



St Peter & St Paul's Church, Cranfield

## NEWS & DIARY

April 2019

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### Latest date for entries into

*Church News and Diary*

For May 2019 is

**Monday 15th April**

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The editors reserve the right to make alterations where necessary.

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**For more information on Cranfield's churches look online at:**

[www.cranfieldchurches.org.uk](http://www.cranfieldchurches.org.uk)

## Jerusalem



Just a month ago it was amazing to stand on the Mount of Olives and see Jerusalem in the morning sunshine. With our pilgrim group (a dozen of us from Cranfield) we could see the Temple Mount with the golden 'Dome of the Rock' above the city wall. Beside us another group of pilgrims, Chinese Anglicans, broke

into song – "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, lift up your gates and sing . . ." On down we walked to the ancient olive trees in the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus once prayed and now the striking Church of All Nations stands.

Could even Jesus ever have pictured this twenty first century scene? People from Asia and Europe, South America and Africa, all with guides, cameras and tourist buses – and all drawn to reflect on one extraordinary life, sacrificial death and miraculous resurrection. Later in the week our own group walked the traditional 'Via Dolorosa', following in the footsteps of Jesus from his sentencing by Pontius Pilate to the place of crucifixion. The streets were crowded, the sounds and scents both familiar and faintly exotic.

Clearly much has changed as evidenced by the different historical layers and excavations. But it was not difficult to imagine Jesus carrying his cross in that Roman-occupied Jerusalem of long ago. It was easy to picture how, weary and weak, he would fall in the uneven streets and then how Simon of Cyrene might be pressganged to carry the cross. In the harsh bustle of that other age Jesus' family and followers watched as he was hoisted high to die outside the ancient wall.

Jerusalem is like a jewel that reflects all the dazzling light and beauty of God's love. But there is a hardness and grittiness about it. For centuries, since the time of Abraham, Jerusalem had been a place of sacrifice and struggle. And Christians see the death of Jesus as the ultimate sacrifice for sin and the resurrection as the dawn of our eternal life. As if by a magnet, Jesus had been drawn here because he must die here and now people from all over the world are drawn here too. The struggles of human experience are the backcloth for the revelation of divine hope. That is the story of Jerusalem and the first Easter. We too are called to join with our Saviour, dying to self and rising with Him to newness of life. For Christians the Joy of Easter first shone in Jerusalem.

Let us pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122)  
and look forward to the new Jerusalem (Revelation 21 v2).

*Hugh Symes-Thompson*

## Make it a Beautiful Easter Saturday

On Saturday 20th April you are encouraged to make Cranfield Beautiful. You can join the Village litterpick starting at the Cross Keys at 10.00am where it is hoped a group of activists will set out to make a difference – and then gather at the Parish Church for refreshments at the end of the morning. Or perhaps you can assist our wonderful flower arrangers in decorating the church ready for our Easter celebrations. From 10.00am onwards they have a huge task to do and will be glad of every extra helping hand so that St Peter & St Paul's is bright and beautiful for our Easter celebrations and Egg Hunt.



## Methodist Maundy Service



Cranfield Methodist Church are planning a Communion Service with a simple meal to follow on Maundy Thursday at 6.00pm, as they have done in previous years. They would like to extend an invitation to you to join with them as usual. They need to know how many folk they will be feeding, so would appreciate knowing numbers by Sunday 15th April at the very latest. Letting them know of any dietary requirements, such as 'gluten-free' or 'vegetarian', would be very helpful in providing food suitable for all.

*(There will be a list for you to sign up on at the back of the church if you want to go.)*

## XI Crucifixion: Jesus is nailed to the cross



See, as they strip the robe from off his back  
And spread his arms and nail them to the cross,  
The dark nails pierce him and the sky turns black,  
And love is firmly fastened onto loss.  
But here a pure change happens. On this tree  
Loss becomes gain, death opens into birth.  
Here wounding heals and fastening makes free  
Earth breathes in heaven, heaven roots in earth.  
And here we see the length, the breadth, the height  
Where love and hatred meet and love stays true  
Where sin meets grace and darkness turns to light  
We see what love can bear and be and do,  
And here our saviour calls us to his side  
His love is free, his arms are open wide.

*Malcolm Guite reflects on the Stations of the Cross*



## Annual General Meeting



This year the Annual General Meeting will be on Sunday 7th 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 2018, and continues with the election of PCC members for the year ahead. It will be an important time with the putting together of a parish profile, the challenges of a vacancy and then hopefully choosing and welcoming a new Rector! 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.

Please encourage suitable people for the positions above and think about whether you could contribute. We would like to find three 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.

## Safeguarding

Safeguarding continues to be of importance in society and of course in our Church. The PCC have adopted the House of Bishops’ ‘Promoting a Safer Church’; safeguarding policy statement and a copy of the policy is available for all to see in the Safeguarding Folder at the back of the Church, along with other relevant policies.



May I take this opportunity to highlight the policy regarding the ‘Use of Images’. For those organising events in the Church where there is a probability that photographs will be taken, can I ask that the policy is referred to. Not only is it helpful in terms of procedure, but there are also consent forms in the file that comply with the Data Protection Act 1998 when taking images of children.

Again, I ask you all to be vigilant as to the safety of yourself and others and if you have any concerns then please talk to me or Rev Hugh.

Thank you.

Anne Dimmock  
Parish Safeguarding Officer



### PRAYERS FOR APRIL

This month, please pray for:

- ◆ The residents of Crane Way and Millards Close;
- ◆ All who mourn;
- ◆ The AGM & PCC;
- ◆ Christian Aid, Mozambique.

# DIARY FOR APRIL 2019

Day	Time	Service/Event	Venue
Monday 1st	1.30pm	Easter Cracked (for Academy Year 4)	
Tuesday 2nd	7.30pm	"Sounds Familiar" (and every Tuesday)	Baptist Church
Wednesday 3rd	2.00pm	Academy Year 3 Easter (Grandparents)	Cranfield Church
Thursday 4th	9.00am 10.40am 7.30pm	Academy Year 3 Easter (Parents) Bible Study (& following Thursdays) Bellringing Practice (and every Thursday)	Cranfield Church The Rectory Cranfield Church
Friday 5th		Holywell Easter Church Services	Cranfield Church
<b>Sunday 7th</b>	8.00am 10.30am 12 Noon	Holy Communion Main Morning Service – followed by Church <b>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</b>	Cranfield Church Cranfield Church Cranfield Church
Monday 8th	7.30pm	Hulcote and Salford AGM	Agate Hall
Friday 12th	8.00pm	Home Group: Contact A. Pearson (Tel: 751358)	1 Walk House Close
<b>Sunday 14th</b>	9.15am 10.30am	<b>PALM SUNDAY</b> Holy Communion Family Communion	Hulcote Church Cranfield Church
Thursday 18th	6.30pm	<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b> Communion followed by Supper	Methodist Church
Friday 19th	10.30am	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> Service of Reflection Followed by Hot Cross Buns at:	Cranfield Church The Rectory
Saturday 20th	10am-Noon	Village Litter Pick, starting at The Cross Keys	
<b>Sunday 21st</b>	8.00am 9.15am 10.30am	<b>EASTER DAY</b> Holy Communion Holy Communion (BCP) Easter Family Communion <i>Followed by Children's Easter Egg Hunt</i>	Cranfield Church Salford Church Cranfield Church
Tuesday 23rd	9.30pm	<b>School Term Begins</b> Academy St George's Day service	Cranfield Church
Saturday 27th	6.30pm	Bellringers host Beds Association Meeting	Cranfield Church
<b>Sunday 28th</b>	8.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion Main Morning Service	Cranfield Church Cranfield Church
<b>MAY</b>			
<b>Sunday 5th</b>	8.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion Morning Service with Baptism	Cranfield Church Cranfield Church

