

ELSTOW PARISH MAGAZINE



Drawing by Bernard West

March 2011

There is an old tradition of newspapers publishing fanciful or outrageous items on April Fool's Day and inviting readers to spot them. The trouble is that nowadays there are unbelievable stories in almost every issue which would qualify. Amazingly – worryingly – this statement is true. One of my favourite pastimes, when travelling or relaxing, is to read a variety of newspapers, and to watch a variety of news, financial and political channels, and I have been amazed by some of the world news, especially in Tunisia, Jordan, Sudan and Egypt. The tides of time are changing – amazing and worrying times.

Recently, two Sky journalists have resigned due to comments they have made against women off camera and Jeremy Clarkson has been criticized for comments made against Mexicans – and an apology has subsequently appeared. Dr Hans-Christian Raabe, a Christian GP, has been fired as a government advisor on drugs for having expressed views about homosexuality among paedophiles. And in the Daily Mail on the 7th February, it reported that a health watchdog has had its funding withdrawn by Wiltshire Council after its chair used the phrase 'jungle drums' to describe gossip. Anna Farquhar had noted that talk about NHS changes was spreading within the health service, remarking: 'You cannot help the jungle drums'. A member of the public objected most strongly to the phrase 'jungle drums', regarding it as racist. Mrs Farquhar immediately apologised, but the objector was not satisfied and raised an official complaint. This cost over £10,000 and, six months later, the council upheld the complaint. It is interesting to note that this was barely reported in the national media.

It can't be true, can it? I am afraid it is. This is a fairly normal, and I have to be very careful what I say or write in case the same happens to me!

I cannot see that there is anything remotely racist about what was reported to have been said. Jungle drums served as a very good method in parts of Africa and elsewhere for communicating messages over a long distance. That is a fact, and I don't think that the phrase makes us think badly about Africans, nor does it diminish them or anyone else in my eyes, but it does serve as an effective metaphor for the rapid and sometimes mysterious way in which gossip is transmitted.

On one level the story is farcical; at a deeper level it is disturbing. For one of the greatest threats to all of us is when situations like these receive the backing of the law. The intellectual history of the past 250 years has been one of increasing freedom of expression in politics, religion and literature. Every day I read of or hear of some mild remark that sometimes offends me. I can always take issue, of course. There is nothing wrong with good old fashioned argument. But tolerant and broad-minded people do not run off to the law and try to get someone banned. In the past fifty years that process has accelerated, so that it seemed there was practically nothing that could be said or written. I do worry that the tide is now turning in the opposite direction at a speedy level and at a cost to us all, and the worry is about us freely being able to express our Christian faith –for we must always strive that... 'The kingdom of the world is become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign for ever'. Rev 11:15.

By Revd Jeremy Crocker

THE CHURCH CALENDAR

MARCH 2011

1 st	Tuesday	1.45-2.30pm 3.45 - 5.15pm 6.30-8pm	Sing and Sign in the Vestry After School Club at St Michael's Youth Club in the Church
2 nd	Wednesday	11.30am	Coffee and Soup in the Church
3 rd	Thursday	11.00am 12 Noon 6.30 - 8.00pm 7.30pm	Holy Communion (JRC) Monthly Lunch in The Red Lion Youth Club at London Road Methodist Church Bedford Street Angels Meeting at Cotton End Baptist
4 th	Friday	10.30am 7pm 8pm	Women's World Day of Prayer St Michael's Church Choir Practice Bell Ringing
5 th	Saturday	10.30am-6pm 5.30-6pm	Panto in a day! Meet at Elstow Abbey. Scripts and refreshments will be provided. All ages welcome. Performance in the Abbey of Cinderella. All Welcome – no charge.
6 th	Sunday	10.00am <i>10.15am</i> 11.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion + Sunday School (JRC) <i>St Michaels Holy Communion (NM)</i> Mattins (JRC) Evensong (JRC)
7 th	Monday	10.00am 2pm	Mums & Toddlers group in the Vestry Prayer Group in the Summerhouse
8 th	Tuesday	10am 1.45-2.30pm 3.45 - 5.15pm 6.30-8pm	Great Barford Lower visit to the Abbey Sing and Sign in the Vestry After School Club at St Michael's Youth Club in the Vestry
9 th	Wednesday	11.30am 7.30pm	Coffee Morning followed by soup in the Vestry Ash Wednesday Holy Communion (JRC + RC)
10 th	Thursday	11.00am 6.15-7.15pm 12-2pm 6.30 - 8.00pm 8pm	Holy Communion (JRC) Yoga (for mixed abilities) Elstow Abbey Church for more details call June Hannigan 07817601686 Deanery Chapter @ St James', Biddenham Youth Club at London Road Methodist Church Finance and Standing @ the Vicarage
11 th	Friday	9.30am	Visit to Elstow Abbey from Shackleton Lower School

7.00pm Choir Practice
8.00pm Bellringing

12th Saturday 2pm Baptism interview @ the Vicarage (JRC)

13th Sunday **First Sunday in Lent**

10.00am Holy Communion + Sunday School (JRC)
10.15am *St Michaels Holy Communion (RC)*
11.15am Mattins (JRC)
6.30pm Evensong (JRC)

Deadline for the March Parish Magazine to Jacquie Waterfield @ 269 Goldington Road, Bedford, MK41 9PH or jakhat77@hotmail.com

14th Monday 10.00am Mums & Toddlers group in the Vestry
2pm Prayer Group in the Church

15th Tuesday 08.00am Personnel Group Meeting at Abbey Middle (JRC)
1.45-2.30pm Sing and Sign in the Vestry
3.45 - 5.15pm After School Club at St Michael's
6.30-8pm Youth Club in the Vestry
7.30pm Parish Council Meeting at the Playing Fields Hall
7.00pm Cardington Alms House Meeting

16th Wednesday 11.30am Visit from Willington Lower School, Elstow Abbey
11.30am Coffee Morning followed by soup in the Vestry
7.30-9pm Start of the Lent Course at London Road

17th Thursday 11.00am Holy Communion (JRC)
6.30 - 8.00pm Youth Club at London Road Methodist Church
6.15-7.15pm Yoga (for mixed abilities) Elstow Abbey Church for more details call June Hannigan 07817601686

18th Friday 7.00pm Choir Practice
8.00pm Bellringing

19th Saturday 2pm Baptism interview @ Vicarage

20th Sunday 10.00am Holy Communion + Sunday School (RC)
10.15am *St Michaels Holy Communion (JRC)*
11.15am Mattins (Group + RC)
6.30pm Evensong (JRC)

21st Monday 10.00am Mums and Toddlers in the Vestry
2pm Prayer Group in the Summerhouse
7.30pm Elstow Deanery Final Eucharist with the Ven Paul Hughes, with reception at St Mary's Cardington.

22nd Tuesday 1.45-2.30pm Sing and Sign in the Vestry
3.45 - 5.15pm After School Club at St Michael's

		6.30-8pm	Youth Club in the Vestry
23 rd	Wednesday	11.30am 7.30-9pm	Coffee and Soup in the Vestry Lent Course at London Road
24 th	Thursday	11am 6.30 - 8.00pm 6.15-7.15pm 7.30pm	Holy Communion (JRC) Youth Club at London Road Methodist Church Yoga (for mixed abilities) Elstow Abbey Church for more details call June Hannigan 07817601686 PCC in the Vestry
25 th	Friday	7pm 8pm	Choir Practice Bell Ringing
26 th	Saturday	CLOCKS GO FORWARD ONE HOUR	
27 th	Sunday	10am	Family Service (TH & BC)
		10.15am	St Michaels Holy Communion (PL)
		11.15am	Holy Communion (JRC)
		11.30am	St Michael's APCM
		2.15pm	Baptism of Aiden Williams, Elstow Abbey
		3pm	Baptism of Fearnie Baddeley (JRC)
		6.30pm	Evensong with Holy Communion + laying on of hands (JRC)
28 th	Monday	10.00am 2.00pm 7.30pm	Mums and Toddlers in the Vestry Prayer Group in the Summerhouse Wedding interview at the Vicarage (JRC)
29 th	Tuesday	10.15am 1.45-2.30pm 3.45 - 5.15pm 6.30-8pm	JRC @ Elstow Lower School 10.15am Sing and Sign in the Vestry After School Club at St Michael's Youth Club in the Vestry
30 th	Wednesday	10-11am 11.30am 6.30pm 7.30-9pm	Visit to Abbey of Conway Christian School, South Carolina Coffee and Soup in the Church Wedding rehearsal - Gemma Edwards & Paul Lawrence (JRC) Lent course at London Road
31 st	Thursday	11.00am 6.30 - 8.00pm 6.15-8pm	Holy Communion (JRC) Youth Club at London Road Methodist Church Elstow Lower & Abbey Middle Governors' Meeting (JRC)
1 st Apr	Friday	12 midnight 7pm 8pm	Holy Communion with laying on of hands (JRC) Choir Practice Bell Ringing
2 nd	Saturday	10.30am 1pm	Preparation for Mothering Sunday posies @ the Vestry? Wedding of Gemma Edwards and Paul Lawrence (JRC)

3rd Sunday **10.00am** Family Service + Holy Communion for Mothering Sunday
 (No Sunday School) (BAND with PIANO)
Mothering Sunday 10.15am *St Michaels Holy Communion (Bishop of Bedford)*
 11.15am Mattins (Group)
 6.30pm Evensong (JRC)

SIDESMANS ROTA

MARCH

6 th	10am	Mrs S Brown	Mrs A Morris
	11.15am	F.W. Crossen	
	6.30pm	Mrs G Annan	
13 th	10am	Mrs S Batiuk	Mrs G Freeman
	11.15am	Mrs D Fordham	
	6.30pm	P Moss	
20 th	10am	Mrs J Barnicott	A Freeman
	11.15am	Mrs A Knight	
	6.30pm	Miss M Eastwell	
27 th	10am	Mrs A Morris	Mrs A Barfoot
	11.15am	Mrs M Crossen	
	6.30pm	Mrs C Parrish	

APRIL

Mothering Sunday

3 rd	10am	Mrs A Morris	Mrs G Freeman
	11.15am	Mrs D Fordham	
	6.30pm	Mrs G Annan	



As you know Rev'd Tim Jackson has been called by a partnership of the Baptists, the Methodist Church, the United Reformed Church and the Church of England in association with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton to plant a new church at Wixams. Bishop Richard called this, "A challenging and exciting ministry." As Tim prepares to launch this church it would be good if there were opportunities for him to share the vision with your churches and Churches Together groups. This will enable Christians right across the county to pray for this work and encourage him.

Church planting experts speak of the need for a church planting team rather than one person working alone, if you have members of your churches who are moving into the new village please consider encouraging them to join Tim in his mission to plant a local church. Maybe you know people in your churches who have gifts which could be used by God to help establish this new

work, would you consider releasing them or seconding them to Wixams? We know the sacrifice we are asking of your fellowships but releasing people for missionary service has always been a challenge, my old pastor would bemoan the fact that God seemed to call away those most talented but he said that when he released them he found the Lord blessed the church and it grew. As the scripture says, "One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty." Proverbs 11:24

Please contact Tim directly at revtimjackson@btinternet.com or by telephone 01234 743413

In Christ,

Andrew Gale, County Ecumenical Development Officer

READERS' LIST FOR MARCH 2011

6th Mar	10.00am	2 Peter 1: 16-end	Matthew 17: 1-9	Sarah Duffy
	11.15am	Exodus 34: 29-end	2 Corinthians 4: 3-6	David Ewbank
	6.30pm	2 Kings 2: 1-12	Matthew 17: 1-23	Glynis Annan
13th Mar	10.00am	Romans 5: 12-19	Matthew 4: 1-11	Phillip Bettles
Lent 1	11.15am	Jeremiah 18: 1-11	Luke 18: 9-14	Delphine Fordham
	6.30pm	Deut.6: 4-9, 16-end	Luke 15: 1-10	Peter Moss
20th Mar	10.00am	Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17	John 3: 1-17	Tim Harris
Lent 2	11.15am	Jeremiah 22: 1-9	Mathew 8: 1-13	Eric Crossen
	6.30pm	Numbers 21: 4-9	Luke 14: 27-33	Dorothy Steele
27th Mar	10.00am	Family Service		
Lent 3	11.15am H.C.	Romans 5: 1-11	John 4: 5-42	Ann Knight
	6.30pm H.C.	Joshua 1: 1-9	John 2: 13-22	Barbara Routledge
If any of the above dates are inconvenient, please arrange a swop, and tell Ann Knight that you have done so. Thank you. Tel: (01234) 854036				

DETAILS FROM THE REGISTERS

NOVEMBER 2010

Date	Communicants	Attendance	Collections
4 th	11	11	3.20
7 th	32	63	180.09
11th	9	9	4.00
14 th	--	155	190.64
		Poppy Fund	168.70

18th	10	10	6.00
21st	45	111	286.56
25th	8	8	15.50
28th	14	61	206.70
	<u>129</u>	<u>428</u>	<u>1061.39</u>

DECEMBER 2010

Date	Communicants	Attendance	Collections
2 nd	5	5	3.00
5 th	40	82	221.75
9th	9	9	4.00
12 th	33	76	210.90
16 th	9	9	4.00
19 th	20	20	23.00
	Carol service	95	112.70
23rd	5	5	2.00
24th	70	350	304.43
25th	34	54	87.19
26th	10	11	56
	<u>235</u>	<u>721</u>	<u>1028.97</u>

JANUARY 2011

Date	Communicants	Attendance	Collections
2 nd	32	72	490.24
6 th	9	9	4.80
9th	38	84	402.42

13 th	10	11	5.00
16 th	16	22	83.90
20 th	8	8	3.00
23 rd	17	73	251.43
27 th	11	11	30.00
30 th	--	22	160.50
	<u>141</u>	<u>312</u>	<u>1431.29</u>

BAPTISMS

November 21st 2010 Erin Harmony Hulatt
 November 28th 2010 Josephine Alison Longmore
 December 11th 2010 Lexie May Molsey

MARRIAGES

December 11th 2010 Trevor Brinley Stuart Molsey & Sadie Jane Harris
 February 12th 2011 Donna Mary Binks & Thomas Jack Knight

BURIALS

December 29th 2010 Arthur Reeve
 January 20th 2011 Daniel Edwin Eyles (Ashes)

LIFEPATH BUNYAN

Lifepath Bunyan returns to Elstow on May 24-26 with over 600 Primary School pupils taking part in a day of activities that helps them explore the Christian faith and the world of John Bunyan. Based on Elstow Green and in both Moot Hall and the Abbey, Lifepath is organised by Scripture Union with its Associate Trusts in Bedford (Impact) and Milton Keynes (Bridgebuilder). It was a huge success when it ran in 2009 and the mix of drama, music and educational activity that culminates with everyone undertaking their own Pilgrim's Progress journey (including Vanity Fair, the lions and the Valley of the Shadow of Death!) promises to be a great day out for local schools.

Local residents are, of course, welcome to come and see what is taking place but will be asked to keep a respectful distance away from the children and activities.



ELSTOW ABBEY HOLIDAY CLUB 2011

UP, UP, UP AND AWAY

Come and Take a Trip with us!

As we fly away on a journey to find out more about Jesus

July 25th – 29th

Annual Stewardship Letter – February 2011

To all Members of the Church Family

The Stewardship Committee wish to take this opportunity to thank all those members of the Church Family who have continued to support the work of the church throughout 2010, either financially or by offering their time and talents for the general smooth running of the church. It has been a very difficult year but we were encouraged by your response.

This year, 2011, promises to be more difficult financially and otherwise for all of us in some way or other, whether it is increased taxes, loss of benefits, cuts to services or even job loss. The running costs of the church are also adversely affected, not least by the huge increase in heating oil costs. Last year the church accounts showed a loss of £8000, mainly due to increased utility bills and repairs. £30,000 was paid to the diocese.

To meet these costs, we would be grateful if each of you would consider whether it is possible to make even a small increase in your contribution to the maintenance and work of your church. If you do not already have a box of weekly envelopes, please consider asking for one. It is a good method of making a regular financial commitment to the church, even if it is as little as £1.00 per week at the start.

Many of you are able to Gift Aid your donations, for which we are grateful. However, HMRC are ceasing to pay the 'top up' to our claims from next April. This was a transition payment to alleviate the reduction in claims when the income tax rate changed from 22% to 20% a few years ago. It will mean that in future we can only claim back from HMRC 25 pence for every £1.00 donated, instead of 28 pence. Put another way, to maintain our tax claim at the same level, every £1.00 donated would have to be increased to £1.12. If you are a UK taxpayer and have not yet signed a Gift Aid Declaration Form, please consider doing so as a way to increase your giving at no cost to you. Contact Eric or Mavis Crossen for more details.

During this year, we hope to see the completion of our new Elstow Church and Community Hall at considerable cost. While many of you would also wish to contribute to the Hall Fund (blue Gift Aid envelopes are available at the back of the church for this purpose), please remember that this is a venture which is separate from the normal running costs of the church which still have to be met.

Of course Stewardship is not all about money. We are blessed in this church to have so many who are willing to give of their time and talents in so many ways. However, the burden would be lighter if it was spread over more willing helpers. Please enquire about the work the church undertakes and see if you could use your God given talents to help in any way.

This letter contains our usual Pledge Form. Even if you are unable to increase your financial contribution at this time, please complete the form and return it in the envelope provided, by putting it in the box at the back of the church, or if preferred, by putting it in the post.

Thank you for taking the time to give our letter your prayerful consideration.

Sheila Batiuk

Eric Crossen

Ann Knight

Miriam Clark

Mavis Crossen

Members of the Stewardship Committee

Personal Pledge - Confidential

Giving thanks to God for the many blessings of life and wanting to play my part as a member of the church family in achieving His vision for our church, I pledge to try to make regular payments. *(Please read notes on the back)*

Please tick (✓) one or more of the methods of payment below. *For Recorder's Use*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By weekly envelopes <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/> • By Standing Order <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/> • By cheque <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/> 	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px;"></td></tr> </table>			

Please indicate the frequency of your selected method(s) of payment by ticking the boxes below and enter the corresponding amount(s) you are pledging (ie: weekly, monthly, etc).

Envelopes:	Weekly ..52/53	<input type="checkbox"/>		£	<input style="width: 90%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
	Monthly 12	<input type="checkbox"/>		£	<input style="width: 90%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
Standing Order <i>(preferred method)</i> or cheque:	Monthly 12	<input type="checkbox"/>		£	<input style="width: 90%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
	Quarterly 4	<input type="checkbox"/>		£	<input style="width: 90%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
	Annually 1	<input type="checkbox"/>		£	<input style="width: 90%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>

Please enter your contact details in BLOCK CAPITALS using separate box for your postcode.

Title:			
Full Names:			
Address:			
Post Code:		Tel No:	

Please add 'X' to number if ex-directory

Gift Aid Option:

For UK taxpayers only (see notes on the back). Please ignore this section if it does not apply to you; otherwise tick the appropriate box.

I should like the parish to reclaim tax through the Gift Aid scheme:

- Please send me a Gift Aid Declaration Form.
- I have already completed a Declaration Form.

Signature: **Date:**

Pledge08

FRIENDS FOR LIFE

This ecumenical project has been developed by the Anglican and Methodist Churches in Bedford with the aim of co-ordinating and developing the churches' ministry to care homes and their carers. It also includes members of the other mainstream Christian churches and there is enthusiastic support from the care homes already involved in the scheme.

Our initial research highlighted that many residents in the 80 or so homes across Bedford were spending the last years of their lives with few and in some cases no visitors at all. Also whilst many churches were providing worship opportunities such as communion and hymn singing this tended to be random and uncoordinated.

The group has now been active for 3 years and currently has about 40 Personal Befrienders visiting residents in 12 homes. For various reasons not all Befrienders can be active at any one time and we urgently need to recruit more volunteers to provide temporary cover for them as well as to increase the number of homes and residents visited. We provide appropriate training and carry out CRB checks on their behalf, issuing ID badges on completion of the training. We believe this enables us to offer a quality service to homes who recommend the residents who they feel would most benefit from our work.

Although all our volunteers are from a Christian background the purpose of the visit is that of friendship, not to preach. Once linked to a particular resident, volunteers are free to visit whenever and however frequently they are able to. Many volunteers speak of the uplift they have received from visiting other people in this way.

Another aim of the scheme is to encourage all churches of all denominations providing ministry to come under the Friends for Life umbrella for support and direction to allow co-ordination so that residents in all homes can be able to access spiritual support and feel part of the Church Community. We encourage visits by worship groups and singing groups and can give advice on the best approach, gained from our experiences over the years. It may be that an individual church may wish to appoint a co-ordinator for its work in this area and again we can give guidance and support.

Our new web-site www.friendsforlifebedford.org.uk is now fully operational and gives more details of our activities. We also have leaflets available for distribution in churches and elsewhere while members of our panel of speakers are able to visit individual care homes and churches to give further information about our work.

"We befriend and visit Care Home residents of any faith or none – offering them the gift of friendship".

For further information:

If you feel this ministry is one you would like to support either as a volunteer or financially or you would like more information including details of our next training day on March 19th 2011, please contact:

admin@friendsforlifebedford.org.uk

or telephone John Bassill on 01234 325227 or Joanne Barrow on 01234 213088

DIOCESE OF ST ALBANS



**The Rt Revd Paul Bayes, Bishop of Hertford
is seeking a full-time Personal Assistant/Researcher
to support and resource his ministry**

The postholder will be based at the Bishop's office in Knebworth, Herts

The successful candidate will provide administrative and secretarial support for the Bishop, and will also undertake general research to equip him for his public ministry both written and spoken. She or he will be efficient, organised, confidential and discreet and able to work independently in a quiet office

Starting salary £20,535

For further details please email bishophertford@stalbans.anglican.org
Or write to: The Bishop of Hertford, Bishopswood, 3 Stobarts Close,
Knebworth, Herts SG3 6ND

Potential candidates are welcome to telephone the present postholder, Mrs Pip Austin,
for informal conversation about the post if they so wish
01438 817260

Closing date: 18 March 2011 Interviews: 8 April 2011

Appointment to this position is subject to satisfactory enhanced disclosure via the
Criminal Records Bureau

Churches Together in South Bedford

LENT 2011

Wednesday Evenings at London Road Methodist Church

All at 7.30 p.m.

The York Course :

RICH INHERITANCE

JESUS' LEGACY OF LOVE

ALL ON WEDNESDAYS

Week 1 : March 16th : An Empty Tomb : leader – Pastor Brian Addington

Week 2 : March 23rd : A Group of People : leader - Rev Peter Littleford

Week 3 : March 30th : A Story : leader - Rev Rachel Larkinson

Week 4 : April 6th : A SEDER MEAL : – Beth and Rev Jeremy Crocker

Week 5 : April 13th UNITED LENT SERVICE : A Power, the Spirit.

Preacher: Mgr. Sean Healy

Booklets of the entire Course are available at £3 – have one for yourself!

All at London Road Methodist Church.

FORMAT : 7.30 p.m. prompt start – ending at 9 p.m. with a cuppa and fellowship.

FORMAT FOR WEEKS 1 - 3

Welcomes and Prayer

Presentation of the evening's topic

Discussion time with prepared questions

Prayer from each group

Final hymn, prayer

A WARM WELCOME IS EXTENDED TO ALL

THE ELSTOW TEAM

ST MARY & ST HELENA, ELSTOW • ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, BEDFORD • ST MARY, CARDINGTON

Sunday 31st July to Saturday 6th August 2011 Parish Holiday

The Carlton Hotel, Esplanade, Sandown, Isle of Wight.

Return Travel by coach from Elstow/ Cardington to Isle of Wight Hotel £35.00pp* (No rise)
Incl. ferry crossing
Half board accommodation for six nights £258.00pp (£6 rise)
Half Board Accommodation for six nights with Sea-View Balcony £294.00pp (£6 rise)

*subject to the coach being full. Price to be advised in the event of a part filled coach.

- (a) The Coach Company is IOW Tours (01983 405116)
- (b) Children aged 3-15 years – 50% of the adult rate inclusive.
- (c) The hotel only has 10 Single rooms available. It does not have a supplement, and will come on a first come basis. If you are able to share with someone it makes it possible for more single people to attend. They are at the back of the hotel.
- (d) All rooms are en-suite with a television and tea making facilities.
- (e) Portorage to rooms is included. All luggage must be clearly labelled.
- (f) A choice of meals 'waitress served', on a half board basis.
- (g) Entertainment is provided in the main room of the Hotel, and in the past we have gathered together for some evenings: having a quiz; a review; board games and Holy Communion.
- (h) There is a good island bus service.
- (i) Bookings have to be confirmed by early March 2011, so a deposit of £50.00pp will be required with a booking form ASAP please. If you require the coach a further £20 is required which is non-refundable. **The balance will be required by Sunday 26th June at the latest.**

I have run Parish Holidays ever since I was ordained, as my hope is that it enables the Church families to get to know one another better. It is a cheap, enjoyable holiday for single, young, old and families, and my aim is especially to support those who are on their own - for a little sun, sea, sand and some happy company! Due to popular demand I have organised for us to visit the Isle of Wight again, I have moved the date into August again this year, and the hotel manager has kindly let us visit again on the July rates. I hope that you might consider coming again; or for the first time - I hope that we all have an enjoyable and relaxing six days together. Please contact me on 01234 261477 with any queries.

Jeremy Crocker

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Name & Number to contact when away: _____

Room Type(s) required: _____

Dietary Needs: _____

Travel: Coach or Car (you will need to book & pay for your own ferry crossings)

Church: St Michael's Cardington Elstow Other

Greenbelt 2011

I am hoping to the Greenbelt Festival this year on August Bank Holiday Weekend. I am wondering if there are any others from the Elstow Deanery who like to go with me.

Last year some of us went to Greenbelt and had a great time. Over the weekend there were lots of activities going on from concerts, sports competitions, talks, demonstrations and comedy routines. There was always something to see. The Highlight of the weekend was the Sunday morning communion service. Six thousand of us met by the main stage to worship God, listen to his word and to share bread and wine together.

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. It is now quite different. For one thing it is a lot larger. Last Year there were so many tents, so many activities, that it would be impossible for anyone to see everything.

Greenbelt 2009 is on from Friday 26th to Monday 29th August.

2009 at Cheltenham Racecourse.

To be part of the Festival we would need to camp. However there are toilet and Shower Facilities available. The cost is also the possibility to Bed a Breakfast in nearby Cheltenham the cost is £120 for adults £75 for Concessions £65 for children and young people. However if we book before 30th April there are considerable discounts (Adults £99, Concessions £68, Young People/Children £55,) they also do Family tickets, which would make the cost less.

The Festival is suitable for any age but is particularly good for Young People. I am writing this letter at this time so as to discover who may be interested in coming. If you are interested in going to Greenbelt 2011, to me If there is sufficient interest we will then have a meeting to discuss the trip.

Captain David Wells
Youth Worker Elstow Benefice
324 Church Lane Cardington, Beds
MK44 3SR
Telephone: 01234 838279
Mobile 07950272555

BOOK REVIEW

“No Way Down” by Graham Bowley (Viking - £18.99)

The sub-title of this book is “Life and Death on K2” and it is the story of the disaster which occurred on that mountain three years ago. Graham Bowley played no part in that disaster. He was the journalist on the New

York Times who was told to report on it. What he did, reluctantly and seated at his distant desk, turned into a desire to know exactly what happened.

He is English and studied economics at Bristol University with a bolt-on year at Oxford before moving to the USA where he has become a noted journalist and columnist, significantly helped in his career by the success of "No Way Down".

Normally I review books which have some stylistic merit. This is not the case here. Bowley writes of K2 with none of the passion of a Herzog ("Annapurna") or the insight of a Hunt ("Mount Everest"), but then, as he says at the outset, he is no mountaineer, even though he did travel to K2's forbidding Godwin-Austen glacier as well as talking to most of those involved in the disaster.

For once, it was the story and not the manner of its telling which struck me. On 1st August 2008, eleven climbers lost their lives on the way down from K2 in the Himalayas, notoriously one of the most dangerous mountains in the world. Three more were gravely frost-bitten. Bowley, interviewing survivors, was, possibly to his surprise, inspired by them. Although there were no British climbers involved (which will explain why the catastrophe went virtually unmarked in the UK) there was a strong American team among the eight expeditions and none of those Americans was killed. Bowley set out to track down as many survivors as he could and, being totally uninvolved, attempts to bring as much order and clarity as possible to a confused incident, as full of contradictory accounts as it is of emotionally charged and even erratic reminiscence.

In essence, the teams all set out from the high Camp IV on that fateful day to reach the top of the mountain, regardless of the fact that access to the summit was best achieved by using one narrow and almost vertical couloir, well nicknamed "The Bottleneck". But there was another factor which was to come into play. Above The Bottleneck a huge ice-coated overhang, a serac of evil reputation, broke off, sweeping away the fixed ropes. This obliged those above it to undertake a climb which would have been dangerous under the best of circumstances, let alone at well over 26,000ft on K2 and in the dark because of the delay caused by everybody using The Bottleneck.

Bowley, basing himself on the many interviews and conversations which allowed him to build up the substance of his account, tells the story of what happened but, as a detached observer, he stops short of drawing any conclusions as to causes. He confines himself to the main facts of the overcrowding in The Bottleneck, the loss of the fixed ropes and of the collapse of the ice wall. He tells all with practised skill and satisfyingly supports what he relates with fine photographs.

But I found his story desperately unsatisfactory. He doesn't ask the crucial question: WHY?

Why did so many people from teams of widely differing skills and who were quite clearly not working in harmony set out at the same time to reach the summit of this notorious mountain?

Why was a much-needed and crucial additional length of rope quite simply "forgotten". If it had been remembered, it is likely that several lives would not have been lost.

Why, why, why? Bowley is quite clearly not into the "blame game", understandably I suppose. But he leaves the thinking reader with a host of unanswered questions. This was arguably the greatest mountaineering calamity of all time, and he seems to be unconcerned as to the reasons behind it. Whilst I was fascinated to read the factual account of what happened, I was deeply irritated not to be offered any opinions to complement or allay my profound misgivings.

Caveat lector! Reader, beware!

Bookworm

JOKES, JOKES JOKES

These sentences (with all the bloopers) actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services:

- The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.
- The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'
- Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

- Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say 'Hell' to someone who doesn't care much about you.
- Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.
- Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation. For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.
- Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.
- At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.
- Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.
- Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.
- Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.
- The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.