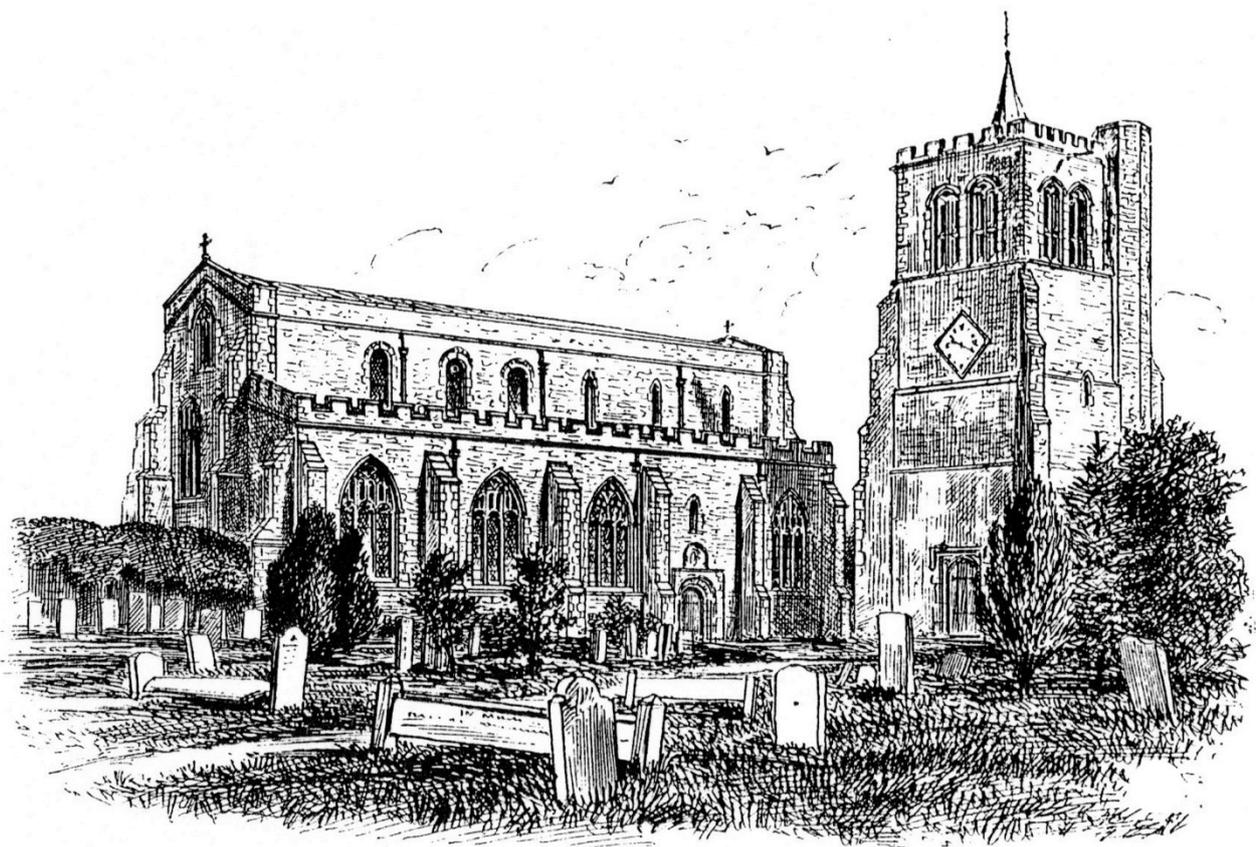


ELSTOW ABBEY CHURCH MAGAZINE

October – November 2018

70p



An historic church with a living pilgrim faith

Church Contacts

Priest in Charge

The Rev'd Paul Messam

Abbey Vicarage, Church End, Elstow, Bedford MK42 9XT

01234 261477

vicar@elstow-abbey.org.uk

Assistant Curate

The Rev'd Kate Scott

07922 487705

curate@elstow-abbey.org.uk

Lay Minister (Reader)

Mr John Hinson

Church Wardens

Mr Stephen McDonald

Mrs Andrene Kerr-Robinson

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](https://www.facebook.com/Elstow_Abbey)

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

The Abbey Church of St Mary & St Helena, Elstow

An historic church with a living pilgrim faith



*We will
remember
them*

REQUIEM

By Maurice Duruflé

Sunday 11th November

6.30pm

Sung by the Elstow Abbey Singers

November a month of remembering.

Whether it's All Saints or All Souls Day, Armistice Day or Remembrance Sunday, or even Bonfire Night, the spirit of remembering is more present in our society at this time of year than any other. This is a time to step back and reflect on memories of those people and places that form an integral part of both our corporate and individual stories.

Who or what do you remember as you read this?

Are there any events in your own life that you recall especially at this time of year?

As we approach Advent are there things that are holding you back from focusing fully on that period of excited and expectant waiting?

November doesn't merely represent a once-a-year opportunity to remember but rather provides us with a chance to get into the habit of reflecting.

Taking time to pause and remember the important events of our own lives, before giving into God's hands that which we find difficult to carry is integral to our development as Christians.

Knowing this, maybe we ourselves need to take time to pause so that we can travel forward into Advent with a clearer understanding of who and what we are as Children of the Living God.

Luke's account of the crucifixion tells us of an unnamed criminal, hanging at Jesus' side, who asks to be remembered. Jesus, the Son of God who knew all that man's crimes, hurts, joys and sorrows promised that he would be.

We each have good and bad memories and I'm sure many of us have some that we would rather forget – but ours is a God who takes us as we are, whatever it is that we carry, a God who cannot and will not forget us.

In November we remember. We remember who we are and where we have come from. We remember those we have loved and lost and those world events that have caused others to lose loved ones. We remember that ours is a God who loves beyond reason. We offer all of these things and more to a God who always remembers.

Fr. Paul

All Souls – a time to remember past loved ones

Each year in early November the Christian Church celebrates the continuing unity of faith that exists with all those who have gone before us in the faith of Christ. Two linked festivals (All Saints – 1st November, and All Souls 2nd November) bring together the Church's understanding that death is not an end but rather the beginning of a new life in Christ and a continuity with the life that has been lived.

On Sunday November 4th at 6.30pm, at the Abbey Church, Elstow, we shall be holding a special service for the recently bereaved and those who wish to continue to hold in prayer the dearly departed. It promises to be a beautiful service with the opportunity for all to light a candle for a loved one during the service.

This year there will also be the opportunity to dedicate a star in memory of someone who is no longer with us, to be placed during Advent on our Christmas Trees within the Church.



In the Church Graveyard

According to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, in Elstow Abbey Churchyard there are three war graves. Two from the second world war and a private memorial to Gunner James Frank Crouch 153972. 443rd Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery who died 6th November 1918. However this is not the oldest war grave in our churchyard. For that you have to look for James Inkersole of the 40th Regiment of Foot. James Inkersole lost his arm at Waterloo which caused his death, August 17th 1827, aged 34 years.

*Bless the Lord O my Soul
and all that is within me,
Bless his holy Name.*

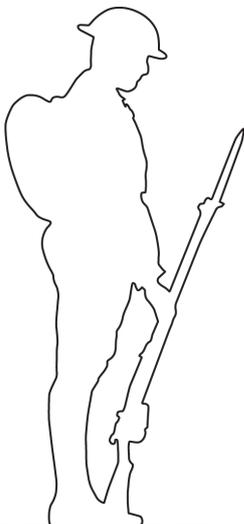
There but not there

Following the 2014 ceramic poppies at the Tower of London, which represented the 888,246 British and Commonwealth Service men and women who lost their lives in the First World War. This year a nationwide campaign called 'There but not there' has been created using ghostly silhouettes. Life-sized perspex figures of fallen foot soldiers or "Tommies" have been appearing in locations across the country as part of the installation.

The silhouettes, inspired by an art installation by Martin Barraud at St John the Baptist's, Penshurst, in Kent in 2016, are part of a centenary campaign, that marks 100 years since the end of the first World War. The current campaign is led by a former Chief of the General Staff, General the Lord Dannatt, and supported by the novelist Sebastian Faulks.

'There But Not There' Ambassador Sebastian Faulks said: *"One hundred years ago this country offered its best young men to the war. Many never returned. This nationwide campaign will honour those men at a local level – in the villages and towns from which they came.*

"Just as Pals Battalions were formed from local offices, factories and schools, so each community now has the chance to remember its own. These haunting figures allow us to give thanks for the ultimate sacrifice these men made for our country."



Here at Elstow Abbey these ghostly silhouettes can be found sitting in the pews during October and November.

We were delighted to have won a grant from 'The Armed Forces Covenant' which provided us with six of these perspex figures.

THERE BUT NOT THERE

————— COMMEMORATE. EDUCATE. HEAL —————

A Pilgrims Course



Pilgrim is a major teaching and discipleship resource from the Church of England. It aims to help every local church create a place where people can explore the Christian faith together and see how it can be lived out each day.

Pilgrim takes a different approach to other Christian programmes. It approaches the great issues of faith not through persuasion, but participation in a pattern of contemplation and discussion with a group of fellow travellers.

We will be running part 3 of this course for new disciples and the more mature on **Thursday evenings from 7.30pm – 9.00pm, for 6 weeks, beginning on Thursday 4th October, with the final session on Thursday 8th November.**

The Focus for this course are ‘The Commandments’, and we will explore together how Christians behave and live their lives, with sessions based around the themes of Priorities, Reverence, Rest, Respect, Righteousness and Reliability.

The sessions will be informal, relaxed and thought-provoking. No prior knowledge is needed, but your experience of life and God will be an invaluable resource for us all. You don’t need to have followed previous Pilgrim courses to attend this one, and you don’t have to be able to attend all 6 sessions to make it worthwhile coming along.

The aim of the course is to encourage and gently challenge us in our discipleship, and to make us more confident to explain our faith to others. It would be great to see you there. If you are planning to come, could you please let Rev’d Kate know in advance to help with preparations, but, if the Spirit moves you on the day, please do just turn up! We’ll meet in the Abbey.

Women of the Bible

A NEW Home group

Small group, cell group, house fellowship, Bible study – different churches will give different names to what we at Elstow Abbey will call a **'Home Group'**.



A 'Home Group' is a smaller group of church members who meet together mid-week in someone's home to study the Bible, pray and share fellowship.

There is something about a home Bible study group that can draw people closer together and as the proverb says, "*Iron sharpens iron, and one person sharpens another*" (Proverbs 27:17) and that's good, because, as you probably know, rust never sleeps. There are at least two great benefits to a Home Group that meet to study God's word: You can grow in the grace and knowledge of God (2 Peter 3:18), but you can also grow closer together, whether that's in a Bible study at church, or at a home Bible study.

Designed especially for those who want to delve more deeply into the lives of women like Ruth, Anna, Esther, Leah, Rachel, Mary, Elizabeth, and other women who encountered the living God. Each timeless biblical story mirrors the challenges and changes today's women face. As you immerse yourself in their lives, you'll see more and more places where your life intersects with theirs. Through understanding these women's lives, this home group will help you discover the God behind their stories – and yours.

The group will meet on Thursday evenings and will be led by Gail Wilkinson in her home. The first 6 weeks of study will begin on Thursday November 1st. If you are interested and would like to know more please do drop Gail a message on:

gail.wilkinson1@btopenworld.com

Hall update

We have recently instructed our architects to re-visit this project. Since the current designs conception there have been a number of advances in construction techniques for building such as this.



With the engagement of a quantity surveyor we are hopeful that the project will be able to be re-specified to create a much lower build cost and so help make our fundraising target become an achievable one. The PCC continue to be committed to this project and ask that everyone continues to hold this project in prayer. Because with God all things are possible.

Please 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.*

HARVEST THANK YOU



This years Harvest Thanksgiving that we celebrated on Sunday 23rd September raised over **£400** for Christian Aids Rohingya Crisis Appeal. This money will go towards their work in the worlds

largest Refugee Camp in Bangladesh which is currently home to approximately 800,000 displaced Rohingya people.

An Ordinand at the Abbey!

Warmest Greetings to everyone at Elstow Abbey.

My name is Carrie and I am married to Jonathan. We have two boys called Thomas, who is 10 years old and Jonah, who is 6 years old. We live in the village of Silsoe, not far from Elstow Abbey. I have recently started my ordination training with the Eastern Region Ministry Course. This involves theological study, as well as mission and ministry within the local community.

My journey towards ordination began many years ago with a gentle sense of God calling me into priesthood. I was, at that time, raising two young boys, running a home and supporting Jonathan in his demanding work life and therefore, it did not seem the right time to pursue things further. However, a few years ago we moved to Bedfordshire from Dorset and I was able to begin a formal discernment process with the Church of England. I am delighted that I have been recommended for training and now begin the journey of formation to become a priest.

As an ordinand, I am allocated a training parish where I can develop practical skills of churchmanship and reflect upon how theology can be applied to the social context in which we live. My previous church experiences have been mainly within large evangelical urban churches and therefore, St Albans diocese are keen for me to develop my understanding of the diverse nature of the Anglican church. They have recommended that I am based at Elstow Abbey, where Fr Paul has kindly agreed to become my supervisor. My family and I will therefore, be joining you at Elstow and very much look forward to worshipping with you and getting to know you all over the next couple of years.

God Bless,

Carrie Steer

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.



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

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.

We have twinned our new temporary Church toilets with a latrine in Myanmar (Burma). Latitude:27.306143 Longitude: 97.392426. A photograph of it can be found at the back of Church and outside our toilets attached to our new donation post. So if you feel the need to spend a penny, why not consider donating a pound too!

Parish Retreat Pilgrimage to Iona

Thursday 22nd August – Monday 26th August 2019.

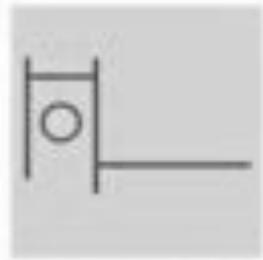
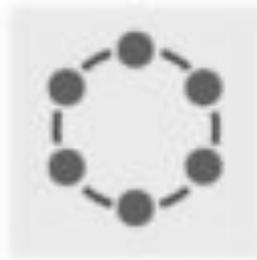
Led by The Revd Dr Rob Marshall, an experienced leader of both pilgrimages and retreats. This is a chance to experience a special break on the beautiful island of St Columba where Christianity took root.

The prestige of Iona began in AD 563 when the Celtic bishop Columba and his twelve companions sailed from Ireland to found a monastery here and used it as a base from which to convert the Picts to Christianity. The monastery was attacked and burned six times by Vikings and was eventually abandoned in favour of Kells in Ireland. Iona was occupied again in 1203 as a Benedictine monastery, but it fell into ruin during the Reformation when symbols of the Roman Catholic faith came under attack. The oldest surviving building is St Oran's chapel (c.1080), and the ornately carved St Martin's Cross (10th century) stands outside the cathedral. Today Iona is a sacred place visited by thousands of pilgrims every year.

The Revd Dr Rob Marshall The Reverend Rob Marshall is an Anglican priest with well over 30 years experience in communications and public relations and is now the Parish Priest at St John's Digswell. A former communications officer in the Bradford and London diocese, Rob is the author of four books and a BBC broadcaster, programmes include "Pause for thought" and "Thought for the day". Rob is also a very experienced Tour Leader and has led many pilgrimages over the years including over a dozen to the Holy Land and surrounding biblical lands.

If you are interested in knowing more about this Parish Retreat then please do join us on Sunday 14th October at 4.00pm in Church where with tea and cake Rob will present an illustrated talk on this trip and provide brochures and booking forms and be able to answer any questions you may have. Rob will then stay on to preach at the 6.30pm Evensong.

If you are unable to make this information afternoon then please do speak with Fr. Paul.



PARISH GIVING SCHEME

A big THANK YOU to all those who already signed up to the 'Parish Giving Scheme' your financial commitment (irrespective of the size) is already making a difference. It is enabling us to set a budget and manage our financial obligations with ease.

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.



OCTOBER

Tuesday 2 nd October	10:00am – 11:30am 'Little Pilgrims'
Wednesday 3 rd October	11:00am Holy Communion (said)
	11:30am – 12:30pm Soup and Natter
Saturday 6 th October	9.30am Morning Prayer
Sunday 7th October	9.00am BCP Sung Mattins
	10:00am Holy Communion
	12noon Christening Service
	6.30pm Evening Prayer (said)
Tuesday 9 th October	10:00am – 11:30am 'Little Pilgrims'
Wednesday 10 th October	11:00am Holy Communion (said)
	11:30am – 12:30pm Soup and Natter
	7.15pm WI meeting on Vestry
Friday 12 th October	2.30pm – Wedding
Saturday 13 th October	9.30am Morning Prayer
Sunday 14th October	9.00am BCP Sung Mattins
	10:00am Holy Communion
	4.00pm Iona Pilgrimage presentation
	6.30pm BCP Evensong
Tuesday 16 th October	10:00am – 11:30am 'Little Pilgrims'
Wednesday 17 th October	11:00am Holy Communion (said)
	11:30am – 12:30pm Soup and Natter
Saturday 20 th October	9.30am Morning Prayer
Sunday 21st October	9.00am BCP Sung Mattins
	10:00am Holy Communion
	12noon Christening Service
	6.30pm BCP Evensong
Wednesday 22 nd August	11:00am Holy Communion (said)
	11:30am – 12:30pm Soup and Natter
Friday 26 th October	12.30pm – Wedding
Saturday 27 th October	9.30am Morning Prayer
	4.00pm Pilgrims Praise
Sunday 28th October	9.00am BCP Holy Communion
	10:00am All Age Worship
	6:30pm BCP Evensong
Tuesday 30 th October	10:00am – 11:30am 'Little Pilgrims'
Wednesday 31 st October	11:00am Holy Communion (said)
	11:30am – 12:30pm Soup and Natter

NOVEMBER

Saturday 3 rd November	9.30am Morning Prayer
Sunday 4th November	9.00am BCP Sung Mattins 10:00am Holy Communion 12noon Christening Service 6.30pm All Souls Service of Memories
Tuesday 6 th November	10:00am – 11:30am ‘Little Pilgrims’ 7.30pm PCC Meeting
Wednesday 7 th November	11:00am Holy Communion (said) 11:30am – 12:30pm Soup and Natter
Saturday 10 th November	9.30am Morning Prayer 1.00pm Wedding
Sunday 11th November	9.00am Holy Communion (said) 10:00am Festival of Remembrance 6.30pm Choral Evensong – Duruflé Requiem
Tuesday 13 th November	10:00am – 11:30am ‘Little Pilgrims’ 7.30pm PCC meeting
Wednesday 14 th November	11:00am Holy Communion (said) 11:30am – 12:30pm Soup and Natter 7.15pm WI meeting on Vestry
Saturday 17 th November	9.30am Morning Prayer
Sunday 18th November	9.00am BCP Sung Mattins 10:00am Holy Communion 3.00pm Christening Service 6.30pm BCP Evensong
Tuesday 20 th November	10:00am – 11:30am ‘Little Pilgrims’
Wednesday 21 st November	11:00am Holy Communion (said) 11:30am – 12:30pm Soup and Natter
Thursday 22 nd November	7.30pm East Beds Chamber Choir – Concert
Saturday 24 th November	9.30am Morning Prayer 4.00pm ‘Pilgrims Praise’
Sunday 25th November	9.00am BCP Holy Communion 10:00am All Age Worship 6:30pm BCP Evensong
Tuesday 27 th November	10:00 – 11:30am ‘Little Pilgrims’ 7.00pm Rospa meeting in Vestry
Wednesday 28 th November	11:00am Holy Communion (said) 11:30am – 12:30pm Soup and Natter

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