

# Eldwick Newsletter

Village Society

Issue No. 437 April 2015

## News from The Eldwick Church

### Decisions about Eldwick church building

As many in the community will be aware the Eldwick Church has been going through a process of evaluating building project options. The aim was to create more space for the growing congregation and to address the pressing issue of a church hall that is in great need of re-development, so that is fit for the ongoing use of both the community and church.

It has felt at many junctures that some from within the church and from the Eldwick community have looked on and made assumptions about the process which have often been incorrect. It may be that this was inevitable when people felt uncertain, confused and (perhaps) vulnerable.

But the fact is that this has been a structured process, conducted with control and integrity. We stepped back and set aside the church members' initial vote (from last July) on two building options: extension and new build. Since then we have reviewed these options and listened to many comments from within the church and the community. This resulted in working up a different extension option (stimulated by ideas put forward by Ian Holdgate) and a revised new build design. Thus we came to the point where two revised buildings plan options were presented at the last village meeting in February.

Since then a number of significant actions have been taken:

- The survey carried out by the Village Society – results were duly noted!
- A financial survey within the church to ascertain the potential level of financial contributions.
- An objective evaluation of the two revised building options (by a representative team of congregation members), based on a detailed framework of relevant criteria, covering building functionality, fitness for purpose and financial comparatives.

The Trustees brought the results, conclusions and proposals to the Annual Church Meeting. These were:

1. Evaluation of the 2 revised options again resulted in a new build scheme emerging as a preferred choice – BUT, qualified by the question – IS IT VIABLE?
2. The Project Board and the Trustees considered the viability question; again based on various criteria; including affordability and the evident levels of support and opposition
3. It was concluded that neither of the proposed plans is a viable option
4. The main reasons for this were:
  - a. **Cost** – the funding gap between costs (of either) and the initial amounts of funding we can readily identify make both schemes unaffordable
  - b. **Levels of risk** – the difficulty of proceeding with the preferred choice, the funding issue and the much greater funding issue associated with the extension option – all indicated a long and difficult process even to get to a construction phase

The Trustees, therefore proposed that we step back from the detail of building development for (about) the next six months. The aim will be to use this time for further reflection and prayer, but also to develop a constructive dialogue with the community that will better inform any future development plans (doing nothing is not an option). After this, we will revisit the process. Inevitably, this is likely to be a much reduced scheme (in scope and cost). The vast majority of church members were in agreement.

Finally, you will see elsewhere in this newsletter a personal letter from Rev'd Helen Hodgson, which addresses recent press coverage of these events. To reinforce Helen's comments; we do not believe her resignation was caused by any aspect of the social/other media comments, and this should not have been the message of the article. As readers will realise, we were not able to control how the press chose to report the story. We regret any offence this may have caused, and none was intended.

## ELDWICK & GILSTEAD 2015 GALA QUEEN AND ATTENDANTS



From left to right:

Laura McDermott, Olivia Garratt,  
Eve McUrich (Queen), Sarah McDermott,  
Ruby Haigh, Alexandra Barrett (deputy  
Gala Queen), Isabelle Harrison

**JOIN THEM ON GALA DAY  
SATURDAY 27TH JUNE  
ELDWICK RECREATION GROUND**

### R.V. OSBOURN M.C., M.A. (Bob)

It is with great sadness that we hear of the death of Bob, he was ninety three.

Bob had a very distinguished career with tanks in France in the Second World War. He eventually settled in Eldwick and taught for many years at The Bingley Teacher Training College. He was involved in many organisations within the village and he often joked about having to write letters to himself! Bob had a very dry sense of humour and will be remembered for his famous snippets in the Newsletter.

One of which was:

Customer standing at the bar in Birches says to Bob as he enters the bar "Evening Bob, you've just missed Happy Hour", Bob replies "Really, when did it finish?" "Just now, when you came in!" was the reply.

We send our sympathy and best wishes to Barbara and family.

**Can you sew? Could you give some time to make a length of hunting (any length!) to help decorate the Prince of Wales Park for the Jubilee on June 6th, materials provided? If so, please email [jeanholdgate@hotmail.com](mailto:jeanholdgate@hotmail.com)**

### Contact us:

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Village info:

[info@eldwickvillage.co.uk](mailto:info@eldwickvillage.co.uk)

Website:

[www.eldwickvillage.co.uk](http://www.eldwickvillage.co.uk)

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## ELDWICK & GILSTEAD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

### LITTLE ALPINES MAKE A BIG IMPRESSION

"Come and be inspired" it says on the Slack Top Alpine Nursery and Garden website.

Owner Michael Mitchell came to inspire Eldwick's gardeners last month and to tell his audience of nearly 60 about his unique approach to propagating and growing on a dizzy, exposed north-facing slope above Heptonstall.

One of the UK's top 10 true specialist alpine plant nurseries, Slack Top has thrived at 900ft in the Yorkshire Pennines for nearly more than three decades. The alpine is planted up in a sloping garden, where they can be seen in all their glory, and most of what's on show is also for sale. The vast majority of plants begin life as seeds or cuttings, resulting in a unique and unusual range. All are extremely hardy – at that altitude they have to be – and from time to time have withstood prolonged temperatures of -19°C. As customers say 'If it'll grow at Slack Top, it'll grow anywhere!'

We learned that Slack Top is a stunning nursery, not because it's huge. Nor is it glossy: there's no tea room attached selling scones! No, it is stunning because of the setting, and inspirational because of the knowledge, skill and love of alpine of the people who run it.

The naturalistic garden spanning approximately a quarter-acre began in 1980 and has a beautiful setting overlooking moors and woodland. It is probably one of the most spectacular in the UK and features rock and scree beds, a 100ft planted wall, ponds, a large crevice bed plus many interesting containers, troughs and an indoor rockery. The flowering season is late up on the Calderdale fells, so the garden is often at its best between May and August.



Michael and wife Allison brought a stunning selection of their alpine to Eldwick

However, plants are for sale from March, with a range that is constantly changing and updated. Most of what you see growing in the garden is also for sale in the nursery shop. Whether you're a beginner or enthusiast, Michael believes every visitor will be tempted by one or more of the unusual plants on display.

During his colourful slide collection of mountain plants from all over the world we learned how *Semper Virens* is happy in a ¾ grit mix, while *Lewisia* prefers John Innes No 1 with a little grit added and he considers the humble primrose as an "honorary" alpine. Finally, don't forget to cut back your rock rose after flowering – and remember that if you get the drainage right, alpine are among the easiest plants to grow. Even at 900 ft!

Forthcoming Hort Soc attractions include Trevor Moody describing some Gardens of the National Trust on Tuesday 21 April at 7.30 in the Memorial Hall. On Saturday 25 April it's the Spring Fair and Children's Show from 10.00 a.m. - 12 noon at the same venue (but with more refreshments).

Mike Hitchen

### ELSTEAD LADIES' CHOIR

#### SPRING CONCERT

and  
Buffet Supper

on Friday 1 May 2015  
in Eldwick Church Hall, at 7.30 pm

*Free Admission*  
(there will be a charity donations  
plate for the supper)

**MAUREEN BEAUMONT** has retired as membership secretary of Eldwick Lawn Tennis Club. To thank her she was presented with an engraved glass at the clubs A.G.M. on 20th March at the Acorn.

Maureen has been a very popular match secretary for many years and is well known in the village. She will continue her involvement with the club as a committee member. The new membership secretary is Kath Morley. The clubs email address is [eldwicktennisclub@gmail.com](mailto:eldwicktennisclub@gmail.com). An enrolment evening will be held at the club house which is behind the Birches Club. This will be held on April 16th from 6pm. Anyone enrolling on the night (or before) will be included in a free prize draw to win one of 5 tins of Slazenger balls.



## • NOTICEBOARD •

### ELDWICK BEER & BANGER FESTIVAL 2015

This year's Eldwick Beer & Banger Festival for charity runs from Friday 21 to Saturday 22 August. Business and personal sponsorship places are still available at a cost of £100 each, ideal for advertising or as a Father's Day gift. Sponsors receive four event entry tickets valid for both days, four free pints, four event pint glasses and their names, logos or advertisement on one of the casks. Businesses will also get advertising space in the event tasting notes. For further details please email [eldwickbeerfestival2@gmail.com](mailto:eldwickbeerfestival2@gmail.com)

### \*A BREAD AND CHEESE LUNCH IN AID OF CHRISTIAN AID

will be held at The Eldwick Church Hall

**On Saturday 16th May between 12-2pm**

Enjoy a simple meal of home-made soup, bread and cheese.

Stalls to include cakes, books, plants & tombola.

### Ladies' Golf for Beginners

Are you a woman who enjoys fresh air and a bit of gentle exercise? Why not try golf?

Bingley St Ives Golf Club is offering FREE "Taster" sessions for ladies on three evenings in May. This involves a group lesson, a tour of the facilities and light refreshments.

For more information call the Professional on: 01274 562436 (Ext 1).

### Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association

Our annual Spring Fling Party was on Tuesday 10th March. Everyone had a good time and the food was excellent. We were entertained by The Ritardandos, a group of 12 men, who sang a wide variety of songs. One member played the violin while others told very humorous stories. It was a very enjoyable evening.

Date for the annual trip is Wed 12th August. Venue to be decided next month.

Next Meeting 12 May 7.30pm. It is our AGM. We also have a Speaker. Pam Vinicombe on the "Titanic".

YCA meet the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Eldwick Memorial Hall. New Members are always welcome. Come and give it a try.

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## A few words from Rev'd Helen Hodgson

Words can be taken in all sorts of ways, can't they? Sometimes misunderstandings can creep in. You may have seen the headline 'Church demolition plans mothballed as vicar stands down following social media campaign,' it was in the T&A on March 25.

I am not someone who normally feels the need to put the record straight, but on this occasion I do and I am grateful to Tony Clegg (the editor) for making space for me. Only one part of that head line is, in fact, correct - I am standing down. But it is not in any shape or form to do with 'a social media campaign.' It is, in fact, for the reasons that were quoted in the article, - 'I have walked with the church through these recent explorations and have travelled as far as I can. I see the value of a new person to lead (the church) as they continue to wrestle with questions of buildings and finance, I believe this needs to be someone well-equipped in these areas.'

Knowing your own limitations (as well as recognising your gifts) is, I believe, very important. The other thing to note, is that nothing has been 'mothballed.' Through this process, those who have headed up the explorations have come to realise that neither of the proposed options is in fact a reality. Therefore a line has been drawn under both options and new explorations of a smaller scale and scope will begin later in the year.

I feel very blessed to have had what will be nearly three years serving in Eldwick, when I leave at the end of June, and I have met a whole bunch of wonderful people within this community. One of my hopes for the people of Eldwick, is that channels of communication will be widened. I will be serving as the lead minister of The Eldwick Church until June 28th, please don't hesitate to get in touch if I can help in anyway 01274 560761 and hmhodgson@sky.com

With love and prayers,  
Helen

### COFFEE CAKE CHAT

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## † THE ELDWICK CHURCH †

### MESSY CHURCH

Saturday 18th April 4.00 – 5.30 pm.

Saturday 16th May 4.00 – 5.30 pm.

Messy Church is a worshipping community of all ages, it is for all the family. It will be held in the church hall and the church. There will be craft activities as you arrive in the church hall, stories from the Bible, songs and prayers in the church – rounding off with sharing a simple meal together in the church hall. This is an event for all the family – whatever your age, why not come and join in the fun!

### HAPPY HOUR FUN SIZE CHURCH –

for young families – All welcome

Wed. 29th April from 09.15 – 10.15 am.

Wed. 27th May from 09.15 – 10.15 am.

### PAUSE TO PRAY:-

Wed. 22nd April 12.00 noon – 4.00 pm.

Monday 27th April 7.00 – 7.30 pm.

### LADIES FELLOWSHIP:-

16th April 7.30 pm Mavis Dean "Words and Music"

21st May Steven Horne "The journey of a Games Maker"

### YOUTH CLUB:-

Sunday 12th April 7.00 – 9.00 pm.

Sunday 10th May 7.00 – 9.00 pm.

### SERVICES:

#### 19th April

09.15 am Holy Communion led by Rev Helen Hodgson.

10.30 am Morning Worship led by Mr. Maurice Baren.

#### 26th April

09.15 am Big Breakfast

10.30 am Holy Communion led by Rev Helen Hodgson.

#### 3rd May

09.15 am Holy Communion led by Rev. Rosemary Nash.

10.30 am All Sorts Family Praise led by Rev Helen Hodgson.

#### 10th May

10.30 am Holy Communion led by Rev. Jennifer Lunn.

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### 17th May

09.15 am Holy Communion led by Rev Helen Hodgson.

10.30 am Morning Worship led by Mr David Miller.

### 24th May

09.15 am Big Breakfast

10.30 am Holy Communion led by Rev Helen Hodgson.

### 31st May

10.30 am Morning Worship led by Mission and Outreach with speaker from CAP (Christians Against Poverty).

### REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

Monday - 09.30 – 11.15 Livewires,

Tuesday - 09.30-12.00 Church Café

Wednesday - 09.30 – 12.00 Embroiderers /  
Probus,

13.30 – 15.30 Craft Group

18.00 – 20.00 Weight Watchers

Thursday - 15.30 – 19.15 Dance Classes

Friday - 19.15 – 21.15 Elstead Ladies Choir

Pre School Group - 08.45 – 15.15 Tuesday,  
Thursday and Friday.

### REGULAR MONTHLY EVENTS

1st Friday in the month Friday Footsteps

3rd Saturday in the month Saturday  
Strollers

3rd Thursday in the month Ladies  
Fellowship

4th Wednesday in the month Happy Hour  
Mid Saturday Messy Church

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# PRINCE OF WALES PARK 150th JUBILEE SATURDAY 6TH JUNE

## PRINCE OF WALES PARK JUBILEE

When the Friends of Prince of Wales Park group was formed in January 2013, following an article in this Newsletter, the significant 150th anniversary of the opening of the park was always a great date on the calendar. In over two years, a huge amount has been accomplished by the volunteers, just as was the case between 1863 and 1865. Generous donations, sponsorship and grants being awarded has made it possible to move forward with huge improvements, which will be further developed in the next three months. These will reward the community, in return for the support which has been gratefully received.

The timing of the development programme, largely funded by the £50,000 award from WREN is perfect, as it hopefully will culminate in the celebration planned for 6th June, exactly the same day of the month as that of the official opening.

Within the twenty acres of the park is the natural open space which is perfect for the Jubilee event. Originally the quarry centre, later known as the playground, now termed the Arena, this will be the venue for the afternoon from 2pm to 5pm. The familiar face of Mr Dan will be appearing, to involve children in Circus Skills and some form of Skipping. He will not be on his stilts this time, because a beautiful lady, from Chicks on Sticks, will be making several appearances, appropriately dressed in the finery of a Victorian

Lady. Members of her team will be running Peg Doll Workshops, throughout the afternoon.

The Victorian theme is important for the occasion and the Eldwick Church will be inviting children to take part in traditional games from that era, like whip and top, hoopla, etc.

Representatives from the local Police Museum will be appearing dressed as would have been recognisable in Victorian times. They will come, complete with handcuffs and truncheons to oversee the public, looking for unlikely characters to deal with!

Two more traditional games will be the Coconut Shy and Skittles

Music will be provided by Bingley Grammar School singers who will be voicing appropriate melodies from long ago. Eldwick Primary School's choirs will also be on the programme, to entertain what is hoped to be a large gathering. The children of the school also wish to perform some drama, which will probably be a first in the park, (apart from mischief in days gone by!).

The newly formed Bingley Community Council Group will be organising a Treasure Hunt around the park, which will provide exciting exploration for everyone unfamiliar with the park. The Canal and River Trust are to set up a stall and provide activities for children relating to bird recognition. The Friends of Prince of Wales Park have various members who promote wildlife so there will be walks for people interested in seeing how the park is a natural habitat for wildlife. Walkers Are Welcome will be promoting their new organisation, hoping to introduce a programme of local walks in the area, in which there are so many opportunities to explore the countryside around Bingley.

The Gilstead Village Society has kindly volunteered to provide the Cake Stall, which, hopefully will provide all manner of confectionery, undoubtedly to include Victorian Sponge Cakes. Refreshments will be provided by a local landlord, Philip Greaves, who will be setting up his marquee with a bar, another generous gesture from an Eldwick resident. The Eldwick Village Society will be providing burnt bangers.

The Friends of Prince of Wales Park actually have access to the very blade of the spade with which Mr Ferrand, of the local gentry, cut the first sod in January 1863, to launch what was initially named The People's Park, later being given royal status. It is hoped that a small ceremony, with the beautifully inscribed spade, will see a specimen tree planted to mark the occasion.

In advance of the event, the children of Lady Lane Park School are to draw images, based on attractions of the day, for publicity purposes. Then these pictures will be used by a graphic designer of Bingley Youth Café to produce leaflets and flyers for distribution. The children of Priestthorpe

Primary School are to be part of the team which is to provide bunting and decorations, first to make people aware of something special happening in the park, the park many drive past but never enter!

Everyone is hoping for good weather and a very special personality, ideal for horticulture and the park, has agreed to perform the opening ceremony – Katie Rushworth, of the ITV 'Love Your Garden' series with Alan Titchmarsh – we couldn't afford him!

**SEE YOU ALL THERE!**



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