

ELSTOW PARISH MAGAZINE

MAY 2008

As I am sure you all know, Jeremy recently spent just over two months in India. Although we missed him here at Elstow, he certainly had a challenging and rewarding time, as this article on his travels shows:

A sketch diary of Jeremy Crocker aged 40 and 7 months...

On December 29th I set out on a nine week journey, I was tired, after a very busy Christmas; excited, with the prospect of an adventure, as I have only ever been away for three consecutive weeks before; sad, for those whom I was leaving behind, and nervous all rolled into one. The flight to Delhi began the mix of experiences that was to follow me throughout the trip as I sat next to a traditional Muslim couple, with the man next to me all in white and very often in prayer and his wife fully covered with only her eyes showing.

It was very cold in Delhi, and with some of my time I was able to visit the Mosque; the Catholic Cathedral; the magnificent Bahai Temple and Taj Mahal. Some of the time I spent observing the huge mix of folk, dressed very differently and all part of the tremendous busyness of 1000 million people all living alongside each other with many sleeping on the streets, as 300 million people live on \$1 a day.

I found that everywhere was packed with folk touting for business. I also spent some time with the Delhi Brotherhood, whom I visited 12 years before. We spent one memorable day taking soup to the prostitutes on GB Street. I could not believe my eyes as I entered up these huge, four storey houses and in these large rooms were about thirty underage ten year olds and older girls dressed up in bright colours hoping for business. I was able to buy over one hundred and twenty girls chocolate and sweets. I was also able to pay for one to go to hospital, and to give money to a man outside who had no arms or legs. The police were present but unfortunately nothing seemed to happen.

Onto Nepal for one of my ambitions - as I began a two week trek to Base Camp Everest. (Four years ago I was able to climb Kilimanjaro and seven years ago Machu Picchu in Peru). These living conditions were the most basic I have ever experienced and with the altitude and severe cold it was the hardest combined



mental and physical task that I have ever done. I was with a group of eight, and they were all nearly half my age. I managed to stay well throughout, and the emotion and spiritual feelings of reaching Base Camp will stay with me always, as I have always found a deep closeness to God at the top of a mountain. Tears came streaming down my cheek as I hit this summit point. I had pushed myself to my physical limit, and I was so pleased to begin the descent, and to have a lovely

hot bath, steak, chips and a beer. I am now retired!!

I was also able to sponsor an orphan child from the lowest caste system to be schooled and housed for a year, just before setting off to Calcutta and Mumbai.

In Calcutta I have never seen such poverty; never seen such terrible conditions of filth and ironically some of the happiest and kindest folk I have ever met. I had a very moving time meeting and following the nuns set up by Mother Theresa to the leprosy hospitals; the brothels and to share a very moving Eucharist with hundreds of folk. I was able to buy many gifts and to pay for a person to go to hospital who was dying on the streets.

Mumbai, is another huge culture shift where Bollywood; extravagance; wealth; and multi faith all live alongside one another. I was able to visit the Anglican Cathedral and to experience how Christianity as a minority religion lives alongside the other religions. I really did not feel any religious tensions at all; people here seem to accept and to see beyond religions and creeds to the individual person. As I was here I was hearing of the tensions in Oxford of the protest against the Muslim bell, and the issues that rose after the Archbishop's speech on Sharia Law. Mumbai was also a very threatening place where I felt that you needed your wits about you with the huge increase of crime and violence.

Now off for a fortnight of sun in Dubai with Beth and Tabitha for the first week and then my sister Susan, her husband Mark and their daughter Emilia the second week, with Beth back after half term break, and Tabitha staying for the fortnight. The first shock was the cost. In India a meal cost me around about £3; in Dubai the same was £10. Here the Muslim ladies and gents were impeccably dressed and very wealthy. A cosmopolitan hub in the Middle East where all live together in opulence and harmony!!

My final leg of the trip was to spend a few days with an eccentric bishop in Cairo. The bishop has let out most of his palace to the homeless and spends most of his time sitting in front of the Cathedral in an old deck chair sipping his cup of tea and chatting to hundreds who come to the Cathedral each day for food and help. I was able to give some money to aid the work of the Cathedral in helping many homeless women there. A truly inspiring man! It is a shame that the Diocese would not let me try to do the same!!

Then a difficult flight home, due to the terrible gales, no baggage waiting, just like Terminal 5, and liver and bacon with my mother in a café at Kings Cross - it tasted very good!

When I went away I also went with a slight worry, as many other clergy have gone away for a considerable time and when they have returned their focus has gone. I didn't want that, and I am so pleased that I found the whole trip ignited me spiritually and re-charged me in all the work I am trying to do, in the name of God at Elstow, across the Benefice and in my role within the National Church.

I would like to say a big thank you to Colin; Rosemary; Barbara; John and Tracey for their care of the Church while I was away and for giving me this chance to study and to experience in God's world some wonderful things and some things that were just terrible to see.



Tunes of Glory

I sometimes speak about a hymn author or tune composer, and then come across another by him or her, and then more. The temptation is to move on and find something else. But this is not fair to writers or readers. It is often so that authors habitually write hymns which have become favourites, like John Newton, William Cowper, Charles Wesley, Isaac Watts, Cecil Frances Alexander, and so on. I might as well say that having spoken about J S Bach five years ago, I must never mention him again! So I am returning to a particular and well-loved writer, and writing about several of their contributions in different ways so as not to be repetitious.

This is primarily about No. 200, *Jesus calls us o'er the tumult* by Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-95). Frank Colquhoun says that saints' days hymns are normally little used and therefore little known, but Mrs Alexander's hymn for St Andrew's Day is the great exception.

She wrote it for the SPCK's *Hymns for Public Worship*, 1852, basing it on the Gospel of the day: the story of Jesus' call, 'Follow me', addressed to the fishermen brothers Simon Peter and Andrew by the Sea of Galilee (Matt. 4:18-20). The hymn's theme throughout is the call of Christ. And it is about priorities. Christ's call comes to us today just as clearly as it came to Andrew long ago (stanzas 1 and 2). For him it involved sacrifice: he 'turned from home, and toil, and kindred' and left all for Jesus' sake. So must we.

Verse 3 is a central verse is also the heart of the hymn. It expresses what is involved in Christ's call - both negatively and positively. We are called from love of the world, with its wealth and idols, to a wholehearted love for him. The tune in our book is "*St Andrew*", by E H Thorne, 1834-1916.

Elsie Houghton says that perhaps Mrs Alexander's compositions are best known for her children's hymns, and we will look at them at a later date. It is important to examine her life and background, which will give the experiences and source of her upbringing and faith. She was the daughter of Major John Humphreys who served with distinction in the Royal Marines and fought at the Battle of Copenhagen in 1801. On leaving the Army he became a landowner in Wicklow and Tyrone and a land agent in Northern Ireland.

Frances began to write poetry at the age of nine, choosing tragic subjects like the death of Nelson and the massacre of Glencoe. In 1846 she wrote *Verses for Holy Seasons*, which was edited by a Dr Hook whom she had met at the house of a friend and who inspired her with a lifelong conviction of the truth and necessity of the English Reformation in the 16th century. In 1848 a tiny volume of 30 pages was published, her *Hymns for Little Children*, for which John Keble wrote the preface. This volume reached a 69th edition in 1896.

In 1850 she married the Rev. William Alexander, rector of Termonamongan in County Tyrone, 'a parish in a wild area scattered over bogs and mountains for many miles'. Mrs. Alexander often walked several miles to meet her husband. It was said of her at this time, 'Many a gleam of golden sunshine would she kindle as she entered a desolate home where penury and sickness struggled for mastery. No inclemency of weather, or distance of travel, or visits of friends were permitted to

interfere with the ministrations of condolence, counsel or charitable help. The good she did, the help afforded, her gentle, loving, self-effacing ministry in this parish will never be known, until the day break and the shadows flee away'.

In 1855 the Alexanders moved to the beautiful parish of Upper Fahan, on the shores of Lough Swilly, then on to Strabane from 1860 to 1867, when Rev. William Alexander was called to the bishopric of Derry.

In her new position Mrs. Alexander was brought into contact with new duties and people of various social levels. She performed all duties of hospitality with an ease and natural dignity which made her a first-rate hostess. Predominantly, her life was one of humble service. In Derry she occupied herself with a Home for Fallen Women and paid quiet, regular visits to very lowly homes in back streets. All her good works were done in a spirit of humility and with no desire for applause.

Although she was a churchwoman through and through, she came into contact with many nonconformists, especially Presbyterians, with whom she enjoyed fellowship. She died in 1895, and her funeral was widely attended, and by representatives of many denominations. The streets through which the long procession wound its way to the cemetery were thronged with crowds, and she was laid in her grave amidst the tears of a great community.

We may agree with Gounod that the great beauty of Mrs Alexander's children's hymns is their simplicity, and probably fewer questions have been asked by children regarding their meaning than in the case of any other author. Among Mrs Alexander's other children's hymns are 'Once in royal David's city', which ranks second in popularity to 'There is a green hill far away', and 'All things bright and beautiful', which is an exquisitely descriptive hymn on the verse, 'God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good'.

In his preface to her *Poems*, her husband writes, 'To the writer the thought often occurs that these eternal words form themselves into a constant memorial of her before God, and the memorial will continue. The preacher's influence is of a few years, but the hymnist's is for all time.'

John Crookall



ELSTOW ABBEY CHOIR

NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME



The Abbey Choir currently has a few vacancies for both the junior (7 years+) and adults in the choir. If you think you would be interested please come along and meet the choir at one of the following recruitment practice dates. Practice times are 7pm -8pm in the church.

Friday 9th May

Friday 16th May

If you would like more information please e mail Director of Music - Stephen McDonald - stevetmcdonald@btinternet.com - Please mark subject box "Abbey Choir"

SIDESMEN'S ROTA MAY 2008

May 4 th	10.00am 11.15am 6.30pm	Mrs. A. Morris. Mrs. M. Crossen. Mrs. C. Parrish.	Mrs. S. Brown.
May 11 th	10.00am 6.30pm	Mrs S. Batiuk. Mrs. G. Annan.	Mr. P. Batiuk.
May 18 th	10.00am 11.15am 6.30pm	Mrs. R. Albon. Mrs. A. Knight. Mr. P. Moss.	Mrs. J. Barnicott.
May 25 th	10.00am 11.15am 6.30pm	The Young People. Mr. F. W. Crossen. Miss. M. Eastwell.	
June 1 st	10.00am 11.15am 6.30pm	Mrs. A. Morris. Mrs. E. Burrows. Mrs. V. Whyatt-Routh.	Mrs. S. Brown.

LESSON READERS MAY 2008

May	10.00am	Acts Ch.1 v. 6 - 14	John Ch.17 v. 1 - 11	Ken Webb
4th	11.15am	Isaiah Ch.65 v. 17 - end	Revelation Ch. 21 v. 1 - 8	John Crookall
White	6.30pm	2 Samuel Ch. 23 v. 1 - 5	Ephesians Ch. 1 v. 15 - end	Dorothy Steele
May	10.00am	Acts Ch. 2 v. 1 - 21	John Ch. 20 v. 19 - 23	Lynn Harris
11th	6.30pm	Joel Ch. 2 v. 21 - end	Acts Ch. 2 v. 14 - 21	Glynis Annan
Red				
May	10.00am	2 Corinthians Ch. 13 v. 11 - end	Matthew Ch. 28 v. 16 - 20	Peter Batiuk
18th	11.15am	Exodus Ch. 3 v. 1 - 6 & 13 - 15	John Ch. 17 v. 1 - 11	Lizabeth Burrows
White	6.30pm	1 Kings Ch. 8 v. 20 - 30	1 Peter Ch. 2 v. 4 - 10	Colin Albon
May	10.00am	Young People's Service		
25th	11.15am	1 Corinthians Ch. 3 v. 10, 11 & 16 - end	Matthew Ch. 5 v. 38 - end	Miriam Clark
Green	6.30pm	Amos Ch. 9 v. 5 - end	Ephesians Ch. 6 v. 1 - 20	Margaret Eastwell
June	10.00am	Romans Ch.1 v.16&17 & Ch.3 v.22-31	Matthew Ch.7 v. 21 - end	Lynn Faulkner
1st	11.15am	Ruth Ch.2 v. 1 - 20	Luke Ch.8 v. 4 - 15	Ann Knight
Green	6.30pm	Deuteronomy Ch. 5 v. 1 - 21	Acts Ch.21 v. 17 - 39	Peter Moss

If any of the dates is not convenient please arrange an exchange and let Colin Albon know that you have done so.

THE CHURCH CALENDAR

MAY 2008

MAY

1st	Thursday	Ascension Day
		11.00am Holy Communion (JRC)
		12.00noon Monthly lunch at the Red Lion
2nd	Friday	Quinquennial Inspection of the Church
3rd	Saturday	10.00am Visit by Emmanuel Church, Bungay
4th	Sunday	Sunday after Ascension Day
		10.00am Family Communion with Sunday School (JRC)
		11.15am Morning Prayer (JRC)
		6.30pm Evening Prayer (Robert Heley)
5th	Monday	10.00am NO Mums and Toddlers

		2.00pm	Prayer Group meet in the Summerhouse
6 th	Tuesday	10.00am	'Sing and sign' in the Church Hall
		4.00pm	Dance Club in the Church Hall
7 th	Wednesday	11.30am	Coffee Morning and soup in the Church Hall
		6.30pm	Youth Group meet in the Church Hall
8 th	Thursday	11.00am	Holy Communion (JRC)
		11.45-12.30pm	Visiting Bell ringers
		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

10th Saturday 12.00noon - 4.00pm

Elstow May Festival, procession at 2.00pm

11 th	Sunday		Pentecost
			Christian Aid Week
		10.00am	Family Communion with Sunday School (JRC)
		12.00noon	'Couples' Sunday Lunch Club in the Red Lion
		2.00pm	Baptism of Sharon Burns (JRC)
		6.30pm	Christian Aid Service at St. Michael's. Bedford
			NO EVENSONG AT ELSTOW
12 th	Monday	10.00am	Mums and Toddlers meet in the Church Hall
		2.00pm	Prayer Group meet in the Summerhouse
		6.30pm	Christian Aid meal in the Rectory
			DEADLINE FOR MATERIAL FOR JUNE MAGAZINE
13 th	Tuesday	10.00am	Sing and sign in the Church Hall
		4.00pm	Dance Club in the Church Hall
14 th	Wednesday	11.30am	Coffee morning and soup in the Church Hall

		6.30pm	Youth Group meet in the Church Hall
15 th	Thursday	11.00am	Holy Communion (JRC)
17 th	Saturday	2.00pm	St. Michael's Fayre at Scott Hall, Barford Avenue
18 th	Sunday	Trinity Sunday/Pentecost 1	
		10.00am	Family Communion with Sunday School (NM)
		11.15am	Morning Prayer (Group)
		5.30pm	The Friends of Elstow Abbey AGM , Church Hall
		6.30pm	Evening Prayer (JRC) Preacher Canon Dr. Peter Sedgwick.
19 th	Monday	10.00am	Mums and Toddlers meet in the Church Hall
		2.00pm	Prayer Group meet in the Summerhouse
		7.30pm	Benefice Churchwardens meeting at St. Michael's Church
20 th	Tuesday	10.00am	Sing and Sign in the Church Hall
		4.00pm	Dance Club in the Church Hall
21 st	Wednesday	11.30am	Coffee morning and soup in the Church Hall
		6.30pm	Youth Group meet in the Church Hall
22 nd	Thursday	11.00am	Holy Communion (JRC)
		7.30pm	Meeting of the Parochial Church Council in the Church Hall
24 th	Saturday	2.00pm	Children's Workshop in the Church Hall
		7-9.30pm	St. Michael's Social Evening in the Scott Hall, Barford Avenue
25 th	Sunday	Pentecost 2	
		10.00am	Young People's Service with the Baptism of Alfie Richard Carr (JRC and DW)
		11.15am	Parish Communion (JRC)
		3.00pm	Baptism of George Childs-Gatty
		3.45pm	Baptism of Megan Craig
		6.30pm	Evening Prayer followed by Holy Communion with the Laying on of Hands for Healing (JRC)
26 th	Monday	10.00am	No Mums and Toddlers

		2.00pm	Prayer Group meet in the Summerhouse
27 th	Tuesday	10.00am	Sing and Sign in the Church Hall
		4.00pm	Dance Club in the Church Hall
28 th	Wednesday	11.30am	Coffee morning and soup in the Church Hall
		6.30pm	Youth Group meet in the Church Hall
29 th	Thursday	11.00am	Holy Communion
		7.30pm	Fundraising Meeting @ Hinsons

JUNE

1 ST	Sunday		
	Pentecost 3	10.00am	Family Communion with Sunday School (JRC)
		11.00am	Coffee, Cakes, Ploughman's Lunches, Cream Teas in Tony and Margaret Baron's garden - 209 Church End.
		11.15am	Morning Prayer (JRC)
		12.30pm	Wedding rehearsal (JRC)
		6.30pm	Evening Prayer (JRC)
2 nd	Monday	10.00am	Mums and Toddlers meet in the Church Hall
		2.00pm	Prayer Group meet in the Summerhouse
3 rd	Tuesday	10.00am	Sing and Sign in the Church Hall
		4.00pm	Dance Club in the Church Hall
4 th	Wednesday	11.30am	Coffee morning and soup in the Church Hall
		6.30pm	Youth Group meet in the Church Hall
5 th	Thursday	11.00am	Holy Communion (JRC)
		12.00noon	Monthly Lunch club in the Red Lion
		8.00pm	Meeting of the Finance and Standing Committee at 43 Armstrong Close, Wilstead
6 th	Friday	2.30pm	Visit to Southill Park House and Gardens with Tea by kind invitation of Mr & Mrs Charles Whitbread. Cost £10.00. Names MUST be given in beforehand. Please either sign the sheet in church or telephone the Secretary to The Friends of Elstow Abbey, Derek Norman on 01234 262325

"History of Elstow Abbey" reaches Lanzarote

Mavis and I took a break in the Canaries Island of Lanzarote. When on holiday, we nearly always try to find a local Anglican Church service to attend. On this occasion we were able to establish, via the Internet, that there was a regular Sunday evening service in the resort of Playa Blanca, where we were staying. As we are often asked where we worship at home, we decided on this occasion to bring with us a copy of Rachel Marchbank's book on the history of Elstow Abbey to present to the local chaplain.

At the resort we discovered that the Anglican community on the island had no church building of its own but the Catholic Church allowed them to hold services at three of their churches around the island. The church in



Playa Blanca, Nuestra Señora del Carmen, was quite small but was filled by an enthusiastic congregation who did justice to the hymns.

Unfortunately, as the building was borrowed, there was no opportunity for a social get-together after the service and any conversations were conducted on the front steps. However, we managed to have a few quick words with the Anglican Chaplain, the Rev William Lark, and he was pleased to receive the copy of Rachel's book.

Eric & Mavis Crossen

Owing to an oversight last month, there are two months' worth of details from the registers:

FEBRUARY 2008

Date	Communicants	Attendance	Collections
3rd	40	81	321.31
6th	19	19	- (Ash Wed)
7th	10	10	8.00
10th	39	59	143.20
14 th	11	11	7.10
17 th	30	80	211.94
21 st	6	6	2.00
24 th	35	95	406.07
28 th	7	7	22.00
	<u>197</u>	<u>368</u>	<u>1121.62</u>

BAPTISM

March 9th Freddie Owen

BURIALS

February 26th Marjorie May Titmas (Ashes)

March 9th Douglas Howard Gautrey (Ashes)

Eileen Margery (Bay) Gautrey (Ashes)

MARCH 2008

Date	Communicants	Attendance	Collections
2nd	57	139	267.11
6th	16	16	6.00
9th	37	59	247.64
13th	8	8	3.50
16 th	42	79	320.61
18 th	13	14	Holy Tues
20 th	7	7	2.00
20 th	25	25	Maundy Thurs
21 st	-	62	Good Friday
22 nd	-	16	Easter Eve
23 rd	70	112	436.40
27 th	8	8	13.00
30 th	72	84	262.49
	<u>355</u>	<u>629</u>	<u>1558.75</u>

Bell Ringing News

The Bedfordshire Association

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

On Saturday 5 April 2008 in 2hrs and 32mins (Tenor 9cwt)

A Peal of 5040 Surprise Minor in 7 methods

being one extent each of Alwick, Newcastle, Northumberland,
Sandiacre, Chester, Munden, and Carlisle

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

Conducted by Stephen H Stanford

With congratulations to Ann Fletcher and Andrew Spencer on their
silver wedding anniversary (26 March)

You may be wondering why we are ringing (and filling the magazine) with more than the usual number of peals on the bells at Elstow. There is a peal board on the wall in the tower recording the first peal on the six bells following their restoration and augmentation by Alfred Bowel of Ipswich. It was rung on the day of the dedication service (17 December 1908). Late last year I discovered from a bell ringing web site that there had then been a total of 89 peals rung on the bells (just one of them on the five prior to augmentation, so 88 of them on the six) and we thought that it would be nice, and just about possible, to attempt the 100th peal on the 100th anniversary of the first peal (17 December 2008).

The peal rung at Christmas took the total to 90 so that left 10 peals to successfully ring in 2008. Success is by no means guaranteed, especially when ringing some of the more complex methods, so we may need a few more attempts than this! The peal rung on 5 April was the 93rd, so just seven more to ring!

If anyone has a special personal event they wish to commemorate, please let me know and we will try to dedicate one of the peals for the occasion. The next attempts are planned for Sat 3 May and Sat 24 May, and we are also trying to arrange something for the morning of the May Festival on Saturday 10 May.

New fund supports greening of community buildings

A new fund promises to bring more sustainable space and water heating, electricity and insulation to community buildings. It will support solar water heating, heat pumps, wood pellet stoves and wind or water electricity generators.

The Community Sustainable Energy Programme aims to distribute £9 million to community not-for-profit organisations in 2008/9. The fund will help pay for both feasibility studies and the costs of equipment and installation. It offers £5000 (or 75% of costs, whichever is lower) towards a feasibility study, or £50,000 (or 50% of installed costs, whichever is lower) towards the recommended solution and its installation.

The fund is open to applications from community groups, charities and trusts, parish councils, schools and colleges, faith organisations and mutual societies. The quarterly deadlines for applications are 16 May, 15 Aug, 7 Nov '08 & 30 Jan '09.

The programme is managed by BRE and supported by the Big Lottery Fund. See www.communitysustainable.org.uk for full details.

The Energy Efficiency Advice Centre on 0800 512 012 provides impartial advice on renewable energy technologies. This service can also connect homeowners with discounted loft and cavity wall insulation, including 100% grants for over 70s.

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CHRISTIAN AID EVENT
PRIORY METHODIST CHURCH
NEWNHAM AVENUE
BEDFORD

SUNDAY, MAY 4TH AT 2.30PM

Penny Leigh-Brown will be giving a talk entitled "Empowering People - help your church change the world", talking about her experience in Sri Lanka

Please join us if you are able as an introduction to Christian Aid Week, which runs from

May 11th-17th

A vacancy also exists for someone to set up and dismantle the Christian Aid Exhibition in the Central Library. The relevant dates are May 5th and May 16th

For more details, please contact S. Batiuk on 01234 741112



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

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



I'm sure many of us will be celebrating the Elstow May Festival this month - do send us your pictures and stories of the event for the next magazine! In the meantime, may I share some facts you may - or may not? - know about May!

May is named after the Greek goddess Maia and was traditionally celebrated as the time the crops and flowers began to grow

Traditional May Day customs include dancing round the maypole and crowning a May Queen

For our ancestors, mostly in rural areas, it was a major annual festival and was celebrated throughout the country with music, dancing and games

In some parts of Britain, greenery was collected by children to make May Day garlands. In many English villages, children would parade with garlands of flowers, sometimes tied to sticks in the shape of a cross or hoop

First thing in the morning on May 1st, young girls would rush out into the garden to wash their faces in the May dew. Legend had it that the dew had magic properties, and whoever washed their face in it would have a lovely complexion for the rest of the year!

May 29th was traditionally Oak Apple Day, when people wore oak apples or oak leaves. This was done to recall that, on this day, King Charles II returned triumphantly to London after the restoration of the monarchy in 1660. The oak apples celebrated the king's legendary escape from Cromwell's soldiers by hiding in an oak tree. Until well into the 20th century, anyone caught not wearing an oak leaf or oak apple on May 29th could be pinched, kicked, or otherwise abused - whipping with nettles was a favourite punishment!

Weather sayings include:

"A wet May makes a big load of hay; a cold May is kindly and fills the barn finely"

"A swarm of bees in May is worth a load of hay"

"Mist in May, heat in June, makes harvest come right soon"

"If you wash a blanket in May, you will wash one of the family away"

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ELSTOW MAY FESTIVAL

Saturday 10th May

12 noon - 4pm

Elstow Village Green

May procession, Maypole dancing, Raffle, Refreshments, Stalls, Games, Bouncy Castle...

DID YOU KNOW?



Having marigolds in your garden can keep rodents away

Planting trees around a building can reduce air conditioning need by 30 per cent

The first televised sporting event was a Japanese school basketball game in 1931

Tarantulas are completely safe apart from irritating chemicals found on their abdominal hair, which can cause rashes

Tug-of-war was an Olympic sport from 1900 to 1920, and Great Britain was the last team to win a gold medal taking part

Croquet, golf and cricket also used to be part of the Olympic Games

Hat makers in the 18th and 19th century used mercury for curing felt - it is thought this may have caused mental illness in many people - that's where we get the expression 'as mad as a hatter'

The biggest dog ever was a mastiff who measured 8'3 from nose to tail and weighed 343lbs

A wedding ring should be put on your finger before your engagement ring so that it is closer to your heart

When Bugs Bunny first appeared on screen in 1935 he was called Happy Rabbit

You blink more than 10 million times a year. There's another one...

OPEN GARDEN

Sunday 1st June

209 Church End Elstow

11am - 4pm

(The Caretakers cottage, by the Church Hall)

Coffee and Cakes

Ploughman's lunches

Cream teas

Plant stall

Raffle

To Raise Money for Elstow Holiday Club 2008 - JUNIOR HEROES

If you have any plants or other items that we could sell, or can help us in any way, please talk to Margaret Baron, or Tracey Hinson

ELSTOW ABBEY HOLIDAY CLUB

2008

JUNIOR HEROES

August 4th - 8th

10am - 12 noon

For all young people

Aged 5-11

FREE

Craft, songs, games, and lots of FUN

Places are limited so book early