

ELSTOW PARISH MAGAZINE

APRIL 2008

As you all know if you've been to church in the past couple of weeks, Jeremy has returned safely from his travels. He has promised to write an account of his trip for the parish magazine, but we thought we'd let him get settled back in first, so instead, here is an article by the Rev Peter Littleford:

The Resurrection - is it a case of all you need is love?

I don't know what you think, but to me, scientifically speaking, there's no evidence for or against the resurrection of Jesus Christ. I consider that in the end, a belief in Easter with the resurrection of Jesus Christ comes down to being a decision of our minds and the hearts. It's a choice we can make. We can believe the witnesses who said that something remarkable had occurred and that it has gone on affecting the world ever since through the triumph of life over death, good over evil, love over hate, light over darkness. Or we can believe that the witnesses were mistaken and that life and death, good and evil, love and hate, light and darkness, are evenly matched and that there is no ultimate power for good that is stronger than death.

In the end, it's very simple: we either choose to have faith, or we don't. But the decision we make about Easter will probably affect us profoundly for the rest of our lives along with all the other choices we have to make.

I came across this quotation from a source, now lost, which I rather like and hope others might find it helpful too: ***'that we have all made the choice to walk in an Easter light and to live by an Easter faith because we know that it brings abundant life and makes intuitive sense even in a world containing death, hatred, violence and darkness.'***

Well, how can we gain this abundant life? We can get it in a variety of ways: through sharing in the Eucharist where Jesus is present in the communion of bread and wine; through breathing in his Spirit in contemplative prayer; through reading and listening to his thoughts and parables, and also the visions and miracles in the Gospels. It is through these ways that Jesus Christ can become to us living bread, life-giving breath, and living words.

I believe that because the Gospels don't try to explain what happened at the Resurrection, we can't explain it either. We can only stand under its grace and let it understand us as an unrepeatable miracle of love. Love is its only meaning because love is the only survivor, because God is love all the way through. The only people who saw the risen Jesus Christ were the people who loved him and followed him - as Luke said, 'to the witnesses that God had already chosen'.

The Resurrection, therefore, was made visible and possible for those who experienced it because of the love that was in them, a love which came from God, and because God loved the world so much that he gave Jesus Christ to these people in a new and living way. We can be with them if we are prepared to believe that love is stronger than death, and then we too can believe in Easter.

The Rev Peter Littleford

Tunes of Glory



'Now thank we all our God' was written in German by Martin Rinkart (1586-1649), and translated by Catherine Winkworth 1829-78. The tune is *Nun Danket* from J Cruger's *Praxis Pietatis Melica* c 1647, and assigned to him as cantor of St. Nicholas' Church in Berlin, where he died in 1662. He edited a book of tunes in which it appears, but there is no proof that he actually composed the tune, and the interesting story that assigns the air to the author of the words is worth preserving. It was harmonised chiefly in Felix Mendelssohn's *Lobgesang* in 1840.

Frank Colquhoun indicates that this great hymn of thanksgiving was written during the grim days of the Thirty Years War, when appalling conditions of famine and pestilence prevailed in the Saxony town of Eilenberg, of which Martin Rinkart was the pastor. Rinkart said he wrote the first two stanzas not for use in church worship, but as a grace to be sung at meals in his own household. The third stanza was not added until later, to make it a complete hymn with a Trinitarian doxology.

There are some further points about the first two verses: Rinkart based them on the passage in Ecclesiasticus 50:22-24 beginning, '*Now bless the God of all, who in every way does great things*'. The whole passage should be read to appreciate the way Rinkart treats the words and turns them into verse. The first verse is an act of praise and looks back to the past in grateful recognition of the 'wondrous things' God has done for us from our very earliest years. The second is an act of prayer and looks to the future, asking that 'through all our life' God may be near us, granting us his joy and peace, his grace and guidance. The doxology, ascribing glory to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, brings the hymn to a majestic conclusion in an outburst of adoring worship.

James Lightwood notes that Mendelssohn made frequent use of the old German chorales in both his vocal and instrumental works. Two of the most familiar are 'Sleepers, Wake' and 'Now thank we all our God'. Both were written during the Thirty Years' War, when Germany was torn with religious strife. Martin Rinkart had been precentor of the church at Eisleben, Luther's birthplace, and when the war broke out he moved to Eilenburg, his native place. Here he stayed through the long weary years of the war, helping the poor, and sharing his all with those who were in distress, while he himself had to put up with the extortions and rudeness of the soldiers, and submit to the frequent plundering of his goods.

After twenty tedious years the plague broke out in his town, and Rinkart worked almost single-handed. He buried upwards of four thousand persons, but was himself untouched by sickness. Famine followed, and when the distress was at its height the enemy came down on the town and demanded an enormous tribute. But Rinkart went out and interceded so effectively that the terms were reduced. And then there came a time when a stranger appeared in the town, heralding his approach with a trumpet, and proclaiming the glorious news that peace was at hand, and the heartfelt gratitude of the old pastor burst out in the joyous song

'Now thank we all our God, With hearts and hands and voices'

As he was writing the words the simple yet majestic air, so suited to the words, came to his mind, and he wrote it down with his song. Such was the origin of what has been called the Te Deum of Germany, and ever since has been the great thanksgiving hymn of the Fatherland. Its general acceptance in all our hymn-books has given it a similar position in England, and it was universally sung throughout churches and chapels of the land at the close of the South African War in 1902.

John Crookall

THE CHURCH CALENDAR

APRIL 2008

- | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|--|
| 1 st | Tuesday | 10-12noon | 'Sing and Sign' in the Church Hall
(Julie 01767 691488) |
| | | 4-6pm | Launch of the 'Dance Club' in the Church Hall. 3-5 years 4-4.30pm; 5-7years 4.30-5pm; 7-10years 5-5.45pm £2.50 per child per session. (Penny 269023) |
| 2 nd | Wednesday | 11.30am | Coffee Morning followed by soup in the Church Hall |
| | | | No Youth Group Meeting |
| 3 rd | Thursday | 11.00am | Holy Communion (JRC) |
| | | 12.00noon | Lunch Club at the Red Lion |
| | | 8.00pm | Liturgy Committee meet at 43 Armstrong Close, Wilstead |
| 6 th | Sunday | Easter 3 | |
| | | | Stewardship Sunday |
| | | 10.00am | Family Communion with Sunday School (JRC) |
| | | 11.15am | Morning Prayer (JRC) |
| | | 6.30pm | Evening Prayer (JRC) |

7 th	Monday	10.00am	Mums and Toddlers meet in the Church Hall
		2.00pm	Prayer Group meet in the Summerhouse
		8.00pm	Trustees and Committee of the Friends of Elstow Abbey meet in the Church Hall
8 th	Tuesday	10-12noon	'Sing and Sign' in the Church Hall
		10.00am	Mums and Toddlers launch at St Michael's Barford Ave
		4-6pm	'Dance Club' in the Church Hall
9 th	Wednesday	11.30am	Coffee Morning followed by soup in the Church Hall
		6.30pm	'Youth Group' meet in the Church Hall
10 th	Thursday	11.00am	Holy Communion (JRC)
		8.00pm	Finance and Standing Committee meet at 43. Armstrong Close, Wilstead
12 th	Saturday	10-12noon	Coffee morning in Church Hall in aid of 'Junior Heroes'
13 th	Sunday	Easter 4	
		10.00am	Parish Communion with Sunday School with the Baptism of Alfred Carr (JRC)
		12 noon	Launch of the Monthly 'Couples' Sunday Lunch in the Red Lion. <i>Please ring Alistair on 768137 to book a place.</i>
		6.30pm	Evening Prayer (JRC)
14 th	Monday	10.00am	'Mums and Toddlers' meet in the Church Hall
		2.00pm	'Prayer Group' meet in the Summerhouse
			<i>Deadline for material for the May Magazine</i>
15 th	Tuesday	10-12noon	'Sing and Sign' in the Church Hall
		4-6pm	'Dance Club' in the Church Hall

16 th	Wednesday	11.30am	Coffee Morning followed by soup in the Church Hall
		6.30pm	'Youth Group' meet in the Church Hall
17 th	Thursday	11.00am	Holy Communion (JRC)
		7.00pm	Wedding Rehearsal in the Church
		8.00pm	Team Council meeting in Elstow Church Hall
19 th	Saturday	2.00pm	Blessing of the marriage of Ian Johnson and Alison Roffe (JRC)
20 th	Sunday	Easter 5	
		10.00am	Family Communion with Sunday School (JRC)
		11.15am	Morning Prayer (Group)
		6.30pm	Evening Prayer (Captain David Wells)
21 st	Monday	10.00am	'Mums and Toddlers' meet in the Church Hall
		2.00pm	'Prayer Group' meet in the Summerhouse
22 nd	Tuesday	10-12noon	'Sing and Sign' in the Church Hall
		3.45-5.15pm	Launch of the After School Club @ St Michael's Church
		4-6pm	'Dance Club' in the Church Hall
23 rd	Wednesday	11.30am	Coffee Morning followed by soup in the Church Hall
		6.30pm	Youth Group meet in the Church Hall
24 th	Thursday	11.00am	Holy Communion (JRC)
		2.00pm	Meeting with English Heritage @ the Vicarage
		7.30pm	Annual Meeting of the Parochial Church Council in the Church Hall

25 th	Friday 8.00pm	Time Of Our Lives Music Theatre presents COOL BRITANNIA in the Abbey
26 th	Saturday 2.00pm	Children's Workshop in the Church Hall
27 th	Sunday	Easter 6
	10.00am	Young People's Service (JEH)
	11.15am	Parish Communion (Canon Nigel Morrell)
	11.30am	APCMs at St Mary's Cardington and St Michael's Bedford
	6.30pm	Evening Prayer with Holy Communion and the Laying on of Hands for Healing (JRC)
28 th	Monday	10.00am 'Mums and Toddlers' meet in the Church Hall
	2.00pm	'Prayer Group' meet in the Summerhouse
29 th	Tuesday	10-12noon 'Sing and sign' in the Church Hall
	4-6pm	'Dance Club' in the Church Hall
30 th	Wednesday	11.30am Coffee Morning followed by soup in the Church Hall
	6.30pm	Youth Group meet in the Church Hall

MAY

1 st	Thursday	Ascension Day
	11.00am	Holy Communion (JRC)
	12noon	Monthly lunch at the Red Lion
2 nd	Friday	Quinquennial Inspection of the Church
3 rd	Saturday	10.30-12noon Visitors to Elstow Abbey
4 th	Sunday	Sunday after Ascension Day
	10.00am	Family Communion with Sunday School (JRC)
	11.15am	Morning Prayer (JRC)
	6.30pm	Evening Prayer (JRC)

5 th	Monday	10.00am	'Mums and Toddlers' in the Church Hall
		2.00pm	'Prayer Group' meet in the Summerhouse
6 th	Tuesday	10-12noon	'Sing and sign' in the Church Hall
		4-6pm	'Dance Club' in the Church Hall
7 th	Wednesday	11.30am	Coffee Morning followed by soup in the Church Hall
		6.30pm	'Youth Group' meet in the Church Hall
8 th	Thursday	11.00am	Holy Communion (JRC)
		7.45pm	South Bedford Council of Churches meet at London Road Methodist Church
		8.00pm	Finance and Standing Committee meet at 43. Armstrong Close, Wilstead
10 th	Saturday	12-4pm	Elstow May Festival, procession at 2pm.

Those who are able to help prepare please meet at the Red Lion at 8.30am for a cooked breakfast! Please see Barbara if you are able to help in any way.

LESSON READERS APRIL 2008

April 6th White	10.00am 11.15am 6.30pm	Acts Ch. 2 v's 14 & 36 - 41 Isaiah Ch.40 v. 1 - 11 Haggai Ch.1 v. 13 - Ch. 2 v. 9	Luke Ch.24 v. 13 - 35 1 Peter Ch.5 v. 1 - 11 1 Corinthians Ch.3 v. 10 - 17	Lynn Harris Stephen McDonald Margaret Eastwell
April 13th White	10.00am 6.30pm	Acts Ch. 2 v. 42 - end Ezra Ch. 3 v.1 - 13	John Ch.10 v. 1 - 10 Ephesians Ch. 2 v. 11 - end	Lynn Faulkner Glynis Annan
April 20th White	10.00am 11.15am 6.30pm	Acts Ch.7 v. 55 - end Job Ch.2 v. 3 - 10 Zechariah Ch. 4 v. 1 - 10	John Ch. 14 v. 1 - 14 John Ch. 5 v. 19 - 29 Revelation Ch. 21 v 1 - 14	Alastair Laverty Eric Crossen Peter Moss
April 27th White	10.00am 11.15am 6.30pm	Young People's Service Acts Ch. 17 v. 22 - 31 Zechariah Ch.8 v. 1 - 13	John Ch. 14 v. 15 - 21 Revelation Ch. 21 v. 22 - Ch.22 v.5	Ann Knight Catherine Parrish
May 4th White	10.00am 11.15am 6.30pm	Acts Ch.1 v. 6 - 14 Isaiah Ch.65 v. 17 - end 2 Samuel Ch. 23 v. 1 - 5	John Ch.17 v. 1 - 11 Revelation Ch. 21 v. 1 - 8 Ephesians Ch. 1 v. 15 - end	Ken Webb John Crookall Dorothy Steele

SIDESMEN'S ROTA APRIL 2008

April 6 th	10.00am	Mrs. S. Batiuk.	Mrs. A. Morris.
	11.15am	Mr. F. Crossen.	
	6.30pm	Miss. M. Eastwell.	
April 13 th	10.00am	Mrs. B. Routledge.	Mr. P. Batiuk.
	6.30pm	Mrs. G. Annan.	
April 20 th	10.00am	Mrs. R. Albon.	Mrs. J. Barnicott.
	11.15am	Mrs. A. Knight.	
	6.30pm	Mrs. V. Whyatt-Routh.	
April 27 th	10.00am	The Young People.	
	11.15am	Mrs. L. Burrows.	
	6.30pm	Mr. P. Moss.	
May 4 th	10.00am	Mrs. A. Morris.	Mrs. S. Brown.
	11.15am	Mrs. M. Crossen.	
	6.30pm	Mrs. C. Parrish.	

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

THE TIME OF OUR LIVES MUSIC THEATRE



After the tremendous success of their visit last May, the Time of our Lives Music Theatre is returning to Elstow to perform this year's performance, entitled 'COOL BRITANNIA', a hilarious mix of music, dance, stand-up and sketch comedy. If you were in the audience last year you will already know how talented the performers are and if you did not get to join us last year do make a special point of being with us on **FRIDAY 25TH APRIL AT 8.00PM** in the Abbey. Tickets are available from any of the Friends Trustees or Committee i.e. Colin Albon, Rosemary

Albon, Barbara Routledge, Jeremy Crocker, Miriam Clark, Patrick Luffman, Raff Marotta, Derek Norman, Kate Parrish, Tim Simmons or Roger Worthington- Ellis.

Tickets are priced as last year: Adult £10.00 Child £7.00 Family (Maximum 4) £25.00. There will be a raffle and interval refreshments are free but of course any donation is welcome towards the costs. All profits go towards the work of the Friends of Elstow Abbey. Last year the Friends benefited by £878.00 it would be wonderful if in this, my last year as Chairman of the Trustees, we could make it £1000.00.

The Friends help towards the cost of maintaining the fabric of the Abbey and recently they were able to help the Parochial Church Council in the repair of the window guards on the

high East Window of the Abbey. One of the wire guards fell to the ground and it was thought that the remaining ones would follow. The Friends paid for all the guards to be taken down, painted and refixed.

Because of the height of the window, scaffolding had to be used and the total cost paid from the Friends funds was £ 2001.43. The window, depicting Faith, Hope and Charity was installed to mark the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1887. It is not known how long the guards have been in place but they were all in remarkable condition. Whilst the scaffolding was in place the Abbey Architect, Bruce Deacon, took the opportunity to inspect the stonework on the East End, and other than some spoiling of the stone all was found to be in good order.

Whilst looking at the window tracery Bruce noted some fine carving on the stonework, impossible to see from the ground because it is so small and detailed and remarkably well preserved, a credit to the masons of the 1880 restoration and also to the fact that the East End is preserved from the prevailing weather from the west. Bruce has taken some photographs of the carving for the archives.

Colin Albon

We're hearing a lot about dire financial situations at the moment - you only have to open the paper or switch on the news to be confronted by phrases such as "credit crunch" and "economic crisis". So this is a particularly timely article, based on a speech given by the Bishop of St Albans:

Banking crisis has moral root and solution, says Bishop of St Albans

The Bishop of St Albans, the Rt Revd Christopher Herbert, speaking in the House of Lords, called for a fresh approach to restoring damaged trust in the banking industry. He called the giving of bank loans to people "...knowing that customers are not really aware of the risks they are taking," a moral, not just an economic problem.

My Lords,

Over 2,700 years ago a poem of thund'rous beauty was written about economic affairs. The poet, looking around him, saw a land which was rich and prosperous: the vineyard was bearing much fruit. But then things began to go terribly wrong: greed began to prevail over justice, oppression was rife, mercy was no longer part of the social or political vocabulary. "Woe to you", said the poet, "who join house to house, field to field, until there is room for no-one but you...". He could have been describing the London property market or the banking industry. The poem is a long one but in it the relationship between social morality and economic affairs is examined with powerful precision.

In trying to understand our current economic problems, and in particular the banking crisis, I have read the newspapers fairly carefully and I have been much helped by articles such as the one by the noble Lord, Lord Rees Mogg in The Times (Monday 12 November). In that article he drew attention to

some new regulations FAS 157 and 159: and explained that those regulations “will set the terms on which banks value their assets”. And then wrote, crisply and clearly: ‘No assets, no lending; no lending, no banks’. It’s a gem of a summary.

In the same newspaper on the same day, in an article about one of Britain’s major banks, the journalist quoted an “insider” as saying that his bank had: “always been at the transparent end of the spectrum”. The implication that other banks are not is easily drawn.

One of the things that has been missing from newspaper comment on the banking crisis has been any explicit reference to the morality upon which good banking practice is necessarily based. There has been the inevitable targeting of individuals, from the Governor of the Bank of England to the CEO of Northern Rock – but that kind of targeted attack misses the much bigger issues concerned with the probity of institutions, about the moral relationship that exists between trust and risk and reward; about the moral accountability of those who have financial control over the most vulnerable; about the morality of a society in which the gap between rich and poor remains achingly large; about the morality of a housing market, left to its own devices, which leaves the poor and the young trapped in despair.

In a democratic society, banking depends upon trust. The unwritten, unspoken contract is that if I lend money to a bank I shall receive that money back in due course. If that moral trust is lacking or if faith is broken, the banking system will collapse. The current failures in the system are as much to do with morality as with economic mechanics. If I over-lend or encourage indebtedness (what was that ho-ho phrase about the banks being “over-exuberant?”) knowing that my customers are not really aware of the risks they are taking then that is not a mechanical problem but a moral one. And no amount of arcane economic speak about CDO’s or selling debt or sub-prime lending can conceal the fact that the issue **is** a moral one.

It seems to me there is an urgent need for Her Majesty’s Government to take action at two levels: the first is to call together senior bankers with ethicists, philosophers and theologians to reflect on the moral values which should underline good banking practice, and the second is to take action, urgent and necessary action, to support those Citizens Advice Bureaux through the country where the problems of indebtedness are encountered on a daily basis amongst the poor, the lonely, and the most vulnerable. If my call does not produce any response I recommend a course in the reading of poetry – and especially the poetry of a man called Isaiah. It’s all there.

Search for war-time workers at the Royal Ordnance Factory, Elstow



As part of a project to record people's memories of the Royal Ordnance Factory, Elstow, Albion Archaeology is looking for people who worked at the factory either during or immediately after the war or their relatives who remember stories about the factory. Albion Archaeology would like to record interviews about people's experiences of working at the factory for posterity.

During the war, workers at the factory filled bombs ranging from 2" mortar shells to larger bombs of up to 12,000 lb. By 1945, the factory contained over 250 separate buildings, 14 miles of road and 15 miles of railway track. Almost 95,000 tons of bombs passed through Elstow during the course of the war, which is one-seventh of the total number dropped on Germany.

Bomb filling was highly dangerous and specialised work, with the workforce having to change into special clothing before entering the danger area. Many of the buildings used by the workers still exist and despite many years of alternative use, some buildings have changed little.

This is about to change, as the factory forms part of the site for the new community of Wixams. Gallagher are undertaking an archaeological study of the site, making a documentary record of the layout and buildings but possibly more importantly, also undertaking an Oral History Survey to capture the memories of surviving wartime workers who worked and lived their lives in and around the depot. RPS Planning and Albion Archaeology have been asked to carry out the research.

Stratos Constantinou, Gallagher's Principal Project Engineer, said "We recognise the proud history of the Elstow Depot site and are delighted to again be breathing new life into the area. A new chapter in the history of Elstow will be written whilst ensuring that its past is properly recorded and retained for the future education and enjoyment of all."

If you have memories of the Royal Ordnance Factory, Elstow, or if you know someone who does, please contact Hester Cooper-Reade at Albion Archaeology on 01234 294 010 or h.cooper-reaade@albion-arch.com.

Wixams Village One

Village One will feature new homes and a local village centre, providing a mix of community, retail, recreational and commercial uses. There will also be a lower school, a village hall, temporary GP surgery, large areas of open space and two full-size sports pitches.

Outline Village One timetable

February 2007: Village One and A6 infrastructure works commence

Early 2008: House building starts

2008: First Wixams residents move in

The future of Wixams

Wixams will be one of the largest new communities to be built in the UK in recent times. This sustainable, innovative new market town will provide 4,500 homes, 300 acres of open space, employment opportunities, shopping and community facilities.

A quarter of all homes will be affordable housing, including shared ownership, low cost and rented accommodation. Six new schools will be built – three lower, two middle and one upper.

It is intended that all homes will be built to the EcoHomes 'Very Good' rating. Wixams' sustainable transport network will include bus stops within walking distance of homes, a proposed new railway station and an extensive network of cycleways, footpaths and bridleways.

Gallagher is one of the UK's largest master developers, promoting and delivering residential and mixed-use schemes throughout the country. In addition to Wixams, Gallagher is currently promoting the sustainable new town of Northstowe in Cambridgeshire, and five other new communities in the South Midlands/East of England growth areas. For more information visit their website at www.gallagherestates.co.uk.

Easter Youth Pilgrimage 2008

Monday 24th March





Our bell-ringers have been busy, as you can see by this report from Stephen Stanford:

On Tuesday 4 March 2008

A Quarter Peal of 1272 Cambridge Surprise Minor

- 1 Ann Desics
 - 2 Dorothy Kirby
 - 3 Sarah-Louise Ward
 - 4 Kath Stenton
 - 5 Jenny Thompson
 - 6 Margaret Whiteley
- Conducted by Margaret Whiteley

For Mothering Sunday by a band of ladies from the Bedford District (finally successful after several attempts)

To welcome Grace Elizabeth Desics (a granddaughter for Ann), born 18 February

On Friday 7 March 2008

A Quarter Peal of 1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Dorothy Kirby
 - 2 Ann Desics
 - 3 Lorraine Andrews
 - 4 Jenny Thompson
 - 5 Derek Hammond
 - 6 Sarah-Louise Ward
- Conducted by Lorraine Andrews

Rung for the Bedfordshire Association Bedford District Quarter Peal Week

Bedfordshire Association

Elstow, Beds, at the Abbey Church of St Mary and St Helena

On Saturday 8 March 2008 in 2hrs and 46mins (Tenor 9cwt)

A Peal of 5040 Surprise Minor

being one extent each of Whitley, Wooler, Hull, Norfolk, Berwick, Hexham, and Primrose

- 1 Jennifer S Thompson
 - 2 Patrick J S Albon
 - 3 Andrew J Spencer
 - 4 Michael R Spencer
 - 5 Richard A Horne
 - 6 Stephen H Stanford
- Conducted by Stephen H Stanford

Fondly remembering Doug Gautrey (lay reader for many years) and his wife Bay, whose ashes were interred in the churchyard the following day. Also a birthday compliment to Ann Fletcher (9 March) with the band's best wishes.

The Bedfordshire Association

Elstow, Beds, at the Abbey Church of St Mary and Helena

On Friday 21 March 2008 in 2hrs and 37mins (Tenor 9cwt)

A Peal of 5040 Surprise Minor

being one extent each of London Surprise, Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Treble Bob, Norwich Surprise, Cambridge Surprise, St Clements Bob, and Plain Bob.

- 1 Jennifer S Thompson
- 2 Robert P Wood
- 3 Stephen H Stanford
- 4 Richard A Horne
- 5 Patrick J S Albon
- 6 Russell A Brown

Conducted by Stephen H Stanford
Rung for Good Friday with the bells half-muffled

INVITATION

The Brethren of Community of the Resurrection, Mirfield
cordially invite you to join them and their many Friends and Companions

on Saturday 24 May, 2008, 10.00am to 4.00pm

to celebrate

“The Emmaus Road in the 21st Century”

a programme of talks to help equip us to meet the challenges of witnessing to the Risen Lord in the years ahead, including a service of Holy Communion and renewal of vows, to be held at

All Saints Church and Pulford School, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire

The Community of the Resurrection is an Anglican monastic community located at Mirfield, near Leeds in West Yorkshire. However, it is not cut off from the world; it is fully part of the Anglican Church and its brethren work hand-in-hand with a wide variety of people in the UK and overseas. Many who come to know the Community like to share its work and charism in their own lives and locations by becoming Friends or Companions.

Once a year the Community, which was founded in 1892 by the Rev Charles Gore, brings together people from all over the country to renew their vows of affiliation and to share a wider fellowship and service.

The Brethren would very much like your involvement in this special day, which will be open to everybody, whether or not you have any existing connection with the Monastery or the work of the Community. The event is structured to be one of involvement and intention; it does not demand participation but it does promote inclusion. You are also most welcome to bring a partner or church friend.

If you are already an affiliate of the Community, your support would be valued and this is your opportunity to meet friends old and new and to rededicate yourself to the Mirfield ethos.

Meet the challenges of witnessing to the Risen Lord in the years ahead - details below

Service of Holy Communion and Renewal of Vows – with the Brethren of the Community and our Celebrant the Right Reverend John Flack, Assistant Bishop of Peterborough

The cost of attending this event is £12 per adult

to include entrance to all talks and the service in church, morning coffee, lunch, afternoon tea and cakes and a Welcome Pack. Free parking is available if the weather is dry

BOOKING FORM

Community of the Resurrection, Mirfield

“The Emmaus Road in the 21st Century”

Saturday 24 May, 2008 10.00am to 4.00pm

All Saints Church & Pulford School, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire

The cost of attending the day is £12 per adult. You are most welcome to bring a partner or church friend for the reduced cost for that person of £10. Children are also welcome (£5.50 for those under 12 years of age; free if under 5 years of age). Please note that we are unable to provide any special activities for children during the day. Parents must take full responsibility for their children's safety and security at all times.

Complete this form and send it to Mrs B. Wilbourn-Smith, 249 Ware Road, Hertford SG13 7EJ with your cheque (£12 for one person or £22 for two people together plus £5.50 per child between 5 years and 12 years) made payable to “Community of the Resurrection”.

Please reserve a space at this event for the following:

Name:

Address:

.....Post Code:

e-mail:

Name:

Address:

.....Post Code:

e-mail:

Number of Children: under 12 years under 5 years Please advise any special dietary requirements:

If you would like details of local Bed & Breakfast Accommodation, please tick here

Programme

10.00: Arrival and coffee

10.30: Welcome and Key Note Address: The Desert Experience - Fr Aidan Mayoss
CR: Where are we as companions in the Church and society today?

10.45: Concurrent session: The Stony Road - How can we support each other through the difficulties of our journey?

11.15: Concurrent session: Beside Still Waters - Ways of listening to God on our journey, including *Lectio Divina*

12.00: Food for the Journey - Service of Holy Communion and Renewal of Vows.
Celebrant: the Right Reverend John Flack

13.00: Lunch

14.15: Concurrent session: Travelling with Companions and Finding New Friends
- new possibilities for sharing our journey in the 21st century

14.45: Concurrent session: Encountering the Risen Christ - Christ's presence in extraordinary circumstances; sharing our experience and inspiration

15.15: Afternoon Tea and Cake

15.40: The road ahead - Rev Fr George Guiver, Superior of the Community of the Resurrection

16.00: Departure

Benefits of attending:

- Experience a day of spiritual refreshment
- Meet the Community Brethren personally and understand more about the charism of the Community
- Find new inspiration from a range of insightful speakers
- Have the opportunity to share your experiences with others
- Learn about real situations energised by walking with Christ
- Gain armour and a real focus to continue your faith commitment
- Take away clear ideas and actions for your journey going forward

Location:

If you have access to the internet you may:

- Find details of how to travel to Leighton Buzzard here:

www.leighton-linslade.org.uk/categoryR.asp?id=10630

- Locate All Saints Church, Leighton Buzzard using its postcode LU7 1AE on:

www.multimap.com

- Locate All Saints Church, Leighton Buzzard using its Map Reference is SP919249 on:

www.streetmap.co.uk

- Find details of local accommodation here:

www.leighton-linslade.org.uk/Documents/Microsoft%20Word%20-%20Bed%20and%20Breakfast%20new.pdf



JOKES, JOKES, JOKES

At Sunday school they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs.

Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and said, Johnny what is the matter? Little Johnny responded, "I have a pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."

A little boy was afraid of the dark. One night his mother told him to go out to the back porch and bring her the broom.

The little boy turned to his mother and said, "Mummy, I don't want to go out there. It's dark."

The mother smiled reassuringly at her son. "You don't have to be afraid of the dark," she explained. "Jesus is out there. He'll look after you and protect you."

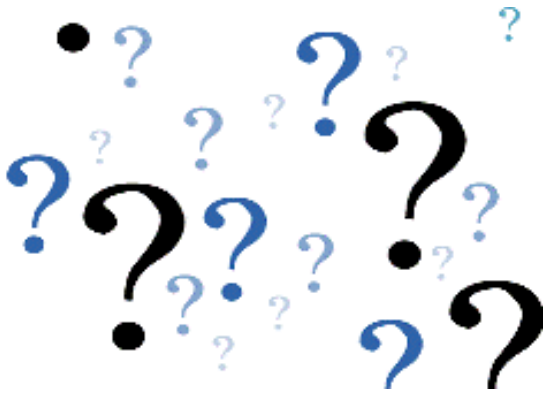
The little boy looked at his mother hard and asked, "Are you sure he's out there?" "Yes, I'm sure. He is everywhere, and he is always ready to help you when you need him," she said.

The little boy thought about that for a minute and then went to the back door and cracked it open a little. Peering out into the darkness, he called, "Jesus? If you're out there, would you please hand me the broom?"

A painter called Jack would often thin down his paint to make it go a bit further. Eventually the Church decided to do a big restoration job on one of their biggest churches. Jack got the job and set to, buying the paint and thinning it down with the turpentine.

Well, Jack was up on the scaffolding, painting away, the job nearly done, when suddenly there was a horrendous clap of thunder. The sky opened, and rain poured down, washing the thin paint from all over the church and knocking Jack off the scaffold. Jack knew this was a judgment from the Almighty, so he fell on his knees and cried, "Oh, God! Forgive me! What should I do?"

From the thunder, a mighty voice spoke: "Repaint! Repaint! And thin no more!"



DID YOU EVER WONDER?

Can you cry under water?

How important does a person have to be before they are considered assassinated instead of just murdered?

If money doesn't grow on trees then why do banks have branches?

Since bread is square, then why is sandwich meat round?

Why do you have to "put your two cents in"...but it's only a "penny for your thoughts"?
Where's that extra penny going to?

Once you're in heaven, do you get stuck wearing the clothes you were buried in for eternity?

Why does a round pizza come in a square box?

What did cured ham actually have?

How is it that we put man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?

Why is it that people say they "slept like a baby" when babies wake up like every two hours?

If you drink Pepsi at work in the Coke factory, will they fire you?

Why are you IN a movie, but you are ON TV?

Why do people pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground?

Why do you drive on a parkway and park on a drive?
