

# ***ELSTOW PARISH MAGAZINE***



Dear Parishioners...

## **ELSTOW ABBEY IS CLOSED!?**

On 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2005, at 3.15 p.m. the Friends of Elstow Abbey are holding their Annual General Meeting. There will be a talk on Elstow and John Bunyan, which I shall give, followed by afternoon tea, and then the Friends' Annual Service of Choral Evensong at 5.15 p.m. where the Revd Wyn Beynon, Rural Dean of Biggleswade will preach. I hope you will support this meeting and put the date into your diary.

This event caused me to consider the question, "*Is Elstow Abbey OPEN or CLOSED?*"

Apart from services, the Abbey Church is usually kept locked. One may visit it by calling for the key at the Vicarage or at the caretaker's door, but very few people do. I think it is a great shame that more do not see the beauty of this wonderful place, whether they are Christian or not, and have the chance to absorb some of its fascinating history.

Elstow Abbey has a history covering nearly a 1,000 years and was a Benedictine nunnery in its earlier days. The Abbey was extensive, having been founded and richly funded as a nunnery in 1078 by Judith of Huntingdon, daughter of one of William the Conqueror's half-sisters, Adelaide. It was dedicated to St Helena, the mother of the Emperor Constantine who so famously made Christianity legal in the Roman Empire. In 1539, Henry VIII dissolved the Abbey and, after large parts of it had been pulled down, the remaining nave became the Abbey Church of St Mary and St Helena. The sheer size of the Church gives a fair clue as to the size of the original Abbey and supports the fact that it was one of the principal Benedictine foundations in England. Further, there were discussions, at the time of the Dissolution, which suggested that the Abbey should become a Cathedral Church for Bedfordshire. I wonder what would have been the outcome for us in 2005 if this idea had not been rejected.....

John Bunyan, the parish's most famous son, was baptised there on 13 November 1628, in the so-called "perpendicular" font which is still in use today, as indeed two of his children were to be. He is believed to have enjoyed ringing the bells in the *campanile* (or separate bell tower - a feature of the Abbey), and there are rope marks which may possibly have been made by him. Two stained glassed windows, one each in the North and South Chapels at the East End of the Church, are in his memory. The window in the North Chapel depicts "The Holy War" and the one in the South Chapel depicts "The Pilgrim's Progress".

At a recent Parochial Church Council Meeting we discussed our vision for the next five years. One of the ideas was to make the Abbey an essential stop on the Bedford tourist trail. A recent Mid-Beds Tourist Survey concluded that Churches are still the most popular places to visit. When questioned, 'What do you want?', those surveyed said 'a quiet holy place, and somewhere to say a prayer and light a candle'. To this end I have written to the Local and County Councils with a request to add Elstow Abbey to the local brown information signage, and they have agreed.

The next step, I believe, is for us to work out how often we can open the Abbey during the tourist season. For this I will need volunteers. I would like to hear from as many readers as possible who feel they can support this opportunity, and from those who can offer a little of their time. Lets make “**The Abbey is Open**” our new slogan.

With best wishes,

Jeremy



## 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.

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

If you would like to come to any of these meetings, please call in at the Rectory or just give me a ring on **01234 261477**.

Jeremy.

# *A THANK-YOU*

An evening to say thank you for Miriam's 24 years as Churchwarden.  
Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup> 2005 in the Church Hall and/or Margaret's garden.

Buffet with refreshments from 7.30 p.m.

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Please contact Jeremy Crocker or John Hinson for further details.

## Annual Meeting of the Elstow Abbey Parochial Church Council

The Annual Meeting of the Elstow Abbey Parochial Church Council was held on March 31<sup>st</sup> 2005.

### Results of Elections:

The following were elected as churchwardens:

- Mr. Colin Albon, 22, Polhill Avenue, Bedford MK41 9ED
- Mrs Barbara Routledge, 91, Chantry Avenue, Kempston, Bedford

The following were elected as representatives of the laity in the Deanery Synod:

- Mrs. Ann Knight, Hillwick, 18, Wood End Road, Kempston Rural, Bedford MK43 9BB
- Mrs. Sheila Batiuk, 19, Greycote, Shortstown, Bedford MK42 0XD

The following were elected as sidesmen:

Mr. John Finch, Mr. Eric Crossen, Mrs. Mavis Crossen, Mr. Peter Moss, Mr. Norman Thompson, Mrs. Vivian Whyatt-Routh, Mr. Charles Simmonds, Mrs. Lavender Poole, Mr. Chris Knell, Mrs. Maragret Eastwell, Mrs. Janet Barnicott, Mrs. Rosemary Albon, Mrs. Catherine Parrish, Mrs. Rita Haines, Mrs. Ann Knight, Mrs. Lizabeth Burrows, Mrs. Lynn Mallett, Mr. Peter Batiuk.

The members of the Elstow Abbey Parochial Church Council for 2005-06 are as follows:

Mr. Colin Albon (churchwarden), Mrs. Rosemary Albon, Mrs. Glynis Annan, Mrs. Margaret Baron, Mrs. Sheila Batiuk (Deanery Synod representative), Mrs. Lizabeth Burrows, Mrs. Mirriam Clark (deputy churchwarden), The Revd Jeremy Crocker (Rector and chairman), Mr. Eric Crossen, Mr. John Finch, Mr. Douglas Gautrey (lay reader), Mr. John Hinson (hon. treasurer), Mrs. Tracy Hinson (deputy churchwarden), Mrs. Ann Knight (Deanery Synod representative), Mrs. Clare Lammin, Mrs. Lynn Mallett, Mrs. Ann Morris, Mrs. Catherine Parrish (hon. secretary), Mrs. Barbara Routledge (churchwarden).

### Report (2004) to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (extract):

*“The Elstow Abbey PCC has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent in promoting the ecclesiastical parish and the whole mission of the Church - pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules*

The PCC operates through a number of committees that meet, when required, between full meetings of the PCC.

- Finance and Standing Committee – required by law and transacts the business of the PCC.
- Liturgy Committee – plans patterns of worship at Easter and Christmas and advises on forms of worship
- Social Committee – organises fund-raising and social events for the PCC including hospitality for visiting groups.

The accounts for 2003-2004 (verified by an independent examiner) were presented to the APCM on March 31<sup>st</sup> 2005. During 2004, the PCC held eight meetings and discussed, among many other items, the appointment of a Team Rector, external repairs to the Abbey, repairs to the Rectory, health and safety, child protection, disability access, giving to missions and charities, the appointment of Dr. Jeffrey John as Dean of St. Albans, the development of Elstow parish and parish life over the coming years. Future plans include working together as a Team Ministry with St. Michael's Bedford and St. Mary's Cardington, the building of a new church hall and development of parish life.

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## Other News:

### Heating

Unfortunately the heating in the Abbey has been far from adequate this winter. Although when closed down at the end of the 2003/4 winter the system worked fine when it was fired up last October it failed.

In the past our boiler service contractors have always given good service but this winter they were far from helpful and although pressed on numerous occasions to quote for the work needed failed to do so.

We were fortunate that one boiler worked through the whole winter and this gave us time to fine an alternative contractor.

The Parochial Church Council have appointed Shotter M & E Services of Eaton Socon to overhaul the system and work will start within a few weeks.

The work will take about a month to complete and involves repairs to the boilerplates and removing debris from the combustion chambers, repairs to the refractory walls. Also required is new ducting to enable us to conform to current standards, fitting new burners and the installation of a new oil tank. Law requires a new oil tank. As the Abbey is close to a watercourse a leak would cause environmental problems so we need to install a double skinned tank.

The cost of the work is some £12,000.00 and the Parochial Church Council will finance the work with funds from the bequest of the late Doreen Gibbs and they are also asking for help from the Friends of Elstow Abbey.

Once the work is completed we hope that we shall have a heating system, which will give service for the next 50 years as the present one has done.

### The Hillersden Ruins

Work is also due to start soon on the Elstow Manor House (the Hillersden Ruins). Over the years they have become very neglected and are now in urgent need of attention. The work will involve the consolidation and stabilisation of the stonework, repair and repointing to stones and the removal of vegetation from the walls and the general tidying up of the whole area. The cost of the work will be met by a grant to Bedfordshire County Council in whose guardianship the ruins are. The County Council will receive grant aid from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

### The Friends of Elstow Abbey

The Friends of Elstow Abbey Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May. The provisional timetable for the afternoon is as follows:-

3.15pm	Annual General Meeting
3.45pm	Talk by the Reverend Jeremy Crocker
4.15pm	Tea in the Church Hall
5.15pm	Annual Service in the Abbey at which the Preacher will be the The Reverend Wyn Benyon, the Rural Dean of Biggleswade.

All members of the Friends and also members of the Elstow Church family are most welcome at the afternoon and the service that follows. If you are able to help with the provision of things for tea such as sandwiches or cakes would you please let Rosemary Albon know on 01234-407084 or put your name on the list at the back of the church.

### The Church Hall

The Parochial Church Council are looking into the possibility of either re-furbishing and improving the present church hall or demolishing the present structure and building a new church hall on a site slightly further south.

Members of the Diocesan Advisory Committee together with representatives from the Parochial Church Council, English heritage and the Local Authorities met on site on 14<sup>th</sup> March.

There are considerable archaeological implications in the proposal to build a new hall and also a number of constraints, although precedent has been set in the fact that the current hall has covered over archaeological remains. If a new hall were to be built it would have to be designed so that the impact on the site was minimal.

Present thoughts are that if we knock down the existing hall we could wrap the new hall around the remaining walls of the mansion house. The new hall would then be brought back further away from the ruin so that it would not have so much impact and would sit better with the ruin. English Heritage would encourage the parish to contrast the new hall with the ruin and look towards a modern 21<sup>st</sup> Century design.

Because the site is so sensitive and much work and planning will be needed to come up with a plan that meets with the approval of all concerned, it is estimated that the project could take up to four years to complete. The cost of a new hall would be met from the bequest of Doreen Gibbs and from further fund raising over the coming years.

Colin Albon.

## Elstow Parish Council

The Parish Council is holding its Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm in the Playing Field Hall. There will be reports on the work of the Parish Council, the Lower School, Elstow Pools Charity, the Playing Field Association and on Borough and County Council matters. This is a good opportunity to discuss village issues with Councillors and all are welcome to attend.

Despite our strenuous objections, the Borough Council Planning Committee has recently granted Westbury Homes permission to build thirteen houses and ten flats on the Allotment Site. We argued that the proposed buildings, particularly the three storey apartments, are stark, austere and unsympathetic to the historic character of the village but the Borough disagreed. We will continue to try and secure improvements to the look of the buildings so that they better reflect the character of Elstow. The Planning Inspector has yet to decide whether to allow developers to build flats in Abbeyfields next to the Health Centre.

Residents will recently have received details of the proposed boundary for The Wixams. This differs considerably from the boundary suggested in 2003 and if residents are unhappy about the changes, please let one of the councillors or the Clerk know as soon as possible so that the Parish Council's comments can reflect your views. The Clerk can be contacted on 01234 376256.

Ann Paice.

*CRAFT FAYRE*  
**ELSTOW PLAYING FIELD HALL**

**Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2005**  
11am to 4 pm

Adults 50p Children 20p (refreshments on sale all day)  
Contact: Keith Pearson (01234 – 300884)



### **London Bridges Walk - 21<sup>st</sup> May 2005**

Help raise kidney awareness and organ donation by walking eight of London's bridges on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2005.

The Bridges Walk starts and finishes at Potters Fields on the south side of Tower Bridge and walkers will snake across the eight bridges, including Tower Bridge, London Bridge, Southwark Bridge, Millennium Bridge and Blackfriars Bridge.

Registration fee is £5.00 per walker, there is no minimum sponsorship but walkers are encouraged to raise as much sponsorship as they can. Proceeds will be used to further the work of The National Kidney Research Fund and help improve the lives of people living with kidney disease.

For more information or to take part in the London Bridges Walk please call The National Kidney Research Fund on 0800 783 2973 or visit [www.nkrf.org.uk](http://www.nkrf.org.uk)

## Making poverty history: the trade justice campaign

The UK government is committed to making 2005 a year when poverty is on the international agenda. To tackle poverty it must address the injustices in world trade. Christian Aid Week this year asks churches to call for trade justice.

*'There are many women working at the sugar plantation. Before the sugar factory opened, we were very poor. Now things are better, we can all earn money and buy food from the markets.'* (Louisa Mahachele). Louisa Elias Mahachele works on a sugar plantation in Mozambique, earning enough to feed her family. Her job is one of thousands that have been created since the Mozambique government helped its sugar industry by attracting investment to it. It set the price for imported sugar, most of which comes from rich countries where it is subsidised. This set price means that the locally produced sugar is able to compete with imports.

But Mozambique is an exception. Other poor countries are prevented from helping vulnerable industries and farmers. Rich countries and international institutions that lend poor countries money force governments to accept free-trade policies.

For example, in Ghana, thousands of farmers have been forced to give up farming because they are no longer able to make a living selling their produce. Kofi Eliasa used to be a tomato farmer. He now works 12 hours a day in a quarry, breaking rocks to make gravel. He struggles to earn enough to feed his family and send his children to school.

In exchange for loans, Ghana was forced to open up its markets to international trade and take away the government help given to farmers such as Kofi. This is the same for other poor countries across the world. The result is that millions of people now face an uncertain future as they lose the means to make a living.

Free trade means that governments may not interfere in the market place, and all traders – from rich and poor countries alike – must face each other in open competition. This gives the poorest no chance. To begin to make a decent living for their families they need some help from their government to support their industries – that is they need trade justice, not free trade.

This is why Christian Aid is campaigning for trade justice, not free trade. The campaign is informed by the biblical vision of a just world where the needs of the poorest people are met. To compete in today's global marketplace poor farmers and traders need special help from their governments until they are strong enough to manage without it.

### 2005: Poverty on the agenda

Important international meetings in 2005 will give our government an excellent opportunity to take a lead for trade justice.

- July: G8 Summit meeting in the UK. *The UK government wants G8 to address poverty in Africa.*
- July-December: The UK holds the presidency of the EU.
- December: ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organisation.

### The Big Vote for trade justice

Imagine the impact if every household in the UK and Ireland voted to ask their governments to do something about global poverty. This Christian Aid Week we are giving people the chance to help shape the world: by giving, and by taking a very simple action, to vote for trade justice.

- *If you'd like to know more about collecting money - and voting for trade justice - during Christian Aid Week this year, please contact the Elstow Christian Aid representative, Mrs. Sheila Batiuk. Further information will also be available in Elstow Abbey from early May.*

Christian Aid's Trade Justice Campaign, has a website: [www.christianaid.org.uk/campaign](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/campaign)

Christian Aid is 60 years old this year!

There are regional and two national events in the UK and Ireland to celebrate this 60th anniversary. You can find out what's happening near you by visiting [www.christianaid.org.uk/anniversary](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/anniversary).

### The Cambridge Seven



*C. T. Studd/ Montagu Beauchamp/Stanley Smith Arthur Polhill-Turner/D. E. Hoste/Cecil Polhill-Turner/W.W.Casels*

**"And He [Jesus] said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature."  
Mark 16: 15**

This is the story of how seven young Englishmen, all of wealth and social standing, obeyed God's call by giving up all to become missionaries in Inland China.

Harold Schofield was desperately ill. The young doctor, just 31 years old, had contracted typhus. Two and a half years before, he had left behind a bright future in England's medical world by choosing to serve as a missionary doctor with the China Inland Mission. He was one of only five or six missionaries in the whole of the northern province of Shansi, and his heart ached for the nine million inhabitants who had never heard of Jesus Christ. He thought of the peasants, toiling in the wheat and rice fields, of the aristocratic mandarins in their palaces and estates, of the women and their cramped cheerless lives, of the countless temples, and their gods of plaster, stone or wood. Then his mind turned to home, so far away - twenty days to the coast, six weeks by land and sea to England. The Church in Britain cared little for these millions in the vast Chinese

Empire, slowly waking from the sleep of ages. Few were ready to leave comfort and security to bring them the gospel, nevertheless this was Harold Schofield's constant prayer.

Night after night, sometimes forgoing food, Dr. Schofield's prayer was for more than just missionaries. Harold was praying for a specific kind of person. He had seen the need for men who could lead; and so he was praying for university men, equipped in England's top colleges with the finest mental and physical training. Now that he was sick, he continued to press God for an answer; but he would not live to learn the outcome in this world. On the 1<sup>st</sup> August 1883, Harold Schofield died.

We now move forward eighteen months to the 4<sup>th</sup> February 1885. On a wet winter's night in London, a large crowd are making their way into the Exeter Hall in the Strand. Inside, the hall is rapidly filling with men and women of all ranks and ages, of all sections of the Church and grades in social life. On the platform are forty Cambridge undergraduates. Above their heads hangs a large map of China, stretching from side to side across the hall. On a table is a small pile of Chinese New Testaments.

At the stroke of the hour the Chairman enters, followed by seven young men, slightly older than the undergraduates but all, from their dress and bearing, evidently men of education and position. After prayer, a hymn, and some introductory remarks the seven young men, whom the world has already dubbed 'The Cambridge Seven', each rise to tell the crowded hall why they are leaving England the next day to serve as missionaries in China.

One by one they speak - Stanley Smith, of Repton and Trinity, a former stroke-oar of the Cambridge Boat; Montagu Beauchamp of Trinity, a baronet's son; D. E. Hoste, until lately a gunner subaltern, son of a major-general; W. W. Casels of Repton and St. John's, a Church of England curate; Cecil Polhill-Turner, an old Etonian, who has resigned his commission in the Queen's Bays to join the others; and his brother Arthur Polhill-Turner, of Eton and Trinity Hall. Lastly, C. T. Studd, the Eton, Cambridge and England cricketer, acknowledged as the most brilliant player of the day. In turn they tell how in the past year or eighteen months God had called them to renounce their careers and give themselves for Christian service overseas.

'The Cambridge Seven' struck with force the consciousness of a generation which set much store on social position and athletic ability. Many individuals, impressed that for the sake of Christ these boys had given up everything the world holds dear, yielded their own lives for God's use. The young men's example helped to inspire the Student Volunteer Movement and Inter-Varsity Fellowship, and they attracted many recruits to the China Inland Mission.

At a little after half past nine the following morning, 5<sup>th</sup> February 1885, the Seven were at Victoria Station. Relations and friends were there in plenty. Goodbyes were said, the carriage doors were shut, the whistle blew, and at 10.00 a.m. the boat train drew slowly out, and 'The Cambridge Seven' were on their way to Dover and Calais, Brindisi, Suez, Colombo and China. Dr. Harold Schofield's prayers had been answered.

They never looked back; all seven worked for Christ to the end of their lives. Brothers, Cecil and Arthur Polhill-Turner were Bedford men, and next month we will look at how they came to make their decision to serve Jesus Christ in far away Inland China.

Sources: 'The Cambridge Seven' by John Pollock, Inter-Varsity Fellowship, Christian History Institute website, All Saints Church, Renhold website, <http://www.wholesomewords.org/missions/mscambridge7.html>

A.V.K.

## Tunes of Glory

This month we will sing No. 294 "**Just as I am, without one plea**" by Charlotte Elliott, to the tune "Misericordia" by Henry Smart. Charlotte Elliott (1789-1871) was a relative (the great-great-great-aunt) of Tim Elliott here at Elstow, a choir member, and well known reader in church. I am indebted to Tim for his helpful and studious contributions to this article. Charlotte was the daughter of Charles Elliott, a rich and successful cabinet-maker with a Royal warrant, and his second wife Eling. It is of note that Charles owned several houses, one of which was rented out in 1798 to Admiral Nelson. After the Battle of Cape St Vincent it was here that Charles dealt with the costs involved with the amputation of Nelson's arm. Charles was a member of the well-known Clapham sect, of which William Wilberforce was also a member, and this had a marked impact on his views about slavery. It is also interesting to note that John Newton (who, with William Cowper, wrote the Olney Hymns) influenced William Wilberforce, who wrote in his diary, "Called upon Old Newton ... was much affected in conversing with him.... When I came away I found my mind in a calm, tranquil state, more humbled, and looking more devoutly up to God".

Returning to Charlotte, at the age of 30 she suffered the onset of a serious illness which left her a semi-invalid for the rest of her long life. In 1822 Charlotte passed through a spiritual crisis, which resulted eventually in the writing of the hymn we will sing, and indeed many others. The Swiss evangelist Dr C(sar-Malan visited her home, counselling and comforting her. She wrote the hymn in 1836, and found peace of mind. It was written in the summer house in the front garden of St Mary's Hall. Since then it has brought consolation and help to a great many people down the years, and is considered to be one of the most influential hymns to have been written in the English language, by one who was already a good poet.

The first known tune to which the hymn was set was "Woodworth", dated 1849, and composed by the American gospel musician William B Bradbury. However we normally use the traditional tune in Hymns Ancient & Modern (1924) named "Misericordia", and written by the by then blind Henry Thomas Smart.

John Crookall

## Book Review

### "The Pope in Winter" Revisited

When I wrote a review, for the April issue of the Magazine, of Dr Cornwell's "The Pope in Winter", I could not have known, although perhaps I could and should have guessed, how events would accelerate in Rome to culminate in the death of Pope John Paul II early on the night of Saturday 2 April.

Book reviews do more than hold up an author for scrutiny: they also expose the reviewer. So, I decided not to write the article I had been planning of Brigid Keenan's popular but derivative, lightweight and fluffy "Diplomatic Baggage" (John Murray £14.99). When it came to putting pen to paper, as it were, my heart really was not in the job of writing a review of the life of a fashion journalist who Gave Up All (well, most things) to travel the world in the wake of a diplomat husband. The book will, I am sure, entertain many people; it has been well hyped by Keenan's journalist colleagues and she has been widely interviewed about it. It will soon no doubt end up on your shelves. And in oblivion.

But "The Pope in Winter" will probably not end up on your shelves, although it should. And it will become an iconic work in the canon of serious writings about the papacy.

In the light of the very recent and sad events, I decided to look critically at what I had written and to see how my review measured up against reality. After describing the book and summarising its contents, I tried, as usual, to give a more personal opinion. I had attempted to anticipate this by writing, almost at the start, that the many and troublesome issues facing the papacy "rested on the sloping shoulders of a very ill old man." I concluded my review in the following terms: "It is in the second part that we expect Cornwell to develop his thesis [as stated in his preface] of a Pope past his sell-by date. But, curiously, he fails utterly to do this. He admires the man too deeply.

John Paul II sees himself as the Pope of the third millennium and above mundane issues, responsible for the retention and application of the fundamental morality and ethic of Rome..... The real paradox is that Cornwell claims to have written a polemical book, but in reality has written a wonderfully insightful account of one of the world's great men." Perhaps, though, my most prescient comment, especially given the manner of his dying, was: "his [Pope John Paul II's] over-arching commitment to his role as leader of the catholic Church in its broadest sense is inescapable."

I do not think that the death of so great a man of our times should go unmarked by this contributor to an Anglican Parish Magazine.

Bookworm

## *food for thought*

*Now that spring is tentatively clawing its way back into our lives, I thought that the following recipe might go down well.*

### Lemon and Ginger Chicken

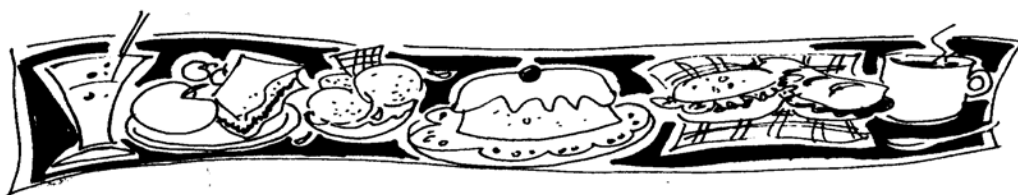
This is best hot, but can also be eaten cold. Quantities are for four people, but you can put more chicken pieces in if you are feeding hungrier guests.

Put four chicken pieces – breasts, legs, thighs or a mixture – in a bowl with juice of a lemon, 2 teasp chopped fresh ginger (fresh is best, but it is also good with one teasp powdered ginger), and 2 cloves of garlic, chopped. Leave to marinade for at least 2 hours.

Remove the chicken, pat it dry, and coat with a mixture of flour, 1 teasp each of ground ginger and paprika, salt and pepper. Fry the pieces in oil till golden. When they are done, put them skin side up in a shallow oven dish. Pour the marinade, mixed with chicken stock, over them – the liquid should almost cover the chicken. Sprinkle a little brown sugar over the pieces and pat it smooth, and arrange one lemon, very thinly sliced, on top. It can be prepared in advance to this point.

Bake in a moderate oven until done – about 40 minutes. I think that it is best served with rice and a green salad.

JMCE



## CALENDAR FOR MAY 2005

<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Easter 6</b>	
	9.30am	Family Communion with Children's Groups
	11.00am	Morning Prayer (Mattins Group)
	3.00pm	Baptism of Louise Hewson
	6.30pm	Evensong (Jeremy Crocker)
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup>		BANK HOLIDAY NO PRAYER GROUP
	7.00pm	Clergy Team Meal @ Peter Littlefords
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup>		
	7.30pm	Bible Study 'A Journey into Faith' Elstow Church Hall
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Ascension Day</b>	
	11.00am	Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Sunday after Ascension Day</b>	
	11.00am	Parish Communion Preacher: The Reverend Edward Lewis, Chief Executive of Hospital Chaplains
	3.00pm	Baptism of Jamie Jovic (Jeremy Crocker)
	6.30pm	Evensong (Jeremy Crocker)
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup>		
	2.00pm	Full Team Meeting at the Rectory
	7.00pm	Prayer Group in the Summerhouse
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>		
	8.00pm	Meeting of the Liturgy Committee at 43. Armstrong Close. Wilstead
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup>		
	7.30pm	Bible Study 'A Journey into Faith' Elstow Church Hall
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup>		
	11.00am	Holy Communion (Canon Nigel Morrell)
<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Pentecost</b>	
	9.30am	Family Communion with Children's Groups (The Revd Peter Littleford)
	11.00am	Morning Prayer (Canon Philip McDonough)
	6.00pm	Pentecost Praise at Wilstead NO EVENSONG AT ELSTOW
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup>		
	7.00pm	Prayer Group in the Summerhouse DEADLINE FOR MATERIAL FOR JUNE MAGAZINE
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>		
	7.30pm	Bible Study 'A Journey into Faith' Elstow Church Hall
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup>		
	11.00am	Holy Communion
	7.00 pm	Christian Aid Meal at the Rectory

Saturday 21st

2.00pm Children's Workshop. 'Making Banners'.

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Trinity Sunday**

9.30am Young People's Service. Beautiful Miracles

11.00am Morning Prayer (Jeremy Crocker)

3.15pm The Friends of Elstow Abbey AGM

3.45pm Talk by Rev'd Jeremy Crocker

4.15pm Tea in the Church Hall

5.15pm Friends of Elstow Abbey Annual Service

Preacher the Rev'd Wyn Beynon,

Rural Dean of Biggleswade

Monday 23rd

7.00pm Prayer Group in the Summerhouse

Tuesday 24th

7.30pm Elstow Team PCC meeting with Bring and Share  
Supper at Scott Hall. Faldo Road.

Wednesday 25th

7.30pm Archdeacons Visitation St. Andrew's Church  
Kimbolton Road. Bedford

7.30pm Bible Study 'A Journey in Faith'  
Elstow Church Hall

Thursday 26th

11.00am Holy Communion (Jeremy Crocker)

7.00pm Elstow Team Wardens Meeting

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> Pentecost 2**

11.00am Holy Communion (Jeremy Crocker)

3.00pm Baptism of Ryan Clark and Jenna Abbot  
(Jeremy Crocker)

6.30pm Evensong followed by Holy Communion with  
the laying on of hands for healing  
(Canon Nigel Morrell)

Monday 30th

BANK HOLIDAY NO PRAYER GROUP

## **JUNE**

Thursday 2nd

11.00am Holy Communion (Len Moore)

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> Pentecost 3**

9.30am Family Communion with Children's Groups  
(Jeremy Crocker)

11.00am Morning Prayer (Jeremy Crocker)

6.30pm Evensong (Robert Heley)

Monday 6th

7.00pm Prayer Group meet in the Summerhouse

7.30pm Bible Study 'A Journey into Faith' Elstow Hall

## May Day

May is the month when the ancient pagans used to get up to all sorts of things! The Romans held their festival to honour the mother-goddess Maia, goddess of nature and growth. (May is named after her.) The early Celts celebrated the feast of Beltane, in honour of the sun god, Beli.

For centuries in 'Olde England' the people went mad in May. After the hardship of winter, and hunger of early Spring, May was a time of indulgence and unbridled merriment. One Philip Stubbes, writing in 1583, was scandalised: “for what kissing and bussing, what smooching and slabbering one of another, is not practised?”

Henry VIII went 'maying' on many occasions. Then folk would stay out all night in the dark rain-warm thickets, and return in the morning for dancing on the green around the May pole, archery, vaulting, wrestling, and that evening, bonfires.

The Protestant reformers took a strong stand against May Day - and in 1644 May Day was abolished together. Many May poles came down - only to go up again at the Restoration, when the first May Day of King Charles's reign was “the happiest Mayday that hath been many a year in England”, according to Pepys.

May Day to most people today brings vague folk memories of a young Queen of the May decorated with garlands and streamers and flowers, a May Pole to weave, Morris dancing, and the intricacies of well dressing at Tissington in Derbyshire.

May Day is a medley of natural themes such as sunrise, the advent of summer, growth in nature, and - since 1833 - Robert Owen's vision of a millennium in the future, beginning on May Day, when there would be no more poverty, injustice or cruelty, but in harmony and friendship. This is why, in modern times, May Day has become Labour Day, which honours the dignity of workers. And until recently, in communist countries May Day processions were in honour of the achievement of Marxism.

There has never been a Christian content to May Day, but nevertheless there is the well-known 6am service on the top of Magdalen Tower at Oxford where a choir sings in the dawn of May Day.

An old May carol includes the lines:

*The life of man is but a span, it flourishes like a flower  
We are here today, and gone tomorrow - we are dead within an hour.*

There is something of a sadness about it, both in words and tune, as about all purely sensuous joy. For May Day is not Easter, and the joys it has known have always been earth-bound and fleeting.



Source: [www.parishpump.org](http://www.parishpump.org)

## Letters to the Editors

25 March, 2005

Sir

In March this year I reviewed "*Bobby Fischer Goes to War*".

Today's Times reports that Bobby Fischer flew out of Japan to Iceland yesterday. He had, for nine months, been held in prison by the Japanese authorities, pending deportation, at the request of the Americans, for having played a second chess match against Boris Spassky in former Yugoslavia in 1992.

Whilst criticising the heavy-handedness of the USA and Japan, the Times describes him as "a paranoid wasp pursued by a tank". I had asserted, perhaps uncomfortably, that Fischer was a seriously nasty piece of work. I quote: "*His anarchic behaviour was outrageous by any standards*".

Today's press states that he is "viciously anti-semitic" and "almost totally without redeeming features". They add that his disgusting behaviour in the main Tokyo airport "would have made a drunken football hooligan look like a prudish Agatha Christie bridge-playing spinster".

So, why Iceland? Apparently and amazingly, the Icelanders have just made him an honorary citizen and his new passport had just reached him, permitting him to leave Japan. Spassky was never even criticised for the 1992 re-match.....

Yours sincerely

Bookworm

## The Friends of Elstow Abbey

As already noted (on page 5 of this magazine), the Annual General Meeting of The Friends of Elstow Abbey will take place on **Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2005** (Trinity Sunday) commencing at **3.15pm**. We hope that all those associated with Elstow Abbey will be able to join us on this occasion.

*Derek Norman,  
Secretary, The Friends of Elstow Abbey,  
3, Poplar Avenue, Bedford MK41 8BL*





One Way UK is an inter-denominational children's ministry, specialising in equipping and training children workers. For general information, see: [www.onewayuk.com](http://www.onewayuk.com)

Elstow Abbey is hosting a One Way UK Puppet Training Day on July 2<sup>nd</sup> 2005 (10am to 4pm)

It will be a day teaching the skills to communicate the Gospel, through puppetry, in humorous and non-threatening ways. The cost is £12.50 per person and the training day will include:

- Performances and demonstrations on how to use various types of puppets.
- How to start a puppet ministry team
- Puppet manipulation skills
- Use of props and scenery

Please contact John Hinson (01234-406061) for further information on this event.

**Elstow Abbey, Bedford - 2nd July 2005**

**Cost: £12.50 per person**  
until 12 days prior to event  
£17.50 thereafter.

**Time: 10am-4pm**  
(Refreshments will be available  
but please bring a packed lunch.)