



*The Abbey Church of
St Mary and St Helena, Elstow
Newsletter – March 2016*

- **Foodbank/Prebend Street day centre** – there are boxes at the back of church for donations for the foodbank (tins and dried food) or Prebend Street (warm clothes and blankets)
- **Reports for APCM** – Each group within the church is asked to provide a short written report on activities, challenges and blessings from 2015. We will publish these reports for our APCM. Please send report to Tracey by Palm Sunday.
- **PRAYING WITH THE PSALMS FOR LENT 2016** - come along to the Lent Course on Tuesday evenings at 8 pm - for one hour-at St Michael's Church, Barford Avenue with our local Christian friends. **Tuesday Feb 16th, 23rd, March 1st, 8th, 15th** all at 8 pm, finishing at 9 pm with a cuppa and time to chat with friends.
- **100 million Lent Morning with Carl Brettle on Saturday 12th March at 10am - 1pm at Priory Methodist Church.**
- **Good Friday Witness** team is looking for volunteers to support with the stewarding. Please contact Simon, Hope in Bedfordshire Coordinator on simon.mushonga@threeriversbedford.uk if you can help!
- **Easter Messy Church - 4pm Easter Saturday**
- **Easter Monday Pilgrimage – St Albans Abbey from 1pm, service at 3pm**
- **Elstow May Festival – Saturday 7th May**
- **United Pentecost Service** on Pentecost **Sunday, 15th May** in Bedford Park (near the cafe) at 3.00pm with Gavin Calver, Director of Mission for the Evangelical Alliance.
- **United prayer service** on Sunday 8th May at 8pm at Three Rivers Church East, Denmark Street.
Mini-Parish Holiday – a small number of parishioners are going to Liverpool on Tuesday 15th - Friday 18th March, to look at the cathedrals, cross the Mersey, visit the Cavern club and have fun, they will also be there for the first St. Patrick's day parade for 20 years. As there isn't a parish holiday this year anybody is welcome to join them. They are travelling by National Express from MK to Liverpool, (that hasn't been booked yet) and are staying at Premier Inn Liverpool City Centre on 15th, 16th & 17th, if anyone wants to join them please book your accommodation independently, the cheapest deal was on Trivago at about £60

per room if a room is shared the price is the same. This does not include food. The coach fare is approximately £35 return. Please speak to Theresa for more information.

- **Open Church Sunday** We want to open our church on **26th June**. We will need volunteers to welcome, give guided tours, to sell souvenirs and gifts and provide refreshments.

Services for Holy Week

Sun 20 Mar	10:00am 11:20am 6:30pm	PALM SUNDAY Family Service Mattins Evensong
Mon 21 Mar	7:30pm	Meditation at Elstow (DW)
Tue 22 Mar	7:30pm	Holy Communion at St Michael's
Wed 23 Mar	7:30pm	Compline at Cardington
Thu 24 Mar	11:00am 7:30pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion, stripping the Altar and
Easter Vigil		
Fri 25 Mar	10:00am 11:00am	Good Friday Family Service Last Hour - a meditation for Good Friday
Sat 26 Mar	4.00pm 7:30pm	Easter Messy Church First Light of Easter
Sun 27 Mar	10:30am 6:30pm	EASTER DAY Holy Communion Easter Evensong and Holy Communion

Morning Prayer said every day 8.30am at St Mary's Cardington

Magazine – Please send all information to Janice
janicethomson47@gmail.com

Wedding/ Baptism Bookings/enquiries or Notices -
Tracey Hinson at traceyhinson@hotmail.co.uk (01234 406061)
or Rev Roger Chapman at rchapman27@virginmedia.com
Funeral enquiries :- Steve McDonald at stevejmcdonald@btinternet.com
(01525 716773)
or Stephen Smith on 01234 266920
NEW on line calendar may be viewed
<http://www.elstow-abbey.org.uk>