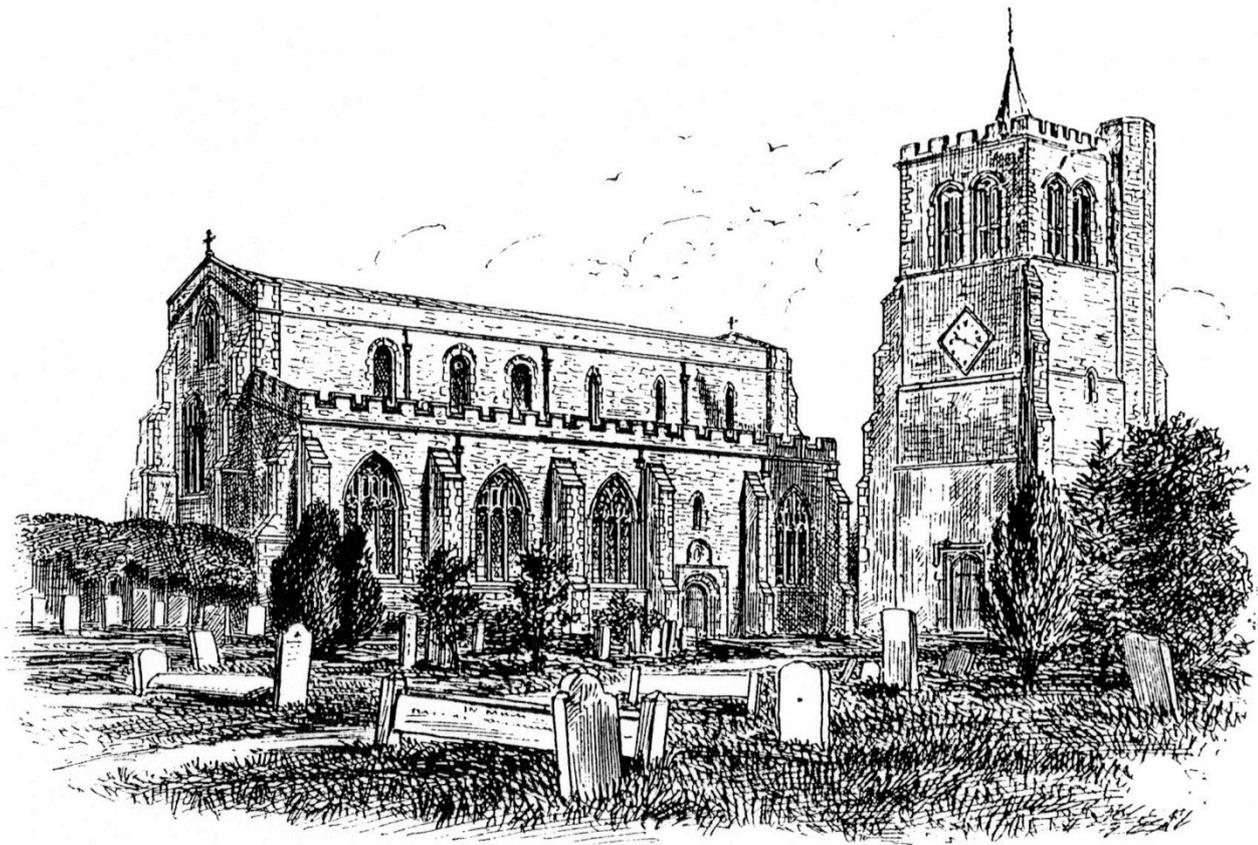


ELSTOW ABBEY CHURCH

MAGAZINE



An historic church with a living pilgrim faith

AUGUST – SEPTEMBER 2018

70p

Church Contacts

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Director of Music

Mr David Ewbank

**Baptism & Wedding enquiries should be made in Church on any
Saturday morning between 10.00am – 12 noon**

The Elstow Abbey Website can be found at
www.elstow-abbey.org.uk

Find us on Facebook
[www.facebook.com/Elstow Abbey](http://www.facebook.com/Elstow_Abbey)

and on Twitter
[@Elstow_Abbey](https://twitter.com/Elstow_Abbey)

Pilgrim People

It's that time of year again when Fr Paul and I become tour guides, showing both groups (large and small) and individuals (including the internationally famous!) around this beautiful and historic Abbey. Just this week we have welcomed groups from South Korea, The Netherlands and Australia, keen to explore our connection with John Bunyan. Our visitors, like our 'regulars', are a wonderfully mixed bunch. Very many are from churches elsewhere. Others are tourists drawn by the splendour of the building and the promise of a delicious cream tea in the Tea Garden. Some know a great deal about the Abbey and one or more of its histories before they arrive. For others, it is all a wonderful surprise. Particularly striking is the number of locals (Bedfordshire folk) who find in the Abbey something they may have distantly heard about, but had no idea just how amazing and special it is. Yet others seem simply to stumble across us by chance and pull off the main road on a whim, just to see what they find. Whoever they are, and whatever brings them to the Abbey, it is always a privilege and a delight to extend the welcome and hospitality for which this place would have been reknown throughout the ages. Here, the concept of Pilgrimage is enacted as a daily reality.



Pilgrims come and see and experience in the Abbey, something of the eternal. The idyllic setting, the ancient building and contact with other pilgrims all can and do lead to encounters with God, day in and day out. So too, do the relationships we build up through our ministry with individuals and families at times of joy and sorrow. Most people who come through the doors, or rest awhile in the peaceful surroundings, spend time in quiet reflection and prayer, and leave refreshed, reinvigorated and reassured by God's presence and love for them. This

is a good place to think about life's big questions, and to mark or celebrate life's big events.

Our lives are always changing. This summer has seen major changes in our household as one daughter completes her studies and returns home for a bit to live and work, whilst the other prepares to go off to university. Beginnings and endings are a constant part of our life journeys. My Ordination to the Priesthood in late June was the start of a new chapter in my ministry, and I look forward with excitement to all the new opportunities it will give me to share God's love. I am very grateful for all the support I have received from those in Elstow and wider afield. My thanks to you all for your love and prayers, the cards and gifts, and, of course, the party following the service on the Sunday. It was a truly memorable weekend, made even more special by the presence of so many of you.

Over the summer, many of us will be travelling on holiday, alone, or with family or friends, to destinations old and new. Stepping outside our everyday routines, visiting new places, meeting new people, taking time out to relax and recuperate from the stresses and trials of life, enjoying the company of those nearest and dearest to us, all these are opportunities to re-evaluate our life journeys, to renew our perspectives and to refresh our relationships.

As we journey through the fresh and the familiar, at a pace that enables us to take stock and attend to the still, small voice within us all, let us not forget that our relationship with our creator also needs renewing and deepening. What better way to do that than to make a pilgrimage to an ancient church in a beautiful setting, to learn more of its history, and of the vision and hopes of the faith community there and the community it serves, and to encounter the God at the centre of it all? We too may be surprised at the welcome, the vitality and the transformational power we find there. But maybe we shouldn't be – for God will be there ahead of us, waiting to welcome, to heal, restore and transform us, ready for the adventures that lie ahead. Safe journeys and happy holidays!

Rev'd Kate



The Tea room with a difference - it's outside!

**Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday - 10am to 4pm,
From the 21st April to the end of September**

Do come and visit us - we look forward to meeting you soon.



Email: info@elstow-abbey.org.uk

Hall update

From Celtic Daily Prayer: the Aiden series of Daily readings:

‘Fill this place, Lord, with Your glory! Let what happens here in our day be as great as what happened in the past. But don’t let us build monuments to the past. If the foundations were sound, we have hope to build again. We want to work, we must not die. Let your tender mercies come unto us that we might live again.

C.S Lewis in his book ‘Prince Caspian’ has the children exploring the place they have been taken to:

‘Have none of you guessed where we are?’ said Peter.

‘Go on, go on,’ said Lucy, ‘I’ve felt for hours that there was some wonderful mystery hanging over this place.’

‘...we are in the ruins of Cair Paravel,’ said Peter.

The place may have a powerful significance, but it is God’s purposes that there must be made visible and tangible. When we say, ‘I’m in charge of these ruins,’ it must mean we are guardians of a vision, not curators for the department of ancient monuments.’



Following on from the recommitment of the church at the APCM to continue with the vision of building a Church and Community Hall, this summer we will be producing a ‘community audit’ on the project.

We believe that the designs that have been approved, with planning permission still in place, for a hall to be incorporated into the Grade 1 listed ruin of Hillersdon Mansion, still meet our needs for the future. However to confirm this and provide measurable evidence we need to compile a Community Audit.

This is achieved by talking with a wide range of current users of the church and potential future users of the Community Hall, with the aim of capturing hard evidence of genuine community need for the facility and building an understanding of how it might be used in ways that deliver tangible and hopefully measurable community benefit. Correspondents might be local volunteer organisations or groups, individuals with ideas about services that could be provided and also bodies like the local council and schools who see opportunities to deliver key services in conjunction with the church. The full and active support of the congregation and wider community of the church is obviously a very important component in this mix.

However, the most important thing that we can ALL do at this moment in time is pray. We strongly believe that if we pray for a new hall, then our prayers will be answered. But they will only be answered if we ALL pray.

*Lord, you make all things new
You bring hope alive in our hearts
And cause our spirits to be born again.*

*Thank you for Elstow Abbey Church,
for the development of our Church and Community Hall Project
For all the potential it holds.
Come and kindle in us, a Mighty flame
So that in our time, many will see your wonders
And live forever to praise your glorious name.
Amen.*

An Ordinand at the Abbey!

Starting in September here at Elstow Abbey we will be joined by Carrie Steer who is an ordinand about to start her training. What is an ordinand?

An Ordinand is a person who has been put forward by the church (after a long selection process) as someone they think will be an ideal candidate after training, to become a member of the clergy (deacon, priests and bishops). Ordinands are sent to train in theology for a varied amount of time depending on their age and background – in the Church of England its usually a 2 -3 years. After training the ordinand is then usually Ordained. Ordination is where the bishop lays hands on the candidate in prayer before sending them out as someone who has their confidence to represent them, work for them, and serve as a leader in the church. After ordination they take on the title "The Reverend" and can usually be identified by a white collar. They then continue their training as a curate for another 2-3years. So an ordinand is a person who is almost, but not quite, a member of clergy.

Carrie will be training on the ‘Eastern Regional Ministry Course’ (ERMC) on their full-time context training pathway. Her contextual learning will be here at Elstow Abbey with Fr. Paul as her Training Minister and Theological Reflection Supervisor.

Full-time ordinands at ERMC can manage the commitments of families and training in their local context with the benefits of contextual learning. Contextual learning enables students to inhabit the virtues of Anglican ecclesial practice, to speak with conviction about a loving God, to evangelise with respect and to take seriously the call to love our neighbours in difference. These values connect ordinands with the wider world and give witness to an incarnational God that cares about humanity and the world we live in. Learning in context is implicitly formational, invoking and experiencing a living God.

We look forward to welcoming Carrie and in the next magazine she will introduce herself more fully.

The Mission of Elstow Abbey Church

That awkward moment at church
when you go for a handshake...



... and they go for a hug.

The PCC wish to engage with all members of our church to look at new ways that we can nurture and grow our church. We wish to reach new people and help them discover what it means to have a personal relationship with God.

It has been three years since the church agreed a Mission Action Plan (MAP). It is now time to re-look at the Mission of the Abbey Church here in Elstow.

At a time when the media continue to talk about falling numbers of people attending church, we need to meet this challenge with positive action as well as prayer.

Everybody is invited to a meeting in church on Tuesday 4th September 7.30pm – 9.00pm. Come with ideas and come with faith that what we have here is worth sharing.

The Friends of Elstow Abbey

(Registered Charity No. 1044100)

*This well-loved and historic church needs your support as a **Friend***

Membership details are available from Elstow Abbey or from the Treasurer:
Patrick Luffman, West Lodge
Carriage Drive, Clapham,
Bedford
MK41 6EX

Why not consider joining the '100 Club'? The basic concept of a '100 Club' is that 100 or more participants purchase in advance one or more entries into a monthly prize draw. Each month 55% of the total entry fees are distributed as prizes, and the remainder is retained by The Friends. Each monthly entry into our 100 Club draw will be £5, representing an annual subscription of £60 paid in advance.

The Friends of Elstow Abbey present

An evening with

Quartet camerata



Programme includes quartets from Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven through Dvorak, Debussy and Borodin to Sibelius, Shostakovich, Glass and to end with the finale of Walton's quartet.

Saturday 29th September. 7.00pm Doors open 6.30pm

The Abbey Church of St Mary & St Helena, Elstow

Tickets £20 (£15 concession for members of 'The Friends')

(price includes refreshments and canapés) available from the Elstow Tea Gardens and the Church

A Prosecco and Gin Bar will also be available



We're out to change the world, one toilet at a time!

2.3 billion people don't have somewhere safe to go to the toilet – that's almost 1 in 3 of the world's population.

If you don't have a toilet, you can't keep clean or healthy. If you're sick, you can't work or grow food. Children can't go to school.

Toilet Twinning is part of a Christian development agency called Tearfund. It raises funds to provide proper toilets, clean water and hygiene education (simple but life changing things like washing hands with soap) in some of the poorest countries in the world. It is funding projects across Africa, Asia and the Americas.

God's heart is for the marginalised and the poorest people on our planet. He calls us, as Christians, to reach out to them. Toilet Twinning is all about serving neglected and hard-to-reach people - restoring their dignity by providing the basic things that we all tend to take for granted.

We have twinned our new temporary Church toilets with a latrine in Myanmar (Burma). It is somewhere in HtooSan, Kachin State, Myanmar (Latitude:27.306143 Longitude: 97.392426). A photograph of it can be found attached to the toilet block.

This will be the focus of our harvest this year which we will celebrate on Sunday 23rd September with an All Age Service at 10.00am and a Choral Evensong with the Elstow Abbey Singers at 6.30pm

FEPOW – Far East Prisoners Of War

A Service of Remembrance was held on Sunday 5th May 1957 at 3pm by the Far East Prisoners of War Club, here at Elstow church. This was the date the memorial altar was dedicated and a service was led by The Reverend Peter Hartley, M.A. who was a FEPOW himself.

Also contributing and assisting during the ceremony were The Reverend R.L. Richards, M.A. - President of Bedford Free Church Council; and The Chaplain in Chief, R.A.F. The Reverend Canon A.S. Giles, C.B.E., M.A., who was Chaplain to H.M. The Queen; both were also FEPOWs.

Many local men from the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment became FEPOWs and it is the Bedford and District Branch of the Far East Prisoners of War Association who use to meet here every year to remember their comrades.

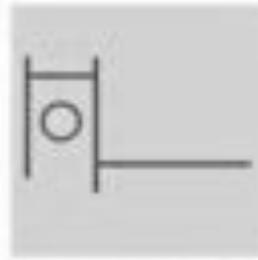
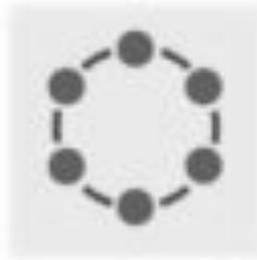
The altar itself stands in front of a wooden screen with the following inscription:

*'My marks and scars I carry with me, to be a witness for me that I have fought His battles who will now be my rewarder.
So he passed over; and all the trumpets sounded for him on the other side.'*

These are quotes from John Bunyan's Pilgrim Progress. In the centre is the main dedication:

'In memory of THOSE WHO DIED IN PRISON CAMPS IN THE FAR EAST 1941-45 AND IN THANKSGIVING FOR THOSE WHO RETURNED (Bedford & District Far East Prisoner of War Club 5th May 1957)'

On Wednesday 15th August (FEPOW day) at 4.30pm there will be a short service (about 30 minutes) as we continue the tradition of Remembrance for those who died, those who survived the Far East campaign and those who continue as prisoners of war today.



PARISH GIVING SCHEME

At Elstow Abbey we serve many people in many ways: giving the opportunity for worship to those attending our regular services; sharing the joy of a couple coming to be married or a family bringing their child for baptism; comforting the bereaved. To all these and many more we seek to be a channel of God's love to those looking to our church for help and encouragement. Our impact is also felt well beyond the church building itself, sometimes to those who may not normally look to the church for help. Through our outreach into the community, often in partnership with others, we are constantly seeking to meet the needs of the marginalised and vulnerable in our society, aiming to be the salt and light in our communities that Jesus challenges us to be.

All this is possible because of the dedicated commitment of time, skills and energy which people bring to our church and also the financial support given week by week.

Like every household our church needs to keep up with the cost of living. While we are as careful as possible with our funds, expenses like heating, insurance, our clergy and many other day-to-day costs mount up. You may not realise that this comes to a staggering **£1,483.00** each week. We receive some money from funeral and wedding fees and also from fundraising during the year, but the vast majority comes from regular church members giving faithfully each week.

Please do consider joining the Parish Giving Scheme. It is so easy to do so and your support will enable us to continue to maintain our ministry and mission here at Elstow Abbey.

AUGUST

Wednesday 1 st August	11:00am Holy Communion (said) 11:30 – 12:30 Soup and Natter
Saturday 4 th August	9.30am Morning Prayer
Sunday 5th August	9.00am BCP Sung Mattins 10:00am Holy Communion 12noon Christening Service 6.30pm BCP Evensong
Wednesday 8 th August	11:00am Holy Communion (said) 11:30 – 12:30 Soup and Natter 7.15pm WI meeting on Vestry
Saturday 11 th August	9.30am Morning Prayer
Sunday 12th August	9.00am BCP Sung Mattins 10:00am Holy Communion 6.30pm BCP Evensong
Wednesday 15 th August	11:00am Holy Communion (said) 11:30 – 12:30 Soup and Natter 4.30pm FEPOW Service
Saturday 18 th August	9.30am Morning Prayer 1.00pm Wedding
Sunday 19th August	9.00am BCP Sung Mattins 10:00am Holy Communion 3.00pm Christening Service 6.30pm Evensong
Wednesday 22 nd August	11:00am Holy Communion (said) 11:30 – 12:30 Soup and Natter 2.00pm Funeral – Peter Moss
Saturday 25 th August	9.30am Morning Prayer 4.00pm Pilgrims Praise
Sunday 26th August	9.00am BCP Holy Communion 10:00am All Age Worship 1.30pm Wedding 6:30pm BCP Evensong
Wednesday 29 th August	11:00am Holy Communion (said) 11:30 – 12:30 Soup and Natter

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 1 st September	9.30am Morning Prayer
Sunday 2nd September	9.00am BCP Sung Mattins 10:00am Holy Communion 3.00pm Christening Service 6.30pm BCP Evensong
Tuesday 4 th September	7.30pm Church Mission Meeting
Wednesday 5 th September	11:00am Holy Communion (said) 11:30 – 12:30 Soup and Natter
Saturday 8 th September	9.30am Morning Prayer
Sunday 9th September	9.00am BCP Sung Mattins 10:00am Holy Communion 6.30pm BCP Evensong
Tuesday 11 th September	10:00 – 11:30am ‘Little Pilgrims’ 7.30pm PCC meeting
Wednesday 12 th September	11:00am Holy Communion (said) 11:30 – 12:30 Soup and Natter 7.15pm WI meeting on Vestry
Saturday 15 th September	9.30am Morning Prayer
Sunday 16th September	9.00am BCP Sung Mattins 10:00am Holy Communion 3.00pm Christening Service 6.30pm BCP Evensong
Tuesday 18 th September	10:00 – 11:30am ‘Little Pilgrims’
Wednesday 19 th September	11:00am Holy Communion (said) 11:30 – 12:30 Soup and Natter
Saturday 22 nd September	9.30am Morning Prayer Wedding 4.00pm ‘Pilgrims Praise’
Sunday 23rd September	9.00am BCP Holy Communion 10:00am All Age Worship 12noon Christeneing Service 6:30pm CHORAL Evensong
Tuesday 25 th September	10:00 – 11:30am ‘Little Pilgrims’ 7.00pm Rospa meeting in Vestry
Wednesday 26 th September	11:00am Holy Communion (said) 11:30 – 12:30 Soup and Natter
Saturday 29 th September	9.30am Morning Prayer 12.30pm Wedding 7.30pm Friends Concert
Sunday 30th September	9.00am BCP Mattins 10:00am Holy Communion 6:30pm Taizé Worship

OUR WORSHIP TIMES

Elstow Abbey welcomes people of all ages and backgrounds and provides traditional Anglican services as well as those with a modern style of worship.

SUNDAY SERVICES

9.00am BCP Mattins

The traditional Prayer Book service with sung responses and two hymns. The service lasts about 30 minutes.

10.00am Holy Communion with Sunday School

A Common Worship service with hymns, choir and a sermon. The service lasts about 60 minutes.

6.30pm BCP Evensong

The traditional Prayer Book service with sung responses, hymns and a sermon. The service lasts about 45 minutes.

SERVICES FOR THE 4th SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

9.00am BCP Holy Communion (said)

The traditional Prayer Book Communion service. The service lasts about 30 minutes.

10.00am All-Age Contemporary Worship

with a worship band, short talk and involvement for all ages. The service lasts about 45 minutes

6.30pm BCP Evensong

The traditional Prayer Book service with sung responses, hymns and a sermon. The service lasts about 45 minutes.

WEDNESDAYS

11.00am Holy Communion (said)

A simple said service with a short talk lasts about 30 minutes