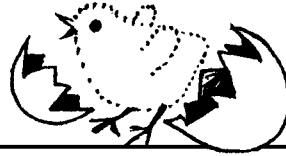


ELSTOW PARISH MAGAZINE

March



2005



Dear Parishioners ...

'They think it is all over': Words immortalised by the sports commentator Kenneth Wolstenholme who died in 2002. Commentating on the 1966 World Cup, Kenneth's voice rang out over the BBC airwaves as he shouted, 'They're on the pitch! They think it's all over ... It is now!' as Geoff Hurst went on to take the fourth and final goal and lead England into a 4-2 victory over West Germany. An extraordinary piece of commentating. The disciples thought it was all over too. I would like you to look at a cross whether a piece of jewellery or in a church and, as you look at it, wonder whether Jesus knew there would be a glorious resurrection when he hung there nailed to the cross or did he think that this was the end. Through all the pain and sadness and suffering, did he know things would be all right in the end? Was there a hint of resurrection to come. Or was the agony of it all made even worse by the conviction that this was the end, that even God had deserted him: 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'

It seems to me that human beings can never be absolutely sure that things will come right in the end. We may believe they are going to be alright, we may have faith in the future, but there's always that nagging doubt. The only real indication for me that the resurrection ever happened, that Jesus continues to live in some different dimension today, is to look at the apostles reaction from being scared in an upper room, to going out and pronouncing it all around the world. St Paul changed from persecutor to someone so committed that he died for his faith and there have been cases in each and every century since. It was and is their personal experience that takes the doubt away, that assures us that things will be all right in the end.

There is a traditional folklore of three trees growing together on a mountaintop. As they grow tall and strong, they each dream of being something wonderful when they grow up. The first wants to hold treasure and be the most beautiful treasure chest in the world; the second wants to be the strongest ship; the third wants to be the tallest tree and to point people to God. When they were each cut down and made into a simple feed box for animals, a humble fishing boat and left as forgotten beams in a lumberyard, the trees all wondered what had gone wrong with their dreams. But when they became the manger in the stable of Jesus' birth, the boat that carried Jesus when he stilled the storm, and the beams of the cross on which Jesus was crucified, they began to recognise what they hadn't understood before. Jesus presence changes everything.

Deep within every human being is the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Jesus and anyone who wants to experience Jesus can do so by tapping into the God within. There are many different ways of tapping into God within,

but they all require time, commitment and patience. It isn't easy, and it can be scary, for God is much vaster than we can ever imagine. But with time, commitment, patience and all that struggling we are rewarded. The reward is experiencing personal resurrection, discovering the deep inner peace, and the new vibrant life. Life in Christ is life lived and enjoyed and experienced to its utmost, so that life seems so much brighter and alive in a different kind of way.

Personal resurrection doesn't mean that nothing bad or painful ever happens, but it does mean that when anything bad happens, you can handle it, for Jesus is present in Spirit ready to guide you through the darkness.

There is plenty of resurrection in this life. Christians, if they hang on, maintaining their own integrity when bad things happen to them, will experience resurrection in this life. Their lives will blossom again, and they will again know happiness. But, there's more than all of that. There's this very special promise that after physical death the real person, the real 'me' will go on to a new kind of life after death. And for those who have learned to love in this life, that will be a life spent in the presence of God, living and loving with him. No wonder we fill this Church with beautiful flowers at Easter. What a terrific message of hope and joy Easter brings us. And I would like each one of us to symbolise this hope and joy as we look at the bare cross and as we journey beyond it.

With best wishes

Jeremy

The Politically Correct Bible

A recent Sun article reports: "Coming soon: The politically correct Bible

Nothing is sacred these days, including The Bible, it seems. The Gospels are getting a PC makeover to try to make them more appealing to youngsters who would rather read The D Vinci Code. The New International Version of the Bible is being tweaked to make it more 'gender-neutral' and 'plain spoken' than previous years. Here with tongue planted firmly tongue in cheek, we imagine what might happen if the British PC Brigade got hold of our most beloved book:

Parting of the Red Sea (Exodus 14)

Moses held out his hand and turned the sea into dry land. The fall out was disastrous. The EU Commission of Fisheries went ballistic and immediately hit him with the following Commandment: Thou shalt cough up a £50,000 fine.

The Birth of Jesus (Matthew 1:18)

Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem. Mary refused drugs and enjoyed an alternative labour in a birthing pool in a stable. Three wise ethnic social workers from non-denominational communities attended bringing gifts of Tofu, Joss sticks and muesli.

The Last Supper (Matthew 26:17)

And Jesus invited his support group round for a simple meal of lentils and mung beans. But Judas who had previously been given an ASBO was told to leave after displaying signs of challenging behaviour."

JRC

A Journey into Faith

A Journey into Faith is a study course over 10 sessions with a variety of speakers and discussions. Each session starts at 7.30pm with refreshments and finishes around 9.15pm, at Elstow Church Hall.

It is a course for those without faith or searching and for those who have faith and want to grow further.

Wed 20th April	Believing in God (This session includes sharing a meal together)
Wed 27th April	Beginning and Growing in the Scriptures (a) The Life of Jesus
Wed 4th May	Beginning and Growing in the Scriptures (b) Understanding the Bible - Old and New Testaments
Wed 11th May	Beginning and Growing in the Scriptures (c) Stories from the Old Testament
Wed 18th May	Being the Church - Faith in Practice (a) The Outward Church - Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals
Wed 25th May	Being the Church - Faith in Practice (b) The Inward Church - Becoming and Being a Christian
Mon 6th June	Knowing the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (This session includes sharing a meal together)
Mon 13th June	Sin, Death, Judgement and Eternal Life
Mon 27th June	Learning to Pray
Mon 4th July	Images of the Resurrection (Lecture by Bishop of St Albans)

Please indicate your interest in this course by completing and returning the tear-off slip below to Rev Jeremy Crocker, The Abbey Rectory, Church End, Elstow, Bedford. MK42 9XT





I am interested in attending the course "A Journey into Faith"

Name :

Address :

Contact telephone number :

Holy Week and Easter Services

Palm Sunday

20th March

- 9.30am Holy Communion & Blessing of Palms. Including a dramatic reading
(First half of the service is on Elstow Green)
11.00am Mattins
6.30pm Songs of Praise Service

Monday of Holy Week 21st March

- 7.40pm Holy Communion and Homily

Tuesday of Holy Week 22nd March

- 7.30pm Joint Service at Elstow Abbey for Elstow and Cardington.
With Rev Canon Nigel Morrell leading the Devotional Time

Wednesday of Holy Week 23rd March

- 7.30pm Joint Service at St Mary's Cardington for Elstow and Cardington.
A Holy Communion and Homily Service

Maundy Thursday 24th March

- 7.30pm Holy Communion service for the Last Supper.
Following the service will be a number of readings starting at around 8.45pm and concluding at approximately 9.30pm

Good Friday

25th March

- 9.30am Children's Service followed by a walk
11.00am Devotional Service
12noon Frugal Lunch in Elstow Church Hall

Holy Saturday

26th March

- 3.00pm Baptism of Lauren Murray
7.00pm Service for the First Light of Easter

Easter Day Sunday

27th March

- 10.30am Holy Communion Service for all, with Guest Celebrant and Preacher the Bishop of Bedford,
the Right Rev'd Richard Inwood.

After the service, the young people are invited to an Easter Egg Hunt in the Rectory Garden. Parents and other congregation are all invited to come and watch with a cuppa in the warm!

- 6.30pm Evensong with Holy Communion and Laying on of Hands for Healing

Easter Monday

28th March

- 9.00am Pilgrimage to St Albans Cathedral.
Coach leaves 9am. See notices in Church for further details.



Easter Lilies

Lent lasts for six weeks and all through that period we have no flowers in our church. This is a good time for me (in a way) as I have a rest from flower arranging! But, this also makes Easter extra special when the church is filled with pure white lilies - all in memory of our loved ones. What better tribute on this celebration our Lord's resurrection?

So, once again, I invite you buy a lily "In Memory ..."

Please write the name of the person to be remembered on an envelope. Place the money, to cover the cost of the lily, inside the envelope and leave it at the back of the church (no later than Sunday, March 20th, please). Each lily costs £1.50. All names will be listed at the back of the church.

If you are unable to come to Elstow Abbey to leave your envelope, please ring me on 01234-218762, and I will arrange for it to be collected.

Margaret Baron.



Churchyard Work Party

Saturday, March 19th - from 9.00am

Could you spare an hour or two on Saturday, March 19th? Margaret and I would appreciate as much help as possible to get the churchyard tidy for the start of the growing season. We have been clearing the weeds from the tops of many of the old graves – but there are still lots more to do. It would be good to plant them with ground-cover plants to keep them weed free. So, if anyone has any cuttings to spare from their gardens, please bring them along – together with any gardening tools you might need to use.

Ploughman's lunch will be provided – and, yes, coffee too!

Many thanks!

Tony & Margaret Baron.

Christian Aid News

Bedford and District Christian Aid Committee are looking for a new Treasurer. The work is mainly book-keeping rather than handling cash.

There is always a need for more house-to-house collection volunteers. The next collection in Elstow will be made during Christian Aid Week - (May 15th – 21st 2005)

For more information on either of these notices, please contact me on the following number: 01234-741112

Thanks!

Sheila Batuik

Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Historic Churches Trust Cycle Ride

The event in September 2004 resulted in a generous contribution of £230. I am also pleased to report that the tax rebate resulting from gift-aided sponsorship will boost the contribution by a further £30 or so. Half of the total amount will be donated to Elstow Abbey. I'd like to say many thanks to all those who participated and supported the event. Also thanks to those who so generously sponsored them. Once again, we were blessed with fine weather that made the day very enjoyable for those who did the cycling and walking.

Chris Knell visited 21 churches cycling from Elstow through Cardington to Sandy & Biggleswade and finishing at Northill. Sheila Batiuk did it on foot, starting at St Michael's and walking to 10 churches in Bedford. Laurinda Luffman and I drove out to Pertenhall, then cycled a circular route, also visiting 10 churches along the north-eastern borders of the county including Swineshead, Upper Dean, Shelton, Melchbourne, Yielden, Newton Bromswold, Knotting (once famous for cock fights held in the knave) and Riseley before making it back to Pertenhall just as the rain set in.

At Elstow a total of 19 visitors were received during the day, the numbers being considerably boosted by the St Andrew's Bedford bellringers, who cycled to and rang at ten churches in and around Bedford, including Elstow and Cardington, finishing at St Paul's Bedford. Grateful thanks to Barbara Routledge, Miriam Clark, Rita Haines, Stella Brown, Ann Knight, and Kathleen Riley who between them spent over eight hours welcoming cyclists and walkers to Elstow and providing refreshments. They were also sponsored for their efforts, helping to boost our total still further.

The sponsored cycle ride is an annual event that takes place on the second Saturday in September. It is organised nationally by the Historic Churches Preservation Trust and is run simultaneously in almost every diocese. I have been told by the organisers of the event that the total amount raised by Elstow since the event started currently stands at a little over £1,900 - a splendid achievement.

Whether you are a cyclist, walker, or can welcome visitors to the church, please make a note in your diaries and consider joining in this year. This is a fun day out, particularly if the weather is kind, and new participants are always welcome - it's all in a good cause.

Stephen Stanford (Steve.Stanford@EmersonProcess.co.uk)

Tunes of Glory

This is a further short account of some hymns and their tunes we will be singing in services at Elstow Abbey. This month we will be singing No. 243 *At even, when the sun was set* by Henry Twells, to the tune *Angelus*, founded on a melody by G Joseph. When Canon Henry Twells (1823-1900) composed this hymn in 1868 he was Headmaster of the Godolphin School, Hammersmith, and he has told how it came to be written. Sir Henry Baker had asked him to provide a new evening hymn for the Supplement to A&M. Henry wrote, "Being headmaster of a large grammar school. I wrote it one afternoon while the boys were taking exams and I was supposed to be seeing that "all was fair". I am afraid I could not have been very energetic in my duties that day, but I little anticipated the popularity the hymn would attain".

Clearly, Twells had in mind the scene of Jesus' ministry depicted in Luke 4,40, which from our Bible reads, "When the sun was setting, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them". Twells wrote that this happened "*ere* the sun was set", but most hymnals, including ours, changes this to "*when*", being closer to scripture. The hymn

mentions different peoples in need of Christ's healing touch, the sick, the sad, the worldly, the restless, the conscience-stricken. Particularly poignant are the verses 3, 4 & 5, and the last verse, "And in thy mercy heal us all".

The tune *Angelus*, is founded on a melody by G Joseph in 1657. Most tune books contain tunes which have been arranged or adapted from other sources; and many of these are amongst the most popular. These are arrangements usually to suit certain metres, for use as a hymn tune, etc. Thus most of the German chorales used in England are adapted to suit English wording, and many old English psalm-tunes have been adapted similarly. So the melody in "Angelus" is considerably altered from the original by G Joseph, who was a German court musician. He composed a number of tunes for the hymns of Johann Scheffler, who adopted the name of "Angelus Silesius" hence the name of this tune. The combination of this tune with Twells' hymn provides a powerfully thoughtful and evocative setting of Jesus' ministry as depicted in the passage from Luke.

John Crookall

Dorothy Thompson

I want to thank all the good people of Elstow Church family who contributed to make my dearest wife's funeral a truly wonderful service of thanksgiving.

My own prayers, and the prayers of many friends, were fully granted in that Dorothy had a wonderful end to her time on earth.

She went to sleep in my arms at an appropriate time of night with a "night-night, God bless" kiss: This after more than 64 years of happy marriage.

During her period of illness she enjoyed many visits, cards and an abundance of flowers. Every one was appreciated in her own quiet way. Nurses, her G.P., carers all treated her gently. Communion in her own home was gratefully received. Then, at the last, a Church full of dear friends to celebrate her good life and, I am certain, mark a lovely reunion on the other side.

Thank you. God bless you all.

Norman Thompson.

Missionary Giving at Elstow Abbey

Each year we try and give one tenth of our income as missionary giving. The actual amount given varies according to our level of income over the year but as soon as John Hinson (the Treasurer) has added the income and expenditure for the year we are able to decide on the amount we can afford for missionary giving.

A sub-committee of four gathers information from local charities and make the very difficult decision of allocating monies to deserving causes.

We divide the overall allowance into three, Intermediate Technology and Christian Aid benefit as our outreach to the third world and for 2004 we supported the following local charities:- Family Link, Beechar, Multiple Sclerosis, Victim Support and Yarls Wood.

On going throughout the year we support, Farm Africa, Christian Aid and the Children's Society through the activities of Harvest, Christian Aid Week and the Children's Society Collecting Boxes and the Christingle Service held each December.

This year we hope to support other charities by your generous weekly giving and if you know of any local charities and you would like to nominate then please contact Rosemary Albon either at church or on Bedford 407084 or any Missionary Team member. Members of the missionary team are: Anne Morris, Clare Lammin, Barbara Routledge and Rosemary Albon.

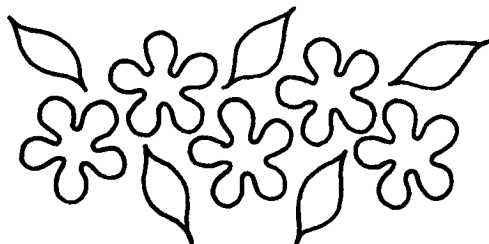
Elstow Abbey Social Events – 2005

Saturday 12th March 7.30pm	Beetle Drive with Bring and Share Supper in the Church Hall
Saturday 19th March from 9.30am	Churchyard work party with Ploughman's lunch for helpers
Friday 25th March 12.15pm	Frugal lunch – Soup and Hot Cross Buns
Saturday June 18th (t.b.c.)	Barbecue in Tony and Margaret Baron's garden
Saturday July 16th 12.00 noon	Summer fete
Saturday September 10th (t.b.c.)	Late summer evening soiree in the Rectory Garden
Monday September 26th 7.30pm	Bring and Share Harvest Supper and Barn Dance
Saturday November 5th 7.00pm	Fireworks with Soup and Hot Dogs
To be arranged:	Christmas Bazaar

Card Stall

The card stall by the Vestry door has been re-stocked for the coming visitor season. Please remember our card stall when you need cards for special events as all the profits go towards church expenses and most important of all the cards are much cheaper than those in the shops! Easter cards are available again this year and these are now in church. Easter Day this year is on Sunday March 27th. (Summer Time begins on the same day)

Colin and Rosemary Albon



News from Elstow Parish Council

The Parish Council has recently set its precept for 2005/6 at £10,000, which keeps it as one of the lowest per person in the Borough. Amongst other things, the money will be used for new notice boards in the Abbeyfields Health Centre and the Playing Field Hall so that more people know what is happening in the village and for grants to the Playing Field Association. Money is also available to other community groups, who benefit the residents of the village, so if any group wishes to apply for a grant, please contact the Clerk on 376256 or one of the councillors.

A planning appeal was received earlier this month against the Borough Council's refusal last August to allow the construction of flats and shops next to the health centre in Abbeyfields. The Parish Council objected to the plan at the time because of the incompatibility of flats with surrounding houses and the rural nature of the village and we have reiterated our objection to the appeal inspector. The outcome should be known in March.

We have also commented on the Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub-regional Strategy, highlighting the problems that 10,000 new houses in the area will pose.

The East of England Regional Assembly has recently published its draft East of England Plan and the planning committee will be discussing this at its meeting on 23rd February at 7.30 pm in the Playing Field Hall.

Ann Paice, Clerk to the Parish Council

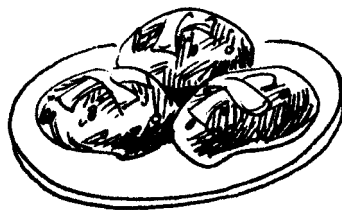
FOOD FOR THOUGHT

A fishy recipe, suitable for Lent. I was originally told this recipe uses scallops, but it works just as well with cheaper fish – cod, coley or haddock.

Fish and carrots (for 2)

Cook whatever fish you have chosen – about 400g – in a mixture of wine and water (or just water for economy) with a shallot or small onion, a clove of garlic, and some herbs. Hard boil 2 eggs. Melt 60g butter, add 250g grated carrots, or more if you are feeding hungry people, and cook very gently with a lid on the pan, stirring occasionally, until the carrots are soft. Mix in a tbsp flour, then the water from cooking the fish, and cook until the sauce thickens. Mix in 100ml cream (though milk will do), the fish and the chopped eggs. Turn into a dish, sprinkle with grated cheese, and brown under the grill.

TJE



BOOK REVIEW

“Bobby Fischer Goes to War” by David Edmonds & John Eidinow (Faber & Faber £9.99 - 2004)

It may seem odd to be reviewing a book about a world chess championship which took place in Iceland 33 years ago, but I do so for various reasons.

The main one, of course, is that Edmonds and Eidinow, journalists both, have written a most readable book. Next, Fischer has been in the news again for even stranger behaviour than he evinced in, and in the run-up to, Reykjavik: he has never been forgotten by the Press, whereas his opponent (¿victim?) Boris Spassky has kept a much lower profile, although in fact remaining very active. Thirdly, the match, taking place in the Nixon-Vietnam-Watergate era, was considered by many as a political confrontation of huge significance in the Cold War.

For some reason which I have never fully fathomed, chess catches the public imagination. Karpov-Kasparov / Kasparov-Short? All have had their immense television and press coverage more recently. Whole “popular” books have been devoted to them (Harry Golombek’s meticulous analysis of the latter match, for instance, is a classic). I picked up this book in the expectation of poring over analyses of positions and moves for each of the 21 games.

Not a bit of it! The book is a narrative of the events leading up to and during the match and an assessment of the many protagonists involved. In 1972, when the match took place, Kremlin paranoia was at its height, just as Washington “alertness”, shall we say, peaked under the guidance of Henry Kissinger. Edmonds and Eidinow have managed to tell us a vibrant tale which knits together the political and sporting threads in a seamless narrative flow.

We are reminded of the realities of the Khrushchev / KGB / post-Stalin era which led to the creation of such famous films as “From Russia with Love” and the myths which grew out of the Burgess and McLean fiasco.

We learn about the backgrounds of the two protagonists, their childhoods their problems, their resulting neuroses and their paths to Iceland. We are given a convincing insight into what makes these two so-very-disparate men tick. We may incline, as westerners, to applaud the ultimate victory of Fischer, but we recoil from the tantrums which encompassed it. His anarchic behaviour was outrageous by any standards, his demands increasingly unacceptable; but they were accepted by Spassky as well as by the Icelandic Chess Federation who had so naïvely bid to host the contest. Little did the Icelanders know the extent of the trouble that was in store for them; and as to how they survived, well you can read about that in this fascinating book. To reduce things to the absolute minimum, Fischer was no gentleman whereas Spassky was. What a conflict! The fact that the trouble-maker won may have been good for chess in those Soviet-dominated years, but it did little for my blood pressure at the time – or now.

After it was all over, Spassky, having weathered the inevitable Soviet back-lash, continued to play at the very top level (you may remember his match against the Soviet dissident and exile Victor Korchnoi – Spassky lost) and is still a most highly regarded member of the international chess hierarchy. But do not be misled, he is a highly individualistic personality.

Fischer, however, virtually disappeared, surrendering the world championship to Karpov without defending it, popping up occasionally (mostly on the internet) and advocating what he called “random” chess (you shuffle the pieces on the back rows just before starting the game – a fiendish variant). He did, though, meet Spassky once more across the chess board (and won) and succeeding in so blotting his copybook by holding the match, in 1992, in war-torn Yugoslavia that the US State Department issued an arrest warrant against him, as yet, I believe, unserved.

Bookworm

A Second Home

France is today most closely and very publicly examining its conscience as a result of its being the 60th anniversary of the liberating by the Russians of Auschwitz on 27 January 1945.

This makes for a curious anniversary, combining as it does accesses, if not excesses, of remorse with political propriety. President Chirac, as an arch hypocrite, has much to answer for after the many years of silence he has imposed.

Several countries in Europe have tried to pretend that the Holocaust did not really happen. I heard on the radio (we do not have a television set here) that an incredible proportion of people, both in England and in other countries, have never even heard of concentration camps such as Buchenwald, extermination camps such as Chelmno or, even more sinister, camps which catered for both insanities such as Auschwitz-Birkenau. Moreover, to many people, the Second World War itself is an untaught and closed book.

France knowingly sent some 76,000 Jews towards their deaths at the hands of the Nazis, of whom only some 2,600 survived. Just think: 76,000 people? Worse, in 2005, as in previous years, we hear of the current and widespread desecrations of Jewish monuments and graves at the hands of mindless (or untaught?) hooligans. So I pause for a moment to reflect.

France (like other western European countries) has an appalling track record of anti-semitism – if not one which is even worse than elsewhere. Especially with their North African immigrants. You may have heard of the bloody anti-Jewish pogroms in Algeria and Morocco in the 1950s?

Do you remember a famous miscarriage of justice known as the “Dreyfus case”? It was so glaring and so racist an error that it achieved horrified attention even outside France.

In case you have forgotten, let me refresh your memory. Captain Alfred Dreyfus (1859-1935) was the Jewish army officer who, to appease a bigoted army hierarchy, was falsely (and very obviously falsely) accused of treason – of spying for Germany. This, in 1894, was not all that long after the first of the modern German occupations of France in 1870. He was condemned to hard labour for life in one of France’s most unpleasant and unhealthy South American prisons outside Cayenne in French Guyana, stripped of his citizenship and publicly disgraced by having his sword broken and his insignia of rank (and bravery) torn from his uniform. By 1899, the outcry against this palpable injustice achieved his release and then, in 1906, his rehabilitation. For what that was worth. He was, physically, but, to his credit, not mentally, a broken man. I suppose that some small consolation lay in the downfall of those of the biased and vindictive hierarchy who had machinated against him. Cayenne, following a very brave investigation by an investigative journalist (Albert Londres) was closed in the early 1920s.

Thus it was perhaps not so surprising, intellectually, that so many French Jewish Nationals were deported from Vichy France to the Third Reich in the early 1940s and to the vicious and mostly fatal degradations that were inflicted on them; and this after a softening up period in various equally sinister French prisons. There were already dozens of internment camps within the frontiers of France (talk to people who took part in the Spanish Civil War from 1936 to 1939....). Further, it is to the eternal shame of France that the French milice (the locally recruited French police) widely aided and abetted the Gestapo in this sadistic initiative.

One very reluctant attendee at the ceremonies today at Auschwitz was Cardinal Lustiger, the Archbishop of Paris and the Pope’s representative – and a Jew by birth. His mother was killed there, and his father’s entire family was liquidated in the “final solution”. His chilling comment was: “In Auschwitz, it was a matter of killing the messengers so as to suppress the message.” We must never forget the dreadful depths to which so-called civilised Man can sink. TJE – 27 January 2005

CALENDAR FOR MARCH 2005

Wednesday 2 nd	7.30pm	Lent Course. Elstow Abbey Church Hall
Thursday 3 rd	11.00am 8.00pm	Holy Communion Lent Course at St. Mary's Wootton
Sunday 6th		Lent 4 (Mothering Sunday)
	9.30am	Family Communion with Children's Groups and Baptism of Sam and Daniel Bates.
		<i>(There will be posies of flowers for all children to give to their mothers.)</i>
	11.00am	Mattins (Mattins Group)
	6.30pm	Evensong
Monday 7 th	2.00pm 7.00pm	Full Ministerial Team Meeting at the Rectory Prayer Group meet in the Summerhouse
Tuesday 8 th	8.00pm	Finance and Standing Committee meet in the Summerhouse
Thursday 10 th	11.00am 7.30pm 8.00pm	Holy Communion Lent Course. St. Michael's Church, Bedford Lent Course at St Mary's Wootton
Saturday 12 th	7.30pm	Beetle Drive with bring & share supper - Elstow Church Hall
Sunday 13th		Lent 5 (Passion Sunday)
	11.00am	Parish Communion. Preacher the Rev'd Brenda Tipping, Diocesan Chaplain among Deaf People with the Baptism of Ashlene Robinson.
	3.00pm	Baptism of Leah Stokes
	6.30pm	Evensong
Monday 14 th	7.00pm 7.00pm	Prayer Group meet in the Summerhouse Choir Dinner at the Red Lion Pub
DEADLINE FOR MATERIAL FOR APRIL MAGAZINE		
Tuesday 15 th	8.00pm	SBCC Prayer Meeting, Rutland Road.
Thursday 17 th	11.00am 7.00pm	Holy Communion Meeting of Team Churchwardens
Friday 18 th	7.30pm	Lent Course. Elstow Bunyan Christian Fellowship
Saturday 19 th	9.30pm 2.30pm	Churchyard Workparty Baptism of Konna Lee Spencer
Sunday 20th		Palm Sunday
	9.30am	Family Communion with the Dramatic Reading of the Passion Narrative (the first part on the green)
	11.00am	Mattins: Canon Philip McDonough (to lead and preach)
	6.30pm	Songs of Praise
Monday 21 st	7.00pm 7.40pm	Prayer Group meet in the Summerhouse Holy Communion with homily

Tuesday 22nd 7.30pm Devotions led by Canon Nigel Morrell

Wednesday 23rd 7.30pm Holy Communion with homily at Cardington

Thursday 24th Maundy Thursday

11.00am Holy Communion

7.30pm Holy Communion followed by the stripping of the altars. Following this service there will be readings and meditations until 9.30pm

Friday 25th Good Friday

9.30am Young People's Service followed by a walk

11.00am One Hour Devotional Service

12.15pm Frugal Lunch in the Church Hall

Saturday 26th Easter Eve

Morning: Church Decorating

3.00pm Baptism of Lauren and Jack Murray

7.00pm Service of Light

Sunday 27th Easter Day

10.30am Family Communion with Music Group with Bishop Richard

6.30pm Evensong with Holy Communion and the laying on of hands

Monday 28th

Easter Pilgrimage to St. Albans.

A coach will leave Elstow at 9.00am for Hatfield and St. Albans. Please add your name to the list in church.

Thursday 31st 11.00am Holy Communion
7.30pm Meeting of Parishioners: Election of Churchwardens
7.40pm Annual Parochial Church Meeting in the Church Hall

April

Sunday 3rd

9.30am Family Communion with Children's Groups (Peter Littleford)

11.00am Mattins (Mattins Group)

6.30pm Evensong. (Robert Heley)

Monday 4th 7.00pm Prayer Group meet in the Summerhouse

37 Point Lenten Quiz (answers)

- (1) Match the colours to the seasons. Purple, Green, White or Red?

Lent	Purple
Lady Day	White
Ascension Day	White
Ash Wednesday	Purple
Christmas Day	White
Trinity Sunday	Green
All Saints Day	Red
Feats of Epiphany	White
Trinity XX	Green
Palm Sunday	Red
Remembrance Sunday	Red or Green

- (2) Put in order from the beginning of the year...

Maundy Thursday	7	Passion Sunday	6
Low Sunday	12	Mothering Sunday	5
Sexagesima	2	Ash Wednesday	4
Easter Day	10	Septuagesima	1
Quinquagesima	3	Holy Saturday	9
Easter Saturday	11	Good Friday	8

- (3) On What Sunday do we have Simnel Cake? **Mothering Sunday**
(4) How many days of Easter are there before Ascension Day? **40 Days**
(5) Does Holy Week include Palm Sunday? **Yes**
(6) Where does the Ash Wednesday ash come from? **Palm Crosses**
(7) Which Sunday is called 'Refreshment Sunday'? **Mothering Sunday**
(8) What do you put in a precina? **Holy Water**
(9) What does Jesus 'do' on Holy Saturday? **Goes to Hades / or rests**
(10) What are the 7 Penitential Psalms? **6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130 & 143**

