

# *ELSTOW PARISH MAGAZINE*



Drawing by Bernard West

**November 2008**

## ELSTOW MAGAZINE NOVEMBER 2008



### Remembrance Day 90 years on

At this poignant moment in history, 90 years since the end of the First World War, I'd like to share with you some thoughts. I hope that they help.

We remember those who gave their lives, not just in the two World Wars but in countless conflicts since. What were they giving their lives for - to protect home? To make the world safe for democracy? I offer you a quotation that I would like to explore: "To sacrifice one's life is to achieve one's maximum, for in doing so man bears witness to the truth and reality that is both above and beyond himself". This quote is about personal redemption and it is the sense of sacrifice for belief whatever it may be that matters and it is also about society, community and our life together on this planet.

So let me tell you a story. In 1998, President Suharto of Indonesia, the fourth largest country in the world, was swept from office by the Asian financial crisis and the student uprising that followed. One of the results of this revolution was that the following year, after much upheaval, East Timor, with a population of 800,000, who had been occupied by Indonesia since 1975, was offered a referendum of independence. This it grasped with both hands with a 78% majority. The event was ministered by international observers of the U.N. but, days after the announcement of the result, the combined forces of the outraged Indonesian military and the local militias they controlled conspired to wreak their revenge. They moved almost a third of the population from the territory, killed hundreds and launched anarchy of destruction to the infrastructure of the entire country. Afterwards there was no electricity or water, and scarcely a building in the whole country was left with a roof. Everything in this new country was burnt to the ground on the day of its birth.

On Remembrance Sunday we think about conflict. We remember those who died for their cause. Their cause was our future. Why do we make the special effort on this day to remember them? We do so because memory is integral to identity. We honour those who gave their lives for us and in doing so we state who we are. But have we learnt anything from all the terrible things that have gone on over the last 90 years? Yes and no. There are some things that every generation has to learn for itself. Every one of us must learn to achieve a balance between the two sides of our nature, our uniqueness as individuals, with our identity providing beliefs, religious and personal, and our membership of society, community, nation or tribe – between our believing and our belonging. And here is the link: redemption is not unique to belief, to commitment to a cause, to justification – of anything – by faith. Redemption is also possible through reconciliation – as much as Africa bears witness, and as Xanana Gusmao is trying to demonstrate to his people in East Timor.

But for redemption to work we have to live our lives not only by our beliefs, however strongly they are held and whatever meaning they give to our lives; not only as members of our community, whether religious or secular, or our tribe, however defined, or our nation. We must live our lives by the acceptance of our membership of the human race that is the family of God. For that is where we truly belong.

*Jeremy Crocker*  
*Team Rector*

As we say farewell to Bishop Christopher, on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November at 2.30pm @  
St Albans Abbey after 13 years as Diocesan Bishop, a short Biography and  
Bibliography

The Rt Revd Dr Christopher Herbert BA, PGCE, MPhil., Hon.D.Litt

Christopher Herbert is married to Jan and has two adult married children, Robin and James, both married. He and Jan are proud grandparents.

Early Life

Bishop Christopher was born in Lydney in the Forest of Dean in 1944. His father helped run the family road haulage business, but was also very proud of his roots as a foundryman in a local iron works.

Bishop Christopher was educated at Monmouth School and went on to read Biblical Studies and Philosophy at the University of Wales, Lampeter. He graduated in 1965 and went straight to Wells Theological College, and, at the same time, obtained a Postgraduate Certificate of Education at the University of Bristol.

Hereford

He was ordained in 1967 and served as assistant curate at St Paul's, Tupsley, Hereford. During this time he taught Religious Education (RE) and Social Studies in a local secondary school, and was a youth leader. In 1971 he became RE Adviser for the Diocese of Hereford and then, in 1976, Diocesan Director of Education, where he was responsible for developing a residential education centre as well as creating new church schools. He was made Prebendary of Hereford Cathedral in 1977.

Surrey

From 1981-1990 he was Vicar of The Bourne, near Farnham, Surrey. He was appointed Director of Post-Ordination Training and made a Canon of Guildford Cathedral, before becoming Archdeacon of Dorking in 1990.

St Albans

He became Bishop of St Albans in 1995. Nationally, he is Chairman of the Hospital Chaplaincies Council. He is also a member of the House of Lords, which he entered in early December 1999 and where he has established himself as a speaker in the areas of health and medical ethics. He recently served as a member of the Select Committee concerned with the Assisted Dying and the Terminally Ill Bill.

Bishop Christopher has declared a commitment to building links between the Church and civic society, including links with industry and commerce. His words have been matched by an itinerary of visits to local authorities, large and small companies, schools, prisons community projects and hospitals.

He has continued his predecessor's links with the Church in the West Indies and has also taken a lead in developing links with three Roman Catholic dioceses in Italy. In Autumn 2003 he was the guest lecturer at a conference in Rome for all the Ministers of the Interior throughout Europe where he spoke on 'Inter-faith relations'.

Bishop Christopher has an interest in, and love for all forms of literature. He is a prolific author in his own right. Much of his writing is based on the themes of prayer and spirituality, for both children and adults. Among his best-known books are *Ways into Prayer* (Church House Publishing, 1987), *Pocket Prayers* (Church House Publishing, 1993), *Pocket Prayers for Children*, (1999, republished 2004), and *Words of Comfort*, all of which have been reprinted many times. In 2002 he completed a major piece of research into 'The Image of the Resurrection of Jesus in 15th Century Northern European Art', for which he was awarded an MPhil by the University of Leicester. He is currently involved in doctoral research, also at the University of Leicester, on 'The Origins of the Easter Sepulchre in Pre-Reformation England'. He was awarded an honorary D.Lit by the University of Hertfordshire in November 2003.

He was awarded a PhD on the Easter Sepulchre in England from the University of Leicester in January 2008

### Writing, publications and lectures

As well as various papers and very frequent publication and coverage in the media, Bishop Christopher has written the following books:

- The New Creation*. 1971. REP .LoC catalog no: 72-160249
- A Place to Dream*. 1976. Hereford Diocesan Council for Education
- St Paul's: A Place to Dream*. Co-author. Friends of St Paul's. ISBN 0902566016
- The Edge of Wonder*. 1981. CIO. ISBN 0715147501
- Listening to Children*. 1983. Co-author. ISBN 0715104128
- Beginnings - On the Road*. 1984. Bible Society. ISBN 056407053
- Be Thou My Vision*. 1985. CHP. ISBN: 0715148168
- This Most Amazing Day*. 1986. CHP. ISBN 0715104314
- The Question of Jesus*. 1987. Co-author. CHP. ISBN 0715104349
- Alive to God*. 1987. Collins. ISBN 0005999987
- Ways Into Prayer*. 1987. CHP. ISBN 0715104454
- Help in Your Bereavement*. 1988. Colins. ISBN 0005999715
- Prayers for Children*. 1993. CHP.
- Pocket Prayers*. 1993. CHP. ISBN: 0715148257
- The Prayer Garden*. 1994. Harper Collins. ISBN 0551028122
- Words of Comfort*. 1994, 200, 2004. NS/CHP. ISBN: 0715140434
- A Little Prayer Diary*. 1996. Harper Collins. ISBN 0006280196
- Pocket Prayers for Children*. 1999, 2004. CHP. ISBN: 0715149113

He has also contributed articles to Anglican Theological Review and to Christian Archaeology.

The Bishop has recently developed a range of lectures in the field of art history, illustrated with PowerPoint presentations. Topics include:

- The Image of the Resurrection in Medieval European Art
- The Isenheim altarpiece
- The Three Kings: The image of the Magi
- The Easter Sepulchre in mediaeval England
- The image of the Cross

Work is progressing on converting the lectures to electronic formats.

He has been a guest lecturer at the National Gallery, Westminster Abbey and the Courtauld Institute, as well as at the University of Leicester and in other locations in England. He has also lectured in Australia, Hong Kong and Italy, and was the guest lecturer at the International education conference of colleges and universities of the Anglican Communion held in Japan in March 2002. In September 2004 he led an art history retreat to Ravenna, Urbino and Fonte Avellana.

His most recent work is entitled 'Visual Prayer', in which he has created a CD that explores the history of a number of images of Christ and includes meditations on each image. For more information on this unique project, visit [www.visualprayer.org.uk](http://www.visualprayer.org.uk).

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**Stephen and David Stanford, would like to thank all members of the Church Family who have shown such wonderful kindness, for their prayers, cards, and messages of sympathy, and for providing much emotional and practical support during Dorothy's illness and following her sudden death. We greatly appreciated the attendance and contributions at Dorothy's lovely funeral service and the wonderful tea afterwards, and we thank all those who contributed to make that day itself very special for us, as well as for our family and friends from further away. Dorothy would have loved it too! Dorothy had been associated with Elstow since she was Christened in the Abbey on 17 February 1929, and throughout her life, particularly in the last two and a half years since Henry's death, we have all been so grateful for the Christian acts of love and care and support she has received, especially at the Matins services and Wednesday soup lunches. This has all helped to make the difficulties she increasingly experienced during the last few years of her life so much more bearable.**



## Tunes of Glory

We often sing, and particularly at funerals, No. 31 “*Abide with me; fast falls the eventide*” by H F Lyte (1793-1847) to W H Monk’s tune “*Eventide*”. James Lightwood records that Mrs Monk, in a letter to Mr J C Hadden, said it was written at a time of great sorrow, when together they watched the glories of the setting sun. As the last golden ray faded he took up some paper and pencilled out the tune, which has since spread over all the earth.

No more suitable editor for *Hymns A. & M.* could have been found than W H Monk. Although a strict purist in style, with a strong leaning towards Gregorian music, he could appreciate tunes of modern form and rhythm, which he recognised as being eminently suitable for mixed congregations and popular singing. His life was devoted to the service of church music, and for 40 years, during which period he held the post of organist both at King’s College in the Strand and at St. Matthias, Stoke Newington, he devoted himself to the advancement of good congregational singing. He taught many to praise God who had never praised Him before; he taught others to praise Him more worthily than hitherto.

Frank Colquhoun says that when Henry Francis Lyte wrote ‘*Abide with me*’, he was a dying man, and he knew it. Not surprisingly, therefore, it is a hymn about death. It was not intended to be an evening hymn. The words ‘*fast falls the eventide*’ referred not to the ending of the natural day, but to the eventide of life. When Lyte wrote “*Swift to its close ebbs out life’s little day, Earth’s joys grow dim, its glories pass away ...*” he was simply expressing what was true for him. For 25 years he had been vicar of the Devonshire fishing village of Brixham. Now, at the age of 54, broken in health and saddened by dissensions within his congregation, he was about to depart to the south of France. On Sunday, September 4, 1847, he preached his farewell sermon in the morning and rested in the afternoon. After tea he retired to his study. When an hour or two later he rejoined his family he held in his hand the manuscript of his immortal hymn. The following day he left for Nice, where he died of consumption on November 20.

The hymn is based on the prayer of the two disciples on the Emmaus road when, at the end of their journey, they sought to detain the stranger who had joined them. ‘*Abide with us*’ they said, ‘*for it is towards evening, and the day is far spent*’. Thus invited, he entered their home and there, as he broke bread before them, they recognised him as the risen and living Lord. (See Luke 24:13-35).

If the hymn is about death, it is also about the faith that faces death fearlessly and triumphantly in the light of the cross and the empty tomb. The Christian knows that, because Jesus died, sin has been dealt with and put away; and because he lives, death has been overcome, and the gate of everlasting life been thrown open wide. In that confidence he sings:

*I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;  
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death’s sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.*

Nurse Edith Cavell repeated the hymn as she awaited execution on October 12, 1915 and faced the firing squad with the words: ‘*Heaven’s morning breaks, and earth’s vain shadows flee*’.

This seems incredibly sad to us, and indeed I hesitate to say these words. But we may all in our different ways find a special solace, and even hope, in singing it.

**John Crookall**

# THE CHURCH CALENDAR

## NOVEMBER 2008

### NOVEMBER

1 <sup>ST</sup>	Saturday	All Saints Day 12.00noon	Wedding of Christopher Coe and Rebecca Swanton
		7.30pm	Concert by The Flitwick Singers in aid of The Friends of Elstow Abbey
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup> Before Advent 10.00am	Holy Communion with Sunday School (JRC)
		11.15am	Morning Prayer (Group)
		2.00pm	Baptism of Joseph Whiteman (JRC)
		6.30pm	Annual Commemoration Service (JRC)
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Monday	10.00am	Mums and Toddlers meet in the Church Hall
		2.00pm	Prayer Group meet in the Summerhouse
4 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	10.00am	Sing and Sign in the Church Hall
		4.30pm	Dance Club in the Church Hall
5 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	11.30am	Coffee morning and soup in the Church Hall
		6.30pm	Youth Group meet in the Church Hall
6 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	11.00am	Holy Communion (JRC)
		12 noon	Monthly lunch @ the <b>Swan Pub</b>
		8.00pm	Meeting of the Finance and Standing Committee at 43 Armstrong Close, Wilstead
7 <sup>th</sup>	Friday	6.45pm-8pm	Choir practice, junior choir
		7.15pm-8pm	Choir practice, adult choir
8 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday	6.00pm	Firework Party on the field at the rear of the Church Hall
9 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	3 <sup>rd</sup> Before Advent	Remembrance Sunday
		10.00am	<b>NO SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>
		<b>10.55am</b>	<b>Remembrance Service followed by laying of wreaths</b> at War Memorial with John Bunyan Christian Fellowship (JRC)
		<b>4-5.30pm</b>	<b>Auditions @ the Church Hall for 'Jack and the Bean Stalk' – all welcome (rehearsals Jan and Feb '09)</b>
		6.30pm	Evening Prayer (JRC) Preacher Mr Owen Parker, Chair of Bedford and District Royal British Legion
10 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	10.00am	Mums and Toddlers meet in the Church Hall
		2.00pm	Prayer Group meet in the Summerhouse
11 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	10.00am	Sing and Sign in the Church Hall
		4.30pm	Dance Club in the Church Hall
12 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	11.30am	Coffee morning and soup in the Church Hall

6.30pm Youth Group meet @ Quasar, Kempston

**DEADLINE FOR MATERIAL FOR THE DECEMBER/JANUARY 2009 MAGAZINE**

13 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	11.00am	Holy Communion (JRC)
14 <sup>th</sup>	Friday	9.00am 6.45pm-8pm 7.15pm-8pm	Elstow Lower School visit to the Abbey Choir practice, junior choir Choir practice, adult choir
15 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday	2.00pm 7.00pm	St Michael's Christmas Fayre in the Scott Hall Benefice Social Evening at Cardington – Curry and Quiz Night
16 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	2 <sup>nd</sup> Before Advent 10.00am  11.15am 3.00pm  <b>4-5.30pm</b>  6.30pm	Holy Communion with Sunday School and the Baptism of Hannah Dimpleby. Celebrant and Preacher The Reverend Mary Railton-Crowder Morning Prayer (JRC) Baptism of Chloe Taylor, and Tye, Chelsea, Ashley, Kady, Bryony, Ashley, Kyra Reed (JRC) <b>Casting for the Pantomime @ the Church Hall</b> Evening Prayer (Captain David Wells)
17 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	10.00am 2.00pm	Mums and Toddlers meet in the Church Hall Prayer Group meet in the Summerhouse
18 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	10.00am 4.30pm	Sing and Sign in the Church Hall Dance Club in the Church Hall
19 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	11.30am 6.30pm	Coffee morning and soup in the Church Hall Youth Group meet in the Church Hall
20 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	11.00am	Holy Communion (Revd. Len Moore)
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Saturday	2.00pm	Children's Workshop in the Church Hall
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Sunday	Next Before Advent 10.00am 11.15am 6.00pm  6.30pm	Christ The King Young People's Service (JEH) Holy Communion (Canon Nigel Morrell) United Service at Christ The King, London Road <b>NO EVENSONG AT ELSTOW</b>
24 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	10.00am 2.00pm	Mums and Toddlers meet in the Church Hall Prayer Group meet in the Summerhouse
25 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	10.00am 4.30pm	Sing and Sign in the Church Hall Dance Club in the Church Hall
26 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	11.30am 6.30pm	Coffee morning and soup in the Church Hall Youth Group meet in the Church Hall
27 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	11.00am 7.30pm	Holy Communion (The Revd. Len Moore) Meeting of the Parochial Church Council in the

Church Hall

28 <sup>th</sup>	Friday	6.45pm-8pm 7.15pm-8pm	Choir practice, junior choir Choir practice, adult choir
29 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday	2.00pm	Christmas Bazaar in the Church Hall
30 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	Advent Sunday <b><u>10.30am</u></b> 6.30pm	<b>Joint Benefice Holy Communion at Elstow with Sunday School (JRC)</b> Evening Prayer followed by Holy Communion with the Laying on of Hands for Healing (JRC)

**DECEMBER**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Monday	10.00am 2.00pm 6.30pm	Mums and Toddlers meet in the Church Hall Prayer Group meet in the Summerhouse Hitchin Concert Band Brass Ensemble and Kingshott School Chamber Choir in aid of The Friends of Elstow Abbey
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Tuesday	10.00am 4.30pm	Sing and Sign in the Church Hall Dance Club in the Church Hall
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Wednesday	11.30am  6.30pm 8.00pm	Coffee morning followed by soup in the Church Hall  Youth Group meet in the Church Hall Advent Study Course I, at St Mary's Cardington
4 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	11.00am 12 noon	Holy Communion (JRC) Monthly Lunch @ Red Lion or Swan Pub
7 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday Advent 2	10.00am 11.15am 3.30pm 6.30pm	Holy Communion with Sunday School (JRC) Morning Prayer (JRC) Christingle (MEB, Hinsons) Evening Prayer (Canon Philip McDonough)

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**Elstow Poores Charity**

Single Pensioners and Married couple who both receive state pensions and have resided continuously in Elstow village for over 10 years may be entitled to benefit from the Elstow Poores Charity at Christmas.

Application for benefit should be made in writing and addressed to Mr, R, Worthington-Ellis, 14, South Avenue, Elstow, Beds, MK42 9YS, to reach me no later than Saturday, 15th, November, 2008, Existing beneficiaries need not to re-apply

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## DETAILS FROM THE REGISTERS

### SEPTEMBER 2008

Date	Communicants	Attendance	Collections
4th	11	11	5.25
7th	38	84	375.57
11th	8	8	3.00
14th	34	66	253.89
18 <sup>th</sup>	7	7	4.00
21 <sup>st</sup>	48	99	542.71
25th	10	10	14.00
29 <sup>th</sup>	25	130	179.43
			(Envelopes)
			153.96
			(Farm Africa)
	<b><u>181</u></b>	<b><u>415</u></b>	<b><u>1531.81</u></b>

### BAPTISMS

**September 14th** Rhys Phillip John Foster  
Jayden Olatunji Luke Kajo

**October 12<sup>th</sup>** Charlie Luke Bilton

### BURIALS

**September 4th** Percy Norman Thompson (Ashes)

## **ELSTOW ABBEY ORGAN**



Thank you to the generous support from “The Friends of Elstow Abbey”. This has just enabled the Abbey organ to undergo a mini overhaul at a cost of £2,000.

(Let me explain more)

The organ works by wind being released into the pipes from the wind chests. The wind is released by mechanical shutters called leathers, that open and close to release or close of wind from the pipes as the organist plays or releases the notes/keys on the organ.

These leathers had become worn out after nearly 70 years of use. This had resulted in some ranks of notes/pipes not working at all or working intermittently, which meant some notes would sometimes speak late or not all when the player needed them to.

The leathers, along with other small adjustments have been completed with minimum disruption to services with only Mattins having to use the piano on August 31. The organ was playable about 98% capacity for all three services on September 7 and fully operational on September 14.

The organ is playing much better, with a sharper, brighter, smoother sound which I know the whole team of organists are delighted with.

The organ is like an old car needing parts replacing to keep it on the road. The electrics of the organ will be fast approaching the end of their lives in the next few years. These parts are 70 years old and obsolete. The price of not doing anything is more costly in the long run. The organ of St Albans Abbey is currently undergoing major refurbishment work having not had much work done for many years. The cost is just under £1 million pounds.

## **INTERESTING FACTS**

- The organ was built and installed by Norman Hill & Beard in 1939
- In 1992 the organ had additional stops and other works done by William Johnson & Son who have just completed this recent work
- There are two manuals/keyboards and pedal board
- The organ has 23 ranks of pipes which produce the sounds which the organist can engage with appropriate stop on the organ which in turn operates each rank of pipes – each rank produces its own unique sound such as the flutes, oboe and trumpets etc
- There are just under 1,400 pipes
- The player also has playing aids which link the manual/keyboard sounds to each other and the same on the pedal organ etc – there are six of these.
- The other player aids are called pistons. There are five hand pistons under each manual which allows the player to engage louder and softer sounds at the press of a button. There are the same to push with your feet, - these are not always reliable so we tend not to use these.
- The lower manual is called the Great and is generally the bigger sounds of the organ, the upper manual is called the Swell, these pipes are in box which has shutters which the player can open and shut to increase or decrease the sound. This pedal is just above the pedal board and works on a rocking action. These manuals can be linked together for a bigger sound. The organists generally do this to help the choir from the back of the church to the front during the first hymn at the Parish Communion Services. This helps to prevent the time lag from being a problem whilst the choir are proceeding up the nave.

We are very fortunate to have what is recognised as one the finest organs in Bedfordshire that befits this fine building we worship in.

*Stephen McDonald – Director of Music*

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## LESSON READERS NOVEMBER 2008

November 9th Green/Red	10.55am 6.30pm	As set in order of service Judges Ch.7 v. 2 -22	John Ch.15 v. 9 - 17	Dorothy Steele Peter Moss
November 16th Green/Red	10.00am 11.15am 6.30pm	1 Thessalonians Ch.5 v. 1 - 11 Daniel Ch.10 v. 19 - end 1 Kings Ch.1 v. 15 - 40	Matthew Ch.25 v. 14 - 30 Revelation Ch.4 Revelation Ch.1 v. 4 - 18	Lynn Harris Eric Crossen Barbara Routledge
November 23rd White	10.00am 11.15am 6.00pm	Young People's Service Ephesians Ch.1 v. 15 - end No Evensong at Elstow	Matthew Ch.25 v. 31 - end United Service at Christ The King	Delphine Fordham
November 30th Purple	10.30am 6.30pm	1 Corinthians Ch.1 v. 3 - 9 Isaiah Ch.1 v. 1 - 20	Mark Ch.13 v. 24 - 37 Matthew Ch.21 v. 1 - 13	A Team Member Margaret Eastwell
December 7th Purple	10.00am 11.15am 6.30pm	2 Peter Ch. 3 v. 8 -15 Baruch Ch.5 v. 1 - 9 1 Kings Ch.22 v. 1 - 28	Mark Ch.1 v. 1 - 8 Luke Ch.1 v. 5 - 20 Romans Ch.15 v. 4 - 13	Peter Batiuk Lizabeth Burrows Glynis Annan

## SIDESMEN'S ROTA NOVEMBER 2008

<b>November 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Mrs. A. Morris.</b>	<b>Mrs. S. Brown.</b>
	<b>11.15am</b>	<b>Mr. F. W. Crossen.</b>	
	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Mr. C. Albon.</b> <b>Mrs. R. Albon.</b>	<b>Mrs. B. Routledge.</b> <b>Mrs. C. Parrish.</b>
<b>November 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.55am</b>	<b>Mrs. S. Batiuk.</b> <b>Mrs. A. Knight.</b>	<b>Mr. P. Batiuk</b>
	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Miss. M. Eastwell.</b>	
<b>November 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Mrs. R. Albon.</b>	<b>Mrs. J. Barnicott.</b>
	<b>11.15am</b>	<b>Mrs. M. Crossen.</b>	
	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Mrs. G. Annan.</b>	
<b>November 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Mrs. B. Routledge.</b>	
	<b>11.15am</b>	<b>Mrs. A Knight.</b>	
<b>NO EVENSONG AT ELSTOW – UNITED SERVICE AT CHRIST THE KING</b>			
<b>November 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mrs. S. Batiuk.</b>	<b>Mr. P. Batiuk</b>
	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Mr. P. Moss.</b>	
<b>December 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Mr. C. Albon.</b>	<b>Mrs. A. Morris.</b>
	<b>11.15am</b>	<b>Mrs. L. Burrows.</b>	
	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Mrs. C. Parrish.</b>	

If any of these dates are inconvenient, please would you arrange a swap and let Colin Albon know that you have done so.



The afternoon starts with moving furniture. By moving the new chairs, we turn St Michael's into a club area. We put the chairs around the wall and block off sensitive areas like the font and the sanctuary. We put small tables out and put out pool table, football table (on loan from St Mary's) and various other board games, (including a bagatelle originating from the reign of King George). As the other helpers arrive the craft table is set up and drinks are poured ready. David gets the register out and the cash box and we are ready for today's "Tuesday Club"

Tuesday Club started up at St Michael's in April. We had twenty-six children on the first day and it has been a success ever since. The club meets on a Tuesday (Hence its name!) It is for five to ten year olds .The children come from the locality around the Church

The children arrive in "dribs and drabs". We encourage their parents to bring them in because it makes a good link between the leaders and the parents. Subs are 50p. As soon as they arrive they are give a drink and biscuit, sitting down of course, to avoid spillage. After this they can choose what activity they do.

Some enjoy a game of Pool or Table football with each other or a leader; others want to play Scrabble or "Hungry Hippo". There is always an enthusiastic crowd at the craft table. Since the summer we have had lots of Lego to play with and this has proved popular.

After about 50 minutes David calls out a "Five Minute Warning". When he starts to count down from ten there is a mad scramble to put the games away and to tidy up. Everyone gets involved in packing up. At the end of the count everyone is sitting on the chairs, except the one little boy who has decided that this is the time he wants to go to the toilet.

Then fruit is served. There are pieces of apple, orange, banana and pear. The rule is you only take one piece of each at first until everyone has had some. Then when the plate comes around again you can help yourself. After fruit David tells a story. We are going through the story of Moses at the moment. Just when the story gets exciting David says: " Do you want to know what happens next? Well you will have to come back next week to find out."

There is usually a worksheet to colour in. The one, or even two that are done best are given a prize. There are also prizes for those who had been best behaved or done a good item of craft or who have listened well. By then the parents are at the door and it is time to go home.

Numbers have dropped to around seventeen after the summer but they are building up again. There is a faithful team who work hard and really enjoy come to "Tuesday Club". We think the children do too.

*Captain David Wells*

## Greenbelt 2009



This summer I did something that I hadn't done in twenty years. I went to Greenbelt. Greenbelt is a Christian music and arts festival - established in 1973 and first held in 1974, Greenbelt festival is in its 35th year, and, at the last festival, attracted around 19,000 festival-goers.

Some of you may have been to Greenbelt, especially in its early years when it was

based at Odell, just north of Bedford. I noticed that it was quite different. For one thing, it is a lot larger. There were so many tents, so many activities, that it would be impossible for anyone to see everything.

For adults there were great speakers, different styles of music from classical to Rock. For children there was all day activities. And for young people there was the main stage with every style of music, from Hip Hop to RnB to modern worship. Plus so many activities such as circus skills and sports. Some things were still the same, most people camped, although there were some caravans and one double decker bus.

The toilets were a million times better though and there were some shower facilities. The highlight was the Sunday Afternoon Communion, with over six thousand people taking part. I had a fantastic time, so much so that I would like to organise from Elstow Benefice to go to Greenbelt next year.

Greenbelt 2009 is on from Friday 28th to Monday 31st August 2009 at Cheltenham Racecourse. Cost is £99 for adults £66 Concessions, Years 13 to 17 £55, Children £50. However if we book before November 30th there are considerable discounts (£77,£52,£43,£39). This is why I am mentioning this in this magazine. If you are interested in going to Greenbelt 2009, please talk to me. If there is sufficient interest then I will put out a brochure.

***Captain David Wells***

## COMMUNITY CHAPLAINS NEEDED

**Community Resettlement Support Project** is a new charity set up as a *Community Chaplaincy* which has been set up to support men who are preparing to be released from **HMP Bedford**, supporting them as they leave through the gate into the communities of Bedfordshire, Luton and North Hertfordshire and in the days and weeks following their release as they resettle in the community.

### **Why is there a need for this Project?**

HMP Bedford is a Category B Remand Prison for adult men aged 21+. Nationally the re-offending rate for offenders returning to prison within 2 years of their release is 55% and higher for younger men. This is a situation which affects offenders, their families, their children and all our communities. Many men who are released face high levels of stress, anxiety and loneliness as they are released from prison and need someone who will listen to them and support them as they seek to turn their lives around.

**The Community Resettlement Support Project** has been developed by the multi-faith Chaplaincy Team at HMP Bedford. The ethos of the Project is based on the Community Chaplaincy initiative originally developed in churches in Canada with proven success at reducing re-offending rates.

**Rev'd Sally White**, Chaplain at HMP Prison Bedford and a Trustee said *"This work is one way for the Christian Community in our area and individual Christians to show the love of God in a practical way for a group of people outside of the life of the Church"*

Bishop Christopher said *"The virtues of courage, hope and patience are not very often found in civic society these days, but in the charitable sector they are alive and well. The charitable project led by Sally White and others is ground-breaking, committed as it is to some of the most needy and vulnerable people in society. I wish it every success."*

The Project is looking to recruit and train volunteers to provide befriending support; if you are interested in finding out more about being a volunteer, or how you and your church can support this work, please contact **Rob Burton on 07940211527** or email [sally.white@hmps.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:sally.white@hmps.gsi.gov.uk) for an information pack and details of the volunteer information evenings taking place in early December.

## **JOKES JOKES JOKES**

Following the problems in the sub-prime lending market in America and the run on Northern Rock in the UK, uncertainty has now hit Japan. In the last 7 days Origami Bank has folded, Sumo Bank has gone belly up and Bonsai Bank announced plans to cut some of its branches. Yesterday, it was announced that Karaoke Bank is up for sale and will likely go for a song while today shares in Kamikaze Bank were suspended after they nose-dived. While Samurai Bank are soldiering on following sharp cutbacks, Ninja Bank are reported to have taken a hit, but they remain in the black. Furthermore, 500 staff at Karate Bank got the chop and analysts report that there is something fishy going on at Sushi Bank where it is feared that staff may get a raw deal.

A rich American tourist was holidaying in Rome, and was intent on seeing the Pope. There he stood, in a big long line with a rather expensive suit on, hoping the Pope would notice how smart he was and perhaps talk with him. As the Pope made his way slowly down the line, he walked right past the American, hardly even noticing him.

The Pope then stopped next to a drunk, leaned over and whispered something in his ear, and made his way on again. This really angered the American. After speaking with the drunkard, the American agreed to pay \$1000 dollars to exchange clothing, in the hope that the Pope would speak to him the next day.

The next morning the American stood in the line, waiting to see the Pope and hopefully exchange a few words. The Pope was making his way slowly up to the American. When he finally reached him, he leaned over to the American and spoke softly into his ear.. "I thought I told you yesterday to get out of here!"

A man goes into a fish and chip shop and asks for fish and chips twice.  
The man behind the counter says, "Alright, I heard you the first time!"