

MAGAZINE

January/February 2020

70p

Recipe for a Happy New Year.

Take twelve fine, full-grown months; see that these are thoroughly free from old memories of bitterness, rancour and hate, cleanse them completely from every clinging spite; pick off all specks of pettiness and littleness; in short, see that these months are freed from all the past — have them fresh and clean as when they first came from the great storehouse of Time. Cut these months into thirty or thirty-one equal parts. Do not attempt to make up the whole batch at one time (*so many persons spoil the entire lot this way*) but prepare one day at a time.

Into each day put equal parts of faith, patience, courage, work (*some people omit this ingredient and so spoil the flavour of the rest*), hope, fidelity, liberality, kindness, rest, prayer, (*leaving this out is like leaving the oil out of the salad dressing — don't do it*), meditation, and one well-selected resolution. Put in about one teaspoonful of good spirits, a dash of fun, a pinch of folly, a sprinkling of play, and a heaping cupful of good humour.



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**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

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Are you having an Epiphany?

“And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: ‘Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.’ And he replied: ‘Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.’”

(Minnie Louise Haskins)

First of all allow me to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a Happy New Year and every blessing for 2020!

We begin the New Year, as always, by celebrating The Epiphany. That is, the first manifestation of the infant Jesus to the gentiles. The scriptural account of this event is probably very familiar to most of us, even if it is often amalgamated into the Christmas story.

The Magi were not natives of the area where Jesus was born – they were strangers from a distant land. Yet they saw, identified and followed a light in the sky. A light that guided them on the journey of a lifetime. A journey that ended with them kneeling at the feet of God incarnate – the light of the world.

With the Magi, we continue to celebrate that glorious new beginning, the moment when God breaks into the world in the shape of Jesus. But like the Magi, we also carry with us remnants of the past: memories, some good, some bad, some somewhere in the middle – a range of emotions that perhaps we struggle to articulate. We offer them to Jesus, understanding that we do not lose them in the giving.

So as we kneel at the feet of the Christ-Child we recognize more fully that ours is a God of surprises. A God who chose to come, not as a Pharaoh or a priest, or even as a grown adult, but as a vulnerable child. A God who came to those whom society deemed less than worthy: the unmarried woman; the simple carpenter; the unclean shepherds; the foreign Magi. Each with so much to lose, each gaining more from his coming than they could possibly imagine.

As we enter this New Year, may the God who is full of surprises bless us too in ways that are beyond our expectations, hopes and dreams. We put our hand in his and trust in him.

Fr. Paul

A year of time

Though even thinking on the subject of time may prove discomforting, it is not a bad idea — especially at the beginning of a new year.

As we look into 2020 we look at a block of time. We see 12 months, 52 weeks, 365 days, 8,760 hours, 525,600 minutes, 31,536,000 seconds. And all is a gift from God. We have done nothing to deserve it, earn it, or purchased it. Like the air we breathe, time comes to us as a part of life.

The gift of time is not ours alone. It is given equally to each person. Rich and poor, educated and ignorant, strong and weak — every man, woman and child has the same twenty-four hours every day.

Another important thing about time is that you cannot stop it. There is no way to slow it down, turn it off, or adjust it. Time marches on.

And you cannot bring back time. Once it is gone, it is gone. Yesterday is lost forever. If yesterday is lost, tomorrow is uncertain. We may look ahead at a full year's block of time, but we really have no guarantee that we will experience any of it.

Obviously, time is one of our most precious possessions. We can waste it. We can worry over it. We can spend it on ourselves. Or, as good stewards, we can invest it in the kingdom of God.

The new year is full of time. As the seconds tick away, will you be tossing time out the window, or will you make every minute count?

Steven B. Cloud

I am the beginning of everything, the end of everywhere. I'm the beginning of eternity, the end of time & space.

What am I ?



The reason clocks show the same time across whole countries is that it makes train timetables easier to run. Until the 19th century, towns set their clocks by the local noon, so clocks in Bristol would be 11 minutes behind London. That meant people kept missing their trains, so railway companies began using standard, London-based UK time, starting with the Great Western Railway in 1840.

The Wind in the Willows

The Wind in the Willows Isn't Really a Children's Book. Nor, mysteriously, does it contain any willows...

The Wind in the Willows is one of the most famous English children's books, one of the most famous books about animals, and a classic book about "messaging about in boats."

Famous, it certainly is. Although it has never been quite the international icon that *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* has become, Kenneth Grahame's eccentric masterpiece can be read in Afrikaans as *Die Wind in die Wilgers*, in Italian as *Il Vento nei Salici*, in Finnish as *Kaislikossa suhisee*, in Portuguese as *As Aventuras de Senhor Sapo* and in dozens of other languages. It is currently

available in well over 50 editions in English: there are versions in verse, graded readers for learning English as a foreign language, audio and video adaptations, plays (notably by A.A. Milne and Alan Bennett), films, picture books (with or without stickers), pop-up books, knitting patterns, graphic novels and scholarly annotated editions. There are sequels, such as William Horwood's *The Willows in Winter* (1993), gospel meditations, a cookery book and Robert de Board's *Counselling for Toads* (1998), an introduction to psychotherapy. E.H. Shepard's illustrations have been used on national postage stamps and to advertise England itself in the 1980s



English Tourist Board series, "Making a Break for the Real England." The book has been the inspiration for a sculpture trail, one of the most successful rides in Disneyland and a musical adaptation (by Julian Fellowes) in 2016, which was the first London West End musical to raise £1 million through crowdfunding.

What makes all this mysterious (apart from the fact that this quintessentially English book was written by a Scot) is that *The Wind in the Willows* is not a children's book at all — neither the author nor the original publishers ever suggested that it was. Nor is it an animal story: the characters are, as one of the original reviewers, the novelist Arnold Bennett, observed, “meant to be nothing but human beings,” or as Margaret Blount in her book on animals in fiction, *Animal Land*, put it, “for animals, read chaps.”



And boats appear substantially in only two of the 12 chapters. Even the title is mysterious — the word “willows” never appears in the book: Grahame's original suggestion for a title was *Mr. Mole and his Mates*.

But, surely, it is a book about small and not so small animals — a Toad, a Rat, a Mole and a Badger (and therefore this *must* be a children's book). If so, then these are animals who drink and smoke, own houses, drive (and steal) cars, row boats, escape from jail, yearn for gastronomic nights in Italy, eat ham and eggs for breakfast and write poetry — while Toad combs his hair, and the Mole has a black velvet smoking-jacket.

Of course, *very* occasionally they behave like animals. Mr. Mole, in the midst of thoroughly human spring-cleaning, briefly turns into a mole, scrabbling and scrooging his way to the surface; the aristocratic Otter, languidly enjoying a riverbank picnic (which includes cold tongue, pickled gherkins and lemonade) suddenly turns into an otter and swallows a passing mayfly.

But for the most part, the book is about a group of well-off, leisured English gentlemen. Even more importantly, the book hardly ever addresses itself to an audience of children: as Humphrey Carpenter put it, “*The Wind in the Willows* has nothing to do with childhood or children, except that it can be enjoyed by the young.”

Of course, it begins — and began — as a children's book. Like other famous children's books — such as *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, *The Hobbit* and *Treasure Island* — it started life as a story for a particular child, and this shows most in the opening chapter. Like all these books, *The Wind in the Willows* grew in the writing and ended up as something quite different from, and something much more complex than, a bedtime story. But whereas *Alice's Adventures* is a children's book that can be read by adults,

The Wind in the Willows is an adult's book that can be read by children. This is because (and this also accounts for its relative lack of international success) its landscapes and cultural references are deeply embedded in Edwardian England — whereas Alice moves in a detached world of fantasy, and the many period references in that book are hidden in the background.

One of the mystifying things for those who would try to make *The Wind in the Willows* into a children's book is its attitude to adventure. Anything likely to disturb its cozy world is ruthlessly suppressed — the Mole stops the Rat from heading to the warm south in "Wayfarers All"; Toad's rebellion is crushed by all his "friends" — and the Mole's initial, childlike curiosity about the world is put firmly in its place in the very first chapter. As he and Rat row along the peaceful river, the Mole looks into the distance:

"And beyond the Wild Wood again?" he asked; "where it's all blue and dim, and one sees what may be hills or perhaps they mayn't, and something like the smoke of towns, or is it only cloud-drift?"

"Beyond the Wild Wood comes the Wide World," said the Rat. "And that's something that doesn't matter, either to you or me. I've never been there, and I'm never going, nor you either, if you've got any sense at all. Don't ever refer to it again, please. Now then! Here's our backwater at last, where we're going to lunch."

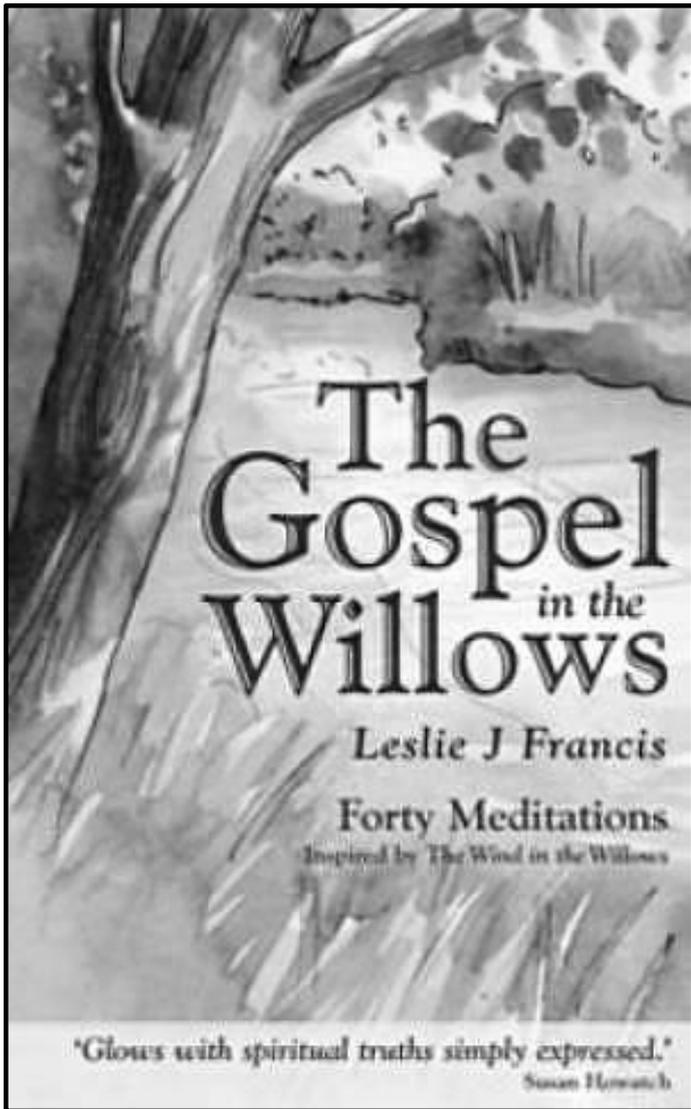
This certainly concurs with the romantic idea that children's books should be safe, and the Edwardian period has been portrayed — especially in children's literature — as peaceful and retreatist. In fact, it was a period of political and cultural instability, change and fear. Rumors of war — especially, although not exclusively, with Germany — were common; the

German battle-fleet was expanding; the Boer wars had shaken Britain's faith in its army. No wonder the Water Rat is no fan of the Wide World.



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The Gospel in the Willows



This beautiful little book, will be our Lent book for 2020 here at Elstow Abbey. This book reopens Kenneth Grahame's classic children's novel *The Wind in the Willows* for a new audience. Combining a daily reading from the literary classic with a gospel passage, a short meditation by Leslie Francis and a prayer, *The Gospel in the Willows* takes us on a journey through the Christian life, exploring themes such as The Call, Shaking the Dust, Finding Acceptance, Divided Loyalties, Real Repentance, Facing Temptation, The Lost Son and Accepting Release.

The much-loved characters of Mole, Rat and Toad become the perfect allegory for the grand adventure of faith, from our

terrifying first steps into and beyond the riverbank, to the challenges, temptations and triumphs that await us as we journey into the world, with Jesus by our side.

Do please buy yourself a copy and join our Lent groups that will be announced in the next edition of the Magazine.

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- **ISBN-13:** 978-0232527728

BEDFORD DEANERY 2020

Taizé

Services

SATURDAY 11 JANUARY 6.00PM ALL SAINTS QUEENS PARK
SUNDAY 2 FEBRUARY 5.00PM ST MARY'S GOLDINGTON
SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY 6.00PM ST ANDREW'S
SUNDAY 1 MARCH 5.00PM ST MARY'S GOLDINGTON
SUNDAY 29 MARCH 6.30PM ELSTOW ABBEY
SUNDAY 5 APRIL & 3 MAY 5.00PM ST MARY'S GOLDINGTON
SUNDAY 31 MAY 6.30PM ELSTOW ABBEY
SUNDAY 7 JUNE & 5 JULY 5.00PM ST MARY'S GOLDINGTON
SATURDAY 11 JULY 6.00PM ALL SAINTS QUEENS PARK
SUNDAY 30 AUGUST 6.30PM ELSTOW ABBEY
SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 5.00PM ST MARY'S GOLDINGTON
SUNDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 6.00PM ST ANDREW'S
SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER & 1 NOVEMBER 5.00PM ST MARY'S GOLDINGTON
SUNDAY 29 NOVEMBER 6.30PM ELSTOW ABBEY

Love Stories of Elstow Abbey

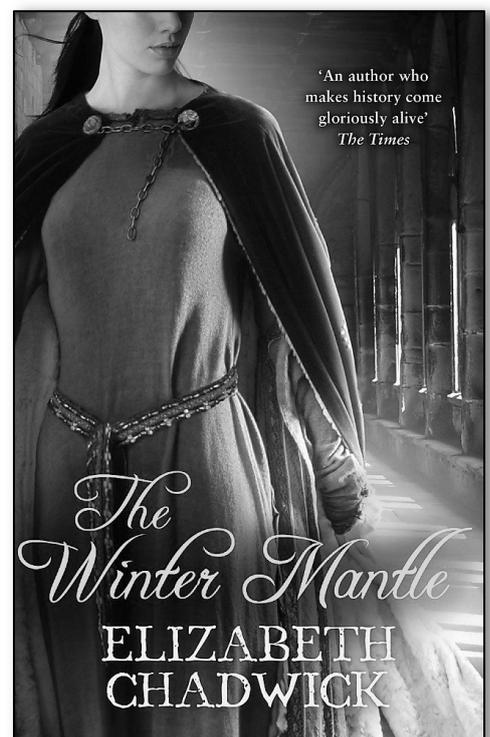
February 14th – 16th

Over the centuries Elstow Abbey has been party to countless stories of love. This year is no different with currently 16 weddings booked. Were you once married at Elstow Abbey? Do you have a photo of the day? Do you have a story about how you fell in love or what happened on your big day that would fit on an A4 piece of paper? If so we would love to hear from you. We want to celebrate a weekend of love stories.

Elstow Abbey was founded on a love story. Fresh from his defeat of King Harold at the Battle of Hastings, William of Normandy returned home in triumph, accompanied by the English nobles he cannot trust to leave behind. For Waltheof of Huntingdon, however, rebellion is not at the forefront of his thoughts. From the moment he catches sight of Judith, daughter of the King's formidable sister, he knows he has found his future wife. When Waltheof saves Judith's life, it is clear that the attraction is mutual. But marriage has little to do with love in mediaeval Europe. William refuses to let the couple wed and Waltheof joins an uprising against him. William crushes the rebellion but decides the best way to keep Waltheof in check is to agree to the marriage. But is the match between Saxon earl and Norman lady one made in heaven or hell? As their children grow, Waltheof and Judith must choose between their feelings for each other and older loyalties.

Based on an astonishing true story, *'The Winter Mantle'* by Elizabeth Chadwick reaches from the turbulent reign of William the Conqueror to the high drama of the crusades. It also tells about the beginnings of Elstow Abbey.

On Saturday 15th February we are hope to welcome the author of *"The Winter Mantle"*, the highly acclaimed author Elizabeth Chadwick. During an evening of stories and some live music we hope to discover more about the fascinating love story that led to Elstow Abbey being built and how Elizabeth built a story around that.



On Friday 14th February (St Valentines Day) we are offering couples the opportunity to have a romantic meal within the beautiful setting of Elstow Abbey. With a glass or Bucks Fizz on arrival you will be shown to your own table for two where you will be served a classic Italian 3 course meal. All for just £30 per couple. A licenced bar will also be available. It will be just like a scene from that classic Walt Disney film "The Lady and the Tramp". Tickets available from church or email : info@elstow-abbey.org.uk

Based on the Cosmopolitan magazine story of "Happy Dan, The Cynical Dog" by Ward Greene, "Lady and the Tramp" tells the story of a female American Cocker Spaniel named Lady who lives with a refined, upper-middle-class family and a male stray mutt called the Tramp. When the two dogs meet, they embark on many romantic adventures and fall in love.



Lady and the Tramp was released to theatres on June 22, 1955 to box office success. The 15th Disney animated feature film, it was the first animated feature filmed in the CinemaScope widescreen film process. It initially received mixed to negative reviews by film critics, but critical reception for

the film has been generally positive in modern times, and the film is now seen as one of the best animated films from Disney.

To complete a weekend of 'Love Stories' there will be a Choral Evensong with the Elstow Abbey Singers on Sunday 16th February at 6.30pm.

All the profits from the weekend will go towards the Hillersden Hall project as we work towards creating a space to highlight these past stories and to build a foundation for stories to be created for future generations.

St Valentines Day Menu



Selection of garlic breads

Minestrone soup



Spaghetti & meatballs

Vegetarian lasagne



Tiramisu

Trio of Italian gelato



Coffee and mints



£30 per couple

Friends of Elstow Abbey

The Friends of Elstow Abbey are looking for somebody to take on the role of secretary. If you would like to know what this involves please speak to Steve Stanford or email: Friends@elstow-abbey.org.uk

The Friends provide considerable financial support to Elstow Abbey for the maintenance of this historic building and to improve its facilities. This has included repairs to the nave roof, the replacement of the badly rusted guards protecting the stained glass windows and the refurbishment of the vestry.

Membership of The Friends presents to all who hold the Abbey dear an opportunity to share in this dual enterprise.

Membership of The Friends, be it for personal, family or historic reasons, makes it possible to create a living link with the Abbey and encourages support towards meeting the heavy cost of maintenance.

Cost of Membership

- Individual : £15 p.a.
- Family : £21 p.a.
- Concessionary : £9 p.a
- Life membership : £120

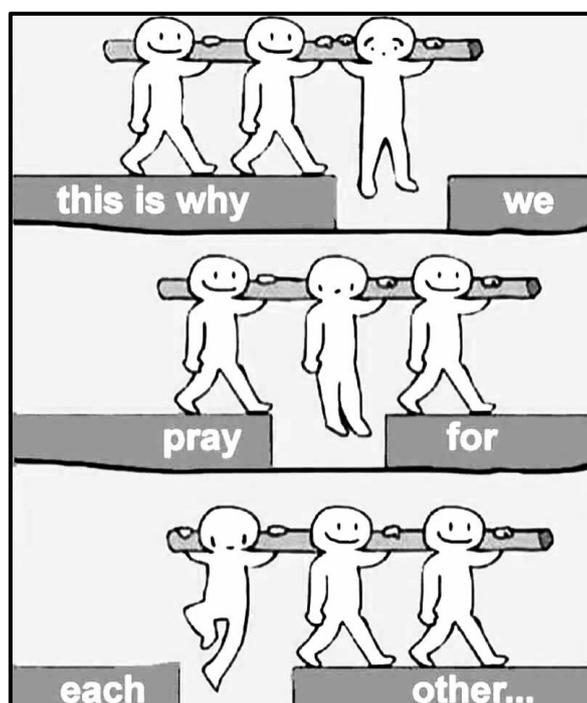
Saturday 22nd February 2020
Belief welcomes

The Very Revd Dr Jeffrey John

An Introduction to
John's Gospel

All welcome. £10 per person
payable on the day

At St Andrews Church Centre Kimbolton Road Bedford MK40 2PF

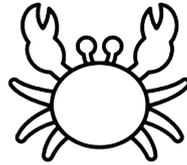




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JANUARY

Wednesday 1st January

Thursday 2nd January

Saturday 4th January

Sunday 5th January

Wednesday 8th January

Thursday 9th January

Saturday 11th January

Sunday 12th January

Tuesday 14th January

Wednesday 15th January

Thursday 16th January

Saturday 18th January

Sunday 19th January

Tuesday 21st January

Wednesday 22nd January

Thursday 23rd January

Saturday 25th January

Sunday 26th January

Tuesday 28th January

Wednesday 29th January

Thursday 30th January

NO SERVICE or Soup and Natter

7.00pm – 8.30pm Take a deep breath choir

9.30am Iona Morning Prayer

9.00am BCP Mattins (said)

10:00am Holy Communion

6.30pm BCP Evensong

11:00am Holy Communion (said)

11:30am – 12:30pm Soup and Natter

7.00pm – 8.30pm Take a deep breath choir

9.30am Iona Morning Prayer

9.00am BCP Mattins (said)

10:00am Holy Communion

3.00pm Christening Service

6.30pm BCP Evensong

10:00am – 11:30am 'Little Pilgrims'

11:00am Holy Communion (said)

11:30am – 12:30pm Soup and Natter

7.00pm – 8.30pm Take A Deep Breath Choir

9.30am Iona Morning Prayer

9.00am BCP Mattins (said)

10:00am Holy Communion

6.30pm BCP Evensong

10:00am – 11:30am 'Little Pilgrims'

7.30pm PCC meeting

11:00am Holy Communion (said)

11:30am – 12:30pm Soup and Natter

7.00pm – 8.30pm Take A Deep Breath Choir

9.30am Iona Morning Prayer

4.00pm Pilgrims Praise

9:00am BCP Mattins (said)

10.00am All Age Holy Communion

12noon Christening Service

6.30pm BCP Holy Communion

10:00am – 11:30am 'Little Pilgrims'

8.00pm RoSPA Meeting – Church Vestry

11:00am Holy Communion (said)

11:30am – 12:30pm Soup and Natter

7.00pm – 8.30pm Take A Deep Breath Choir

FEBRUARY

Saturday 1st February

9.30am Iona Morning Prayer

Sunday 2nd February

9.00am BCP Mattins (said)

10:00am Holy Communion

6.30pm BCP Evensong

Tuesday 4th February

10:00am – 11:30am 'Little Pilgrims'

Wednesday 5th February

11:00am Holy Communion (said)

11:30am – 12:30pm Soup and Natter

Thursday 6th February

7.00pm – 8.30pm Take A Deep Breath Choir

Saturday 8th February

9.30am Iona Morning Prayer

Sunday 9th February

9.00am BCP Mattins (said)

10:00am Holy Communion

3.00pm Christening Service

6.30pm BCP Evensong

Tuesday 11th February

10:00am – 11:30am 'Little Pilgrims'

Wednesday 12th February

11:00am Holy Communion (said)

11:30am – 12:30pm Soup and Natter

Thursday 13th February

7.15pm WI meeting on Vestry

Friday 14th February

7.00pm – 8.30pm Take A Deep Breath Choir

Saturday 15th February

St Valentines Meal

9.30am Iona Morning Prayer

11.30am Wedding

7.30pm Love Stories Event

Sunday 16th February

9.00am BCP Mattins (said)

10:00am Holy Communion

2.30pm – 4.00pm Afternoon Tea

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Wednesday 19th February

11:00am Holy Communion (said)

11:30am – 12:30pm Soup and Natter

Thursday 20th February

7.00pm – 8.30pm Take A Deep Breath Choir

Saturday 22nd February

9.30am Iona Morning Prayer

4.00pm Pilgrims Praise

Sunday 23rd February

9:00am BCP Mattins (said)

10.00am All Age Holy Communion

12noon Christening Service

6.30pm BCP Holy Communion

Tuesday 25th February

10:00am – 11:30am 'Little Pilgrims' (Shrove Tuesday)

Wednesday 26th February

11:00am Holy Communion

with imposition of ashes(said)

11:30am – 12:30pm Soup and Natter

Thursday 27th February

7.00pm – 8.30pm Take A Deep Breath Choir

Saturday 29th February

9.30am Iona Morning Prayer

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 (Morning Prayer) service.
The service lasts about 25 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 Holy Communion (said)

A simple said service lasts about 25 minutes

10.00am All-Age Holy Communion

*Led with a worship band, short talk and involvement for all ages.
The informal Holy Communion service lasts about 45 minutes*

6.30pm BCP Holy Communion

*The traditional Prayer Book Communion service with 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.

EVENING SERVICE WHEN THERE IS A 5th SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

6.30pm Taizé Worship

A service of prayer, song and contemplation