



St Peter & St Paul's Church, Cranfield

NEWS & DIARY

April 2018

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The editors reserve the right to make alterations where necessary.

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The Resurrection Morning



Easter is more than chocolate eggs. It's true! Jesus has Risen from the dead. This is the astounding message for which Christians praise God and on which they base their hope for life eternal.

Certainly on that first Easter morning Mary of Magdala got the surprise of her life. It was unbelievable that the man she had recently seen crucified should now speak to her in the garden area

beside the tomb. And yet the 'impossible' was something that she, and then the other disciples, had to accept. Jesus was alive! The resurrection morning turned her understanding of reality upside down.

It was not just a bizarre incident, but a miracle with a meaning. It meant that the prophecies of the Old Testament had been fulfilled and that God had endorsed the words and works of Jesus. He is both the 'Messiah of the Jews' and the 'Saviour of the world'.

The temptation of our age is to try and explain away this claim to an historic, objective and eternal truth. But in the resurrection of Jesus we are confronted by an inconvenient God who makes us think anew. And wonderfully it is not just to a change of our mental landscape that God calls us. We are helped to receive inner healing from guilt and sin through the Holy Spirit and renewed in our relationship with others around us. As Spring refreshes our world with life so at Easter we celebrate – because the God who raised Jesus can bring us also to refreshment and resurrection. New life, New Love, New Joy, New Hope, surge through us. Jesus never died after this. Jesus lives to be our friend. He provides us with purpose in living and hope for an eternal future.

Wonderful though the offer of personal salvation is – and each of us must respond individually – there is a community aspect to this also: Jesus died to save all mankind. We need to love others, work alongside others and serve the many who live in poverty and ignorance in our needy world. Easter reminds us we are here to proclaim new life to all: It's true! Jesus lives – so we may too!

Continued overleaf

The Resurrection Morning

Continued from front page

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
Lovingly He greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
Let the church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing;
For her Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting.

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
Endless is the victory, Thou o'er death hast won.

Hugh Symes-Thompson

PRAYERS FOR APRIL

This month, please pray for:

- ◆ The residents of Rowan Way and Maple Way;
- ◆ The Parish Council;
- ◆ Our AGM & PCC;
- ◆ Christians in sport.

Headteacher Appointment at Cranfield Academy

Excerpt from a letter to parents from the Chair of Governors, Ali Brabner:

“The Governing Body are absolutely delighted to share the news with you that Mr Piatczanyyn has been appointed as the new Headteacher of our wonderful school. Many of you know Mr P well and I am sure you will feel both delighted and very reassured, knowing that our school will be in the safest of hands. He will undoubtedly continue to develop our school with the greatest passion, drive and commitment to achieving the very best for all in our school community.

The process of appointing our new Head was an extremely rigorous and fair one. We were fortunate to be supported in this by our existing school improvement partner and a consultant from the Diocese of St Albans, who were able to help ensure our recruitment was of the highest standard.

I am sure you will join me in congratulating Mr Piatczanyyn and sending him heartfelt good wishes as he takes up his new role on Monday, 16th April 2018.”

Farewell to Joanna Farbon

We wish Joanna Farbon every blessing as she moves to take up her appointment as a Schools Improvement Adviser for Central Bedfordshire. She has been here at Cranfield for ten years and our much appreciated Head of Cranfield Academy during the development of the St Paul's site. Her positive generous character, love for the children, and Christian faith have been an inspiration to the school and wider community. At the end of term she was warmly thanked by staff, governors and local friends receiving a lovely picture of Cranfield Church in snow, and a prayer for the days ahead.



Academy Year 3

The Year 3 children of Cranfield Academy spent a considerable time rehearsing in church for their Easter play “The Three Trees”. It was a wonderful performance and brought out the Easter story in a clear and powerful way. There was an appreciative audience of grandparents on the morning of 26th March and of parents later in the afternoon. And much to the joy of the church family, a number of the children came to enhance our Palm Sunday service with their singing too. Thank you to all the staff and parents who made this all possible – and to all the Academy classes for their Easter Crosses for the church pillars.



Annual General Meeting



This year the Annual General Meeting will be on Sunday 29th April at 12.00noon - after our usual 10.30am main Morning Service. It begins with the election (or re-election) of Churchwardens, considers the reports and accounts for 2017, and continues with the election of PCC members for the year ahead. This is your chance to see how the church has been run, ask questions and choose those who will hold office in the coming year.

We will aim to have the Financial Accounts and Annual report ready to read a fortnight after Easter. Please bring all papers back for the AGM!

Please also encourage suitable people for all the positions above and think about whether you might like to contribute. We would like to find an electoral roll officer, an assistant treasurer, another representative for Deanery Synod and 3 new PCC members. Pray that we may know God's guidance and provision for the year ahead - and bring the life-giving message of God's love to our community.

Repairs to Stonework

Pointing and maintenance for the walls of the south aisle and Tower are set to get underway this month. Subject to final details being agreed between architect and contractor, we hope the work will begin on April 16th. This will include the erection of appropriate scaffolding. At the moment the walls are severely impacted by damage from water erosion and masonry bees. Finance for this phase of the repairs (approx. £30,000) has been raised through the Friends of the Church, The Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust, Co-op community funding, The Francis Coales Charitable Fund, and other donors. After treatment we hope these exterior walls will remain in good shape for many years to come.

Easter Cracked 2018

On Monday afternoon, 19th March, 60 children from Year 4 at Cranfield Academy ventured over to the Parish Church to 'crack the meaning of Easter'. Rachel Foster and Pastor Steve from the Baptist church with Liz Symes-Thompson and the Rector were assisted by some of the regulars from 'Open the Book' in an entertaining and exciting presentation. There were quizzes and games, stories and activities. The children's awe and wonder during the Roman Centurion's (Pastor Steve) retelling of the crucifixion was again a joy to behold. Making a palm cross each to take home proved easier for children than some helpers. At the end the children wrote down something they had learned about what Easter means for Christians. As ever they left - eggcitedly!



DIARY FOR APRIL 2018

Day	Time	Service/Event	Venue
Sunday 1st	8.00am 9.15am 10.30am	EASTER DAY Holy Communion Holy Communion (BCP) Easter Family Communion <i>Followed by Children's Easter Egg Hunt</i>	Cranfield Church Salford Church Cranfield Church
Monday 2nd	10.00am	Joint Churches Walk (then Beetle Drive) – start at:	Baptist Church
Tuesday 3rd	7.30pm	“Sounds Familiar” (and every Tuesday)	Baptist Church
Thursday 5th	7.30pm	Bellringing Practice (and every Thursday)	Cranfield Church
Friday 6th	8.00pm	Home Group – Contact A. Pearson (Tel: 751358)	1 Walk House Close
Sunday 8th	9.15am 10.30am	Holy Communion Family Communion (Trevor to preach)	Hulcote Church Cranfield Church
Thursday 12th	10.40am	Bible Study restarts (and following Thursdays)	Rectory
Sunday 15th	8.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion Family Service (Pulpit Swap: Pastor Steve Lloyd)	Cranfield Church Cranfield Church
Monday 16th	7.30pm	<i>Schools Term Begins</i> Hulcote and Salford AGM	Agate Hall
Sunday 22nd	9.15am 10.30am	Morning Prayer Holy Communion	Salford Church Cranfield Church
Monday 23rd	9.30am	Academy St George's Day Service	Cranfield Church
Friday 27th	8.00pm	Home Group – Contact A. Pearson (Tel: 751358)	7 East Hills
Sunday 29th	8.00am 10.30am 12 noon	Holy Communion Main Morning Service – followed by ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	Cranfield Church Cranfield Church Cranfield Church
MAY			
Sunday 6th	8.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion Morning Service with Baptism	Cranfield Church Cranfield Church

MOTTO 2018 “ Sing to the LORD a new song ” Psalm 96 v1

Newsletter distributors, sidespersons, church cleaners etc.

As we move onward into the summer it is clear that a number of holes are appearing in our various rotas and lists of tasks to be done to maintain our church life and witness. We have had faithful members undertaking these for many years – but as age, health and opportunities change we need to fill the gaps. Please consider if you might be able to contribute to the practical life of our church or have skills that you would like to offer.