMER JOKES



- A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken.
- What did the pig say on the hot beach?  
I'm bacon

- What's the best day to go to the beach?

SUNday!

- What did the bee say to another bee one summer's day?

Swarm here!

- A man walks into a bar, sits down, and orders a drink.' Hey, nice tie!' comes out of nowhere. He looks up at the barman to see if he had said anything, but since he was on the other side of the bar the man just ignores it.

'Hey! Nice shirt!' The man looks up but, again, the barman is engaged elsewhere.' Hey! Nice suit!' The man then calls the barman over and asks him why he keeps talking to him.

'It's not me, it's the complimentary peanuts', said the barman.

- Moses, Jesus, and an old man are golfing. Moses steps up to the tee and hits the ball. It goes sailing over the fairway and lands in the water. Moses parts the water and chips the ball onto the green. Jesus steps to the tee and hits the ball. It goes sailing over the fairway and lands in the water. Jesus walks on the water and chips the ball onto the green. The old man steps up to the tee and hits the ball. It goes sailing over the fairway and heads for the water, a fish jumps up and grabs the ball in its mouth. As the fish is falling back down into the water, an eagle swoops down and grabs the fish in its claws. The eagle flies off over the green, where a lightning bolt shoots from the sky and barely misses it. Startled, the eagle drops the fish. When the fish hits the ground, the ball pops out of its mouth and rolls into the hole for a hole-in-one.

Jesus then turns to the old man and says "Dad, if you don't stop messing around, we won't bring you next time."