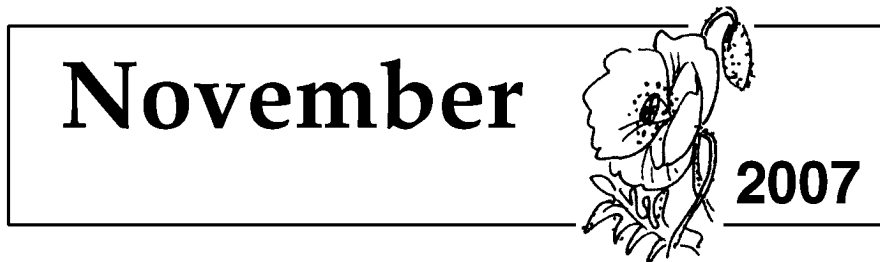


ELSTOW PARISH MAGAZINE



November, a time to give thanks....

I always feel as I approach November, that this is a time to give thanks in the church for those who have gone before us. For those loved ones and the many millions who have died as a result of war.

On Sunday 4th November at Elstow Abbey we shall be holding the Annual Commemoration Service at 6.30pm. At this service prayers for the departed will be said, and their names will be read out, and candles lit. I am hoping to write to all those who have recently lost loved ones. Please let me know of a name, or names that you would like remembered, and please come to the service.

Over the last year a Parish Bereavement Care Team has been set up from members of the congregation - who have been trained and specially selected, to be able to offer a friendly ear and to spend time with you if you wish. Please let me know on (261477) if you would like to try this.

Remembrance Sunday actually falls on November 11th this year, and we shall be keeping the Annual Service of Remembrance at Elstow Abbey with the service beginning at 10.55am, to be followed by a simple Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial, to remember those who from Elstow were killed in service in the two World Wars.

I read in a recent magazine that the act of observing the two minute silence began in 1919 following the Armistice at 11.00am

on 11th November 1918. Over 36 million poppies, 107,000 wreaths and sprays and 800,000 Remembrance Crosses and other Remembrance items will be distributed by November 11th. People first gave a donation to wear a poppy in Britain on 11th November 1921. The gesture was inspired by a poem 'In Flanders Fields'. The poem was written in 1915 by John McCrea, a Canadian Doctor who served during World War I and first published anonymously in 'Punch'.

This poem has been put to music by Dr John Crookall and will be performed by himself on the organ and Mr John Hinson soloist during this year's Service of Remembrance. I am delighted to report that at the Evening Service for Remembrance Sunday at 6.30pm the Bedford and District Branch of the Royal British Legion will be attending Elstow Abbey. I hope you will come and join us.

And last, but by no means least, we remember Guy Fawkes. Without him would we have fireworks? Our annual bonfire and firework night is to be on Saturday 3rd November from 6pm by the side of the Church Hall. Free admission with hot soup and hot dogs served. If you do bring fireworks can you please bring a 'big un?' Hope to see you there.

With Best Wishes,

Jeremy.

Calculate your carbon footprint

Web based Carbon Calculators can help us move from agreement on climate change to action. To use one, simply enter details of your annual energy use and travel, then watch the calculator translate this into estimated carbon dioxide emissions.

Once you have your estimate, you can use the calculator to test the impact of doing things differently. Newer calculators allow you to compare your emissions against the national average and UK targets. These are great for getting some perspective* on the size of the challenge ahead. Examples include:

<http://actonco2.direct.gov.uk/index.html>
www.nef.org.uk/actonCO2/carboncalculator.htm

The UK government is currently committed to a 60% reduction in CO₂ emissions from 1990 levels by 2050. That means that the 1990 per capita UK emissions of 10 tonnes will need to fall below 4 tonnes per annum by 2050.**

Carbon Calculators usually come with advice. You might opt to insulate your home, switch to a green electricity tariff, or buy only energy efficient appliances. Generating solar hot water or electricity may also be an option for some households.

For more information, contact the Energy Efficiency Advice Centre on 0800 512 012.

* For example, a return flight to Sidney clocks up 6 tonnes of CO₂ emissions per traveller on NEF's previous calculator.

** This compares to 1990 per capita emissions (including industry) of 2.1 tonnes in China and 1.4 tonnes in Brazil. Source: UN Stats from CDIAC.

THE CHURCH CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 2007

NOVEMBER

1 st	Thursday	All Saints Day	
		11.00am	Holy Communion (JRC)
		12 noon	Monthly lunch in the Red Lion – all welcome
2 nd	Friday	7-8pm	Choir Practise
3 rd	Saturday	2.15pm	St Michael's Christmas Fayre
		6.00pm	Bonfire and Fireworks Party in the field behind the Church hall
4 th	Sunday		
		4 th Before Advent	
		10.00am	Family Communion with Sunday School (JRC)
		11.15am	Morning Prayer (JRC)
		3.00pm	Baptism of Joseph Hillson (JRC)
		6.30pm	Annual Commemoration Service (JRC)
5 th	Monday	10.00am	Mums and Toddlers Group in the Church Hall
		6.30pm	Young People's confirmation class, Cardington
		7.00pm	Prayer Group meet in the Summerhouse
		7.30pm	Adults confirmation class, Cardington
6 th	Tuesday	9.45am	Visit to Elstow Abbey by Southlands School
7 th	Wednesday	9.45am	Visit to Elstow Abbey by Southlands School
		11.30am	Coffee Morning followed by soup in the Church Hall
		6.30pm	Youth Group – Indoor Games
8 th	Thursday	11.00am	Holy Communion (JRC)
		7.30pm	Meeting of Elstow Parochial Church Council

in the Church Hall

10 th	Saturday	2.00pm- 7.00pm	Quiet afternoon at Turvey Abbey
11 th	Sunday	3 rd Before Advent Remembrance Sunday	
		10.55am	Remembrance Service followed by wreath laying at the War Memorial (JRC)
		3.00pm	Baptism of Rianna Johnson
		4-6pm	Pantomime Rehearsal
		6.30pm	Remembrance Evening Prayer (JRC) with the Royal British Legion Bedford and District Branch preacher John Hinson.
12 th	Monday	10.00am	Mums and Toddlers Group in the Church hall
		6.30pm	Young People's confirmation class, Cardington
		7.00pm	Prayer Group meet in the Summerhouse
		7.30pm	Adults confirmation class, Cardington
<i>DEADLINE FOR MATERIAL FOR THE DECEMBER 2007/ JANUARY 2008 MAGAZINE</i>			
13 th	Tuesday	9.45am	Visit to Elstow Abbey by Southlands School
14 th	Wednesday	9.45am	Visit to Elstow Abbey by Southlands School
		11.30am	Coffee morning followed by soup in the Church Hall
		6.30pm	Youth Group – Karaoke in the Church Hall
15 th	Thursday	11.00am	Holy Communion (JRC)
16 th	Friday	7-8pm	Choir Practise
17 th	Saturday	2.00pm- 4.00pm	Christmas Bazaar in Elstow Church Hall
18 th	Sunday	10.00am	Family Communion with Sunday School and the Baptism of Natasha Heron (JRC)

		10.15am	Dedication of St. Michael's Garden of Remembrance by The Bishop of Bedford
		11.15am	Morning Prayer (Captain David Wells)
		4-6pm	Pantomime Rehearsal
		6.30pm	Evening Prayer (Mr Robert Heley)
19 th	Monday	10.00am	Mums and Toddlers in the Church Hall
		6.30pm	Young People's confirmation class, Cardington
		7.00pm	Prayer Group meet in the Summerhouse
		7.30pm	Adults confirmation class, Cardington
21 st	Wednesday	11.30am	Coffee morning followed by soup in the Church Hall
		6.30pm	Youth Group – Beach Party in Church Hall
22 nd	Thursday	11.00am	Holy Communion (JRC)
24 th	Saturday	2.00pm	Children's Workshop in the Church hall
25 th	Sunday		Next Before Advent Christ the King
		10.00am	Young People's Service (JEH)
		11.15am	Parish Communion (the Revd Peter Littleford)
		6.00pm	Joint Service at Christ the King, London Road/Harrowden Road Junction. (JRC Preacher)
			Please NOTE: There is NO EVENSONG AT ELSTOW
26 th	Monday	10.00am	Mums and Toddlers in the Church Hall
		6.30pm	Young People's confirmation class, Cardington
		7.00pm	Prayer Group meet in the Summerhouse
		7.30pm	Adults confirmation class, Cardington
28 th	Wednesday	11.30am	Coffee morning followed by soup in the Church Hall
		6.30pm	Youth Group – Visit to Pizza Hut
29 th	Thursday	11.00am	Holy Communion (JRC)
		7.30pm	Youth Leaders Meeting @ the Vicarage

30th Friday 7-8pm Choir Practise

DECEMBER

1st Saturday 7.00pm Quiz Night in Elstow Church Hall with Fish and Chip supper

2nd Sunday Advent Sunday

10.00am Family Communion with Sunday School and the lighting of the first Advent Candle (JRC)

11.15am Morning Prayer (JRC)

2.00pm Baptism of Olivia Beard (JRC)

6.30pm Evening Prayer (JRC)

3rd Monday 10.00am Mums and Toddlers in the Church Hall

6.30pm Young People's confirmation class, Cardington

7.00pm Prayer Group meet in the Summerhouse

7.30pm Adults confirmation class, Cardington

8.00pm Advent Course at St. Michael's Church.

5th Wednesday 11.30am Coffee morning followed by soup in the Church Hall

6.30pm Youth Group – Christmas Icing

6th Thursday 11.00am Holy Communion (JRC)

Noon **No** lunch at the Red Lion, Christmas Lunch on 13th

The Bishop of St Albans: Presidential Address

Diocesan Synod: 6 October 2007

Over the past few months I have chaired a couple of public meetings for the West Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) and the East and North Hertfordshire PCT. The meetings were concerned with the changing provisions of healthcare and went out under the banner 'Delivering quality healthcare for Hertfordshire'. My job was simply to be the neutral chairman; but of course, when it comes to healthcare, emotions run high so there were times when the meetings became a little feisty, and being chairman was a touch demanding.

In essence the proposed changes are these:

1. PCTs, and GPs in particular, should deliver more local healthcare and should do so as effectively as possible. They should also be more involved in preventative strategies, for example dispensing statins to help bring down the rate of cardiovascular disease.
2. There should be two 'high tech', state of the art hospitals for Hertfordshire, both of them consultant led, providing high quality acute services. Rather than having specialisation in small local general hospitals, these specialisations should be grouped together in the two main hospitals.
3. It follows that in W Herts and in E and N Herts there are decisions to be made about which of the current hospitals becomes the main specialist unit, that is, the major acute hospital - and what follows from that are questions about how the remaining hospitals are to function. In W Herts, for example, it would seem that Watford will be the major acute hospital and either St Albans or Hemel will be the elective care surgical centre. There will be seven Urgent Care Centres in Hertfordshire.
4. The work of paramedics will become of increased importance; if journey times to hospital take longer because of traffic congestion, when urgent intervention is of the essence, the paramedics of the Ambulance Service will be frontline. They and the hospitals will develop new ways of working together for the good of acutely ill patients.

There are, of course, many other details in the proposed changes but, in broad brushstrokes, those four areas I have outlined are the key to understanding them. It is not for me to go into detail about what I may think about these proposals. They represent not only a local pattern but are part of a national reorganisation.

Let me recap:

1. GPs are the platform on which everything else is built.
2. It is claimed that major acute hospitals will be more effective than current provision and their importance will increase, though patient stays in them may be very brief.
3. Smaller local hospitals will lose their Accident and Emergency departments and some may become places either for non urgent elective surgery and/or places of recuperation following major medical intervention in the specialised units.

Now, why is all of this in a diocesan synod address? Well, partly because healthcare across Herts and Beds is changing rapidly and the changes affect us all, but partly also to illustrate a much bigger point. The meetings I have chaired have been labelled 'consultations' - and so they have been. The experts, be they senior NHS managers or clinicians, have made a presentation and then there has followed lively questioning and comment from the floor. The problem lies with the word *consultation*. The NHS personnel have been entirely courageous and very clear in explaining the plans they are proposing, and they have listened attentively to the views put forward. They see the exercise as consultative. Members of the audience, meanwhile, have worked on the assumption that 'consultation' implies everyone starting with a blank sheet of paper and designing a health service from first principles - and when, as is necessary in the NHS (and in similar public bodies), the planners have had to produce a new scheme constrained by money, politics, professional boundary lines, etc, at the same time as continuing to provide healthcare, then a clash of expectations is inevitable.

The clash is not between two opposites, what is right and what is wrong, but between two competing 'goods'. In this case it is 'good' to have the best healthcare available as close as possible to the patient, whilst the 'good' of providing the best healthcare may require that care to be given in a place where specialists are available, that is, at some distance from the patient's home.

In the meetings I have chaired, everyone - managers at the 'top table' and the audience - want what is best. That's why the debates become so passionate. But there seems to be an assumption that

- a) the managers are not human
- b) they are concealing things
- c) they don't really care
- d) they don't understand.

In my experience, none of those things is true. And this is where I come to the heart of the problem. The primary assumption appears to be that 'they' are not to be trusted - and this 'they' refers not only to the NHS, it refers to anyone in public life: council officials at district or county level, teachers and governors, clergy and diocesan office staff, bishops ... I am not naive enough to think that all people in public life are perfect, nor do I think that we should not be accountable, but when relationships in the structures of governance in our nation and in the Church are constructed on the basis that 'they' are guilty until we have proved them innocent, the results, I think, are increasingly troublesome. Civic trust, if I can call it that, is essential for the wellbeing of a civic society. Where it does not exist, a kind of angry, mistrustful, unhappiness results.

But it is even more complex than that - and again I use the NHS only as an example. The speed of technological and scientific change which the NHS has to contend with is breathtaking. You have no sooner planned for your new specialist unit in cardiovascular care, than a new drug is discovered which transforms life expectancy - and all that planning, all that expenditure, appears to have been thoughtless. Change in all organisations is the only constant and it is very, very difficult to manage and to lead - and threatens trust. How can we begin to restore trust in civic life?

1. By trying to ensure that those in positions of leadership really do try to work out of an ethic based on the common good.
2. By expressing appreciation for those who work in the NHS and in public services, so that young people may catch a vision of a society where service and self-giving are given high status and may themselves want to work for the common good.
3. By recognising that the most complex problems in civic life require difficult decisions to be made, that is, those where the decision is to give priority to one good, rather than another good - and that to make those kinds of decisions requires wisdom and the willingness to make mistakes and the courage to acknowledge when mistakes have been made.
4. By trying to resist the growth in the spirit of fear, which seems to characterise many of our public services and institutions, and replace it with Christ-like courage and love.
5. By trying to show, within our churches and communities, a way of human interaction which is based on an awareness of sin and weakness in all of us, but a sin and weakness overcome by the gift of Christ's own life and death, and based also on a desire, daily, to offer our lives to God to be used by Him for the furtherance of His kingdom.
6. Finally, by recognising that within our churches we are living with realities - not 'virtual' communities, not cyber 'love-ins' - but living with the gifts and complexities of real human relationships and finding that through patience and grace and humility, new ways of being human do emerge.

In a confused and sometimes fearful country, our churches are signals of God's love, signals of God's reality, signals of new forms of community. None of our churches are perfect - of course not - but I see in many of our parishes, in many of our churches, signs of the love and compassion and power of Jesus Christ at work, and for that we ought to give the most profound and heartfelt thanks.

Simply by being God's Church, by being at prayer, by being in fellowship, by being together, by being open to the Holy Spirit, by being forgiving, by being places of reconciliation - by being all of those things and more, we are offering a challenge to the world and a challenge to each other to persevere in living by faith, in hope and love, so that trust may grow. So thank you for who you are and for all you do, up and down the diocese, to be God's people. You are signs of His love and signs of His promise - signs, by God's grace, of what true humanity and true community are all about.

The Bishop of St Albans

From the Elstow Registers...

Marriages

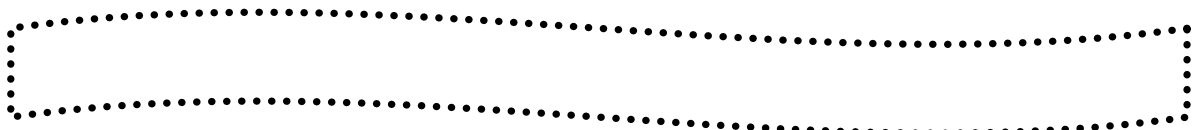
October 13th Peter Boland and Helen Craven (Blessing)

Burials

September 26th Peter and Marie Guy (ashes)

September 2007

	Communicants	Attendance	Collections
			£
2 nd	33	82	195.20
6 th	10	10	3.40
9 th	44	78	288.82
13 th	8	8	3.00
16 th	40	81	339.98
20 th	7	7	1.00
23 rd		128	83.02 to Farm Africa 251.70 envelopes
27 th	10	10	13.00
30 th	12	30	171.70
Totals	164	434	1350.82



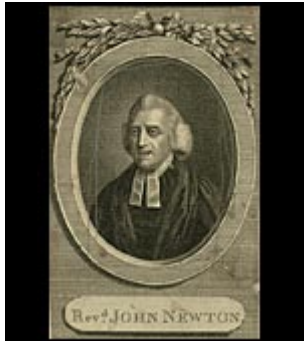
Tunes of Glory

One of many of William Cowper's great Hymns is No 414 "O for a closer walk with God", to "Caithness", a tune from the Scottish Psalter of 1636. I have written twice about some other of William Cowper's hymns in Elstow Abbey Magazine ("God moves in a mysterious way" to "London New" in February 2006, and "Jesus, where'er thy people meet" to "Galilee" in July 2004), in which his life and the particular contributions he made to the "Olney Hymns" with John Newton, were considered.

This time I intend to say something about the Preface itself to the "Olney Hymns", and particularly William Cowper's work; it was written by John Newton at Olney, Bucks, February 15th 1779.

I have left the spelling intact as then, with many an "s" character as an "f". But first we must realise that this hymn undoubtedly hints at the shadow of Cowper's impending darkness of mind. Many hymns have been written by great writers who at the time were suffering from crises, disillusionment and sadness of spirit.

Preface to the original Olney Hymns by John Newton



Copies of a few of these Hymns have already appeared in periodical publications, and in some recent collections. I have observed one or two of them attributed to persons who certainly had no concern in them, but as transcribers. All that have been at different times parted with in manuscript are included in the present volume; and (if the information were of any great importance) the public may be assured, that the whole number were composed by two persons only. The original design would not admit of any other association. A desire of promoting the faith and comfort of sincere Christians, though the principal, was not the only motive to this undertaking. It was likewise intended as a monument, to perpetuate the remembrance of an intimate and endeared friendship. With this pleasing view I entered upon my part, which would have been smaller than it is, and the book would have appeared much sooner, and in a very different form, if the wife, though by mysterious providence of GOD, had not been fit to cross my wishes. We had not proceeded far upon our proposed plan, before my dear friend was prevented, by a long and affecting indisposition, from affording me any farther assistance. My grief and disappointment were great; I hung my harp upon the willows, and for some time thought myself determined to

proceed no farther without him. Yet my mind was afterwards led to resume the service. My progress in it, amidst a variety of other engagements, has been slow, yet in a course of years the hymns amounted to a considerable number: And my deference to the judgment and desires of others, has at length overcome the reluctance I long felt to see them in print, while I had so few of my friend's hymns to insert in the collection. Though it is possible a good judge of composition might be able to distinguish those which are his, I have thought it proper to preclude a misapplication, by prefixing the letter C to each of them. For the rest I must be responsible.

This publication, which, with my humble prayer to the LORD for his blessing upon it, I offer to the service and acceptance of all who love the LORD JESUS CHRIST in sincerity, of every name and in every place, into whose hands it may come; I more particularly dedicate to my dear friends in the parish and neighbourhood of *Olney* for whose use the hymns were originally composed as a testimony of the sincere love I bear them, and as a token of my gratitude to the LORD, and to them, for the comfort and satisfaction with which the discharge of my ministry among them has been attended.

The hour is approaching, and at my time of life cannot be very distant when my heart, my pen, and my tongue, will no longer be able to move in their service. But I trust, while my heart continues to beat, it will feel a warm desire for the prosperity of their souls; and while my hand can write, and my tongue speak, it will be the business and the pleasure of my life, to aim at promoting their growth and establishment in the grace of our GOD and Saviour. To this precious grace I commend them, and earnestly entreat them, and all who love his name, to strive mightily with their prayers to GOD for me, that I may be preserved faithful to the end, and enabled at last to finish my course with joy.

John Crookall

IT'S YOUR MAGAZINE!



DO YOU HAVE ANY NEWS OR EVENTS TO PUBLICISE?

GOT A RECIPE TO SHARE, OR YOUR FAVOURITE HOBBY?

DO YOU FANCY WRITING AN ARTICLE ABOUT ANYTHING?

SHARE IT WITH YOUR PARISH! – E-MAIL jakhat77@hotmail.com or
write to Jacquie Pryce, 13 Acorn Way, Bedford, MK42 0QN

SIDESMEN'S ROTA November 2007

November 4 th	10.00am	Mrs. R. Haines.	Mrs. S. Brown.
	11.15am	Mrs. A. Knight.	Mrs. M. Crossen.
	6.30pm	Mr. C. Albon. Mrs. R. Albon.	Mrs. B. Routledge. Mrs. C. Parrish.
November 11 th	10.55am	Mr. C. Albon.	Mrs. B. Routledge.
	6.30pm	Miss. M. Eastwell.	
November 18 th	10.00am	Mrs. J. Barnicott.	Mrs. A. Morris.
	11.15am	Mr. P. Batiuk.	Mrs. L. Burrows.
	6.30pm	Mrs. G. Annan.	
November 25 th	10.00am	Mr. C. Albon.	Mrs. R. Albon.
	11.15am	Mrs. M. Crossen.	Mrs. A. Knight.
	6.30pm	NO EVENSONG AT ELSTOW	
December 2 nd	10.00am	Mrs. S. Brown.	Mrs. R. Haines.
	11.15am	Mr. F.W. Crossen.	Mr. P. Batiuk.
	6.30am	Mrs. C. Parrish.	

NOVEMBER Reader's List

4th	11.15am	Isaiah Ch 35 Lamentations Ch 3 v's 17 - 26 & 31 - 33	Luke Ch 9 v. 18 – 27 John Ch 6 v.37 – 40	Ann Knight Barbara Routledge
Green AM Purple PM	6.30pm			
November 11	10.55am	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY		
		As set in order of service		Dorothy Steele
Red/Green	6.30pm	1 Kings Ch 3 v. 1 - 15	Romans Ch 8 v. 31 - end	Peter Moss
November 18th	10.00am	2 Thessalonians Ch 3 v. 6 - 13	Luke Ch 21 v. 5 – 19	Peter Batiuk
	11.15am	1 Samuel Ch 16 v. 1 - 13	Matthew Ch 7 v. 1 -12 Matthew Ch 13 v. 1 - 9 & 18 – 23	John Crookall
Red/Green	6.30pm	Daniel Ch 6		Catherine Parrish
November 25th	11.15am	Colossians Ch 1 v. 11 - 20	Luke Ch 23 v. 33-43	Lizabeth Burrows
Red/White		NO EVENSONG. UNITED	SERVICE AT CHRIST THE KING	
December 2nd	10.00am	Romans Ch 13 v. 11 - end	Matthew Ch 24 v. 36 – 44	Barbara Routledge
	11.15am	Micah Ch 4 v. 1 - 7	1 Thessalonians Ch 5 v. 1 - 11 Matthew Ch 24 v. 15 – 28	Peter Batiuk
Purple	6.30pm	Isaiah Ch 52 v. 1 - 12		Glynis Annan

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



...BUT IS IT ART?



AS I'm sure you're all aware, the nominees for The Turner Prize were unveiled at the Tate Liverpool a few weeks ago and, as usual, the diverse array of artworks selected is bound to provoke controversy. After all, although it was named after traditionalist Joseph Turner, the prize has become synonymous with conceptual and controversial work, most notably Tracey Emin's soiled bed and Damien Hirst's peculiar preserved animals. And that means that once again, the debate over the value of so-called modern art will be thrust into the public eye.

There have been comments already that the work selected this year, which includes a piece of scaffolding with the words 'There Will Be No Miracles Here' spelt out in lightbulbs, is not as headline-grabbing as in previous years. But even that query itself is sure to raise the usual arguments.

Is the Turner Prize an important part of our cultural heritage, raising the profile of fine arts and encouraging young artists? Or are we entitled to smirk at the bizarre installations and dung-covered paintings?

And what qualifies as "good" art anyway? You only have to look at the beautiful stained glass windows in our church to know that art can be both lovely and practical but, often, beauty is purely in the eye of the beholder – for example, I find those modern canvases, which consist of basically a stripe of coloured paint in the middle of a grey square, nonsensical. That's because my definition of "proper" art is something I couldn't do myself, whether that be an inspiring sculpture, a remarkable portrait, or a dazzling video installation. My friend, however, finds those bland canvases incredibly soothing and tranquil, and insists they are the perfect wall hangings as they invite contemplation. I also have to confess that some of the most interesting pieces I've seen recently have been what you would call "modern" art, such as a lake full of floating metal spheres or a room splattered with fragrant spices – in an art gallery in Brisbane I was captivated by a series of recycled items spilling across the floor in a kaleidoscope of colour, and mounted on tiny wheels to form a kind of Wacky Races of rubbish across the room. Yet to many people, that "artwork" would be just that – rubbish.

No-one could deny that the Turner prize helps an artist enhance their careers, in terms of recognition and status. Since 2004, the winner has also received a cheque for £40,000, thanks to sponsorship and increased audiences. But it also seems to attract increasing controversy, both within the art world and publicly. Who can forget the debate that raged over 2001 winner Martin Creed and his empty room with lights going on and off? And, after all, isn't that the point of art – to inspire a reaction, good or bad, and create debate?

Founded in 1984, the criteria for the Turner Prize is simply that it is awarded to a British visual artist under the age of 50. But critics have voiced the opinion that many young artists are confused about why they want to win the Turner Prize – are they trying to become great artists, or do they simply crave the fame and notoriety that the title attracts? Take Tracey Emin, she of the unmade bed fame exhibited in 1999 – she's now arguably just as recognisable as a "celebrity" than as an artist. Often a "controversial" piece of artwork can feel a little contrived, because there is the sense that, if you create something controversial, it will receive more attention.

This year's Turner Prize shortlist includes Mike Nelson, who has created a maze of mirrors entitled *Amnesiac Shrine* and Nathan Coley, who produced the scaffolding piece, while Zarini Bhimji's photo of automatic guns and Mark Wallinger's film of himself dressed as a bear walking round an art gallery are bound to spark both interest and bemusement. The range of work is always going to provoke, but also be popular, as the show always attracts a large number of people. And there has to be a certain value in seeing something shocking that then prompts you to talk about it with your friends – that kind of challenge, questioning and engagement is all part of a healthy artistic debate, and help give the arts a higher public profile. Not a bad thing, surely?

If you want to make your own mind up the Turner Prize exhibition runs from now until January 13 2008 at Tate Liverpool, and entrance is free. The winner will be announced on December 3.



A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME...

I'm currently in the middle of planning my wedding, and recently went to the florists for the first time to discuss what we wanted for the bouquets and floral arrangements for our day. Over an hour later, and I was slightly overwhelmed but fascinated by the huge range of choice available to the modern bride-to-be. Equally fascinating was the discovery of some of the old 'language of the flowers', where each bloom has a different meaning you can use to convey emotions. The Victorians seem to have been the experts on this, developing an entire floriography as a means of communication by which to express their feelings. I think it's a lovely lost art, so here is a quick basic guide to the meanings of different flowers – it might just make you think twice before sending yellow carnations to your loved one, or a hyacinth to your mum!

Aster - Love; daintiness

Baby's Breath - Everlasting Love

Bluebell - Humility; constancy

Carnation (pink) – I'll never forget you

Carnation (yellow) – Rejection; disdain

Daffodil - Respect

Daisy - Innocence

Forget-Me-Not - True love

Freesia - Friendship

Gardenia - You're lovely; secret love

Heather (lavender) - Admiration; solitude

Hyacinth (general) – Rashness; jealousy

Hydrangea - Frigidity; heartlessness

Iris - Faith; hope; wisdom and valour

Jasmine - Amiability; attracts wealth

Lily (general) - Keeps unwanted visitors away

Lily of the valley - sweetness; return to happiness; humility

Marigold - Comforts the heart

Narcissus - Egotism; formality

Orange Blossom - Brings wisdom

Orchid - Love; beauty; refinement

Peony – Aphrodisiac

Primrose - I can't live without you

Ranunculus – Rich in attractions

Rose (Red) - Love ; I love you

Rose(Yellow) – Friendship

Rose (Pink) - Perfect happiness; please believe me

Rosemary – Remembrance

Snapdragon - Deception; gracious lady

Stephanotis - Happiness in marriage; desire to travel

Sunflower - Loyalty; wishes

Sweetpea - Goodbye; departure

Tulip (general) - Fame, charity

Violet - Modesty; calms tempers





JOKES, JOKES, JOKES

A young man had just got his driving licence. He asked his father, who was a vicar, if he could use his car. His father took him to his study and said to him, "I'll make a deal with you. You work hard at college, go to church and get your hair cut and we'll talk about it." After about a month the boy came back and again asked his

father if they could discuss use of the car. They again went to the father's study where his father said, "Son, I've been really proud of you. You have worked hard at college, you've been to church diligently, but you didn't get your hair cut!"

The young man replied, "You know Dad, I've been thinking about that. You know, Samson had long hair, Moses had long hair, Noah had long hair, and even Jesus had long hair...."

To which his father replied, "Yes, and they walked every where they went!"

A SHORT HISTORY OF MEDICINE:

"Doctor, I have an ear ache."

2000 BC - "Here, eat this root."

1000 BC - "That root is heathen, say this prayer."

1850 AD - "That prayer is superstition, drink this potion."

1940 AD - "That potion is snake oil, swallow this pill."

1985 AD - "That pill is ineffective, take this antibiotic."

2000 AD - "That antibiotic is artificial. Here, eat this root!"

A Few Words

Three boys are in the school playground boasting about their fathers. The first boy says, "My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, they give him £50."

The second boy says, "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, they give him £100."

The third boy says, "I can beat you both. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon and it takes four people to collect all the money!"

Adam & Eve had the perfect marriage.
He didn't have to hear about all the men she could have married and she didn't have to hear about how well his mother cooked!

DID YOU KNOW?

Human teeth are almost as strong as rocks

It's against the law to pawn your dentures in Las Vegas

Kermit the Frog is left-handed

A rainbow can occur only when the sun is 40 degrees or less over the horizon

Eyes don't freeze in cold weather because of the salt in your tears

The world's youngest parents, in China in 1910, were eight and nine

No words in the English language rhyme with silver, month, orange or purple

The blue whale is the loudest animal, with sounds up to 188 decibels

Elvis Presley only made one TV advert, for doughnuts, in 1954



RECIPE TO TRY

CIANFOTTA (Vegetable Stew)

INGREDIENTS

1 aubergine, cubed

1 red onion, sliced 3 garlic cloves, chopped

2 dried red chillis

4 plum tomatoes, skinned and chopped

3 waxy potatoes, cubed

3tbsp red wine vinegar

1 red pepper, skinned and chopped

3 tbsp chopped marjoram

Extra virgin olive oil



METHOD

Sprinkle aubergine with salt and drain for 30 mins. Boil and drain potatoes, add to the tomatoes, vinegar and pepper. Heat onion in a pan with oil, add garlic and chillis and cook for four mins. Add tomatoes and simmer for 25 mins. Heat olive oil, add aubergine and stir fry. Drain on kitchen paper. Add to the remaining ingredients and stir in marjoram just before serving.
