



St Peter & St Paul's Church, Cranfield

## NEWS & DIARY

December 2017 & January 2018

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### Latest date for entries into

*Church News and Diary*

For February 2018 is

**Monday 15th January**

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to make alterations where  
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## Remember The Poor



Christmas is easily visible. The shops are full of people buying presents. Parking is impossible. Street lights and decorations are everywhere. Homes compete with flashing lights and Christmas trees shine merrily. Postmen are on double time. Families gather, mince pies

multiply and seasonal music fills the airwaves.

In the midst of the joy and extravagance it is possible to overlook the less visible. The first Christmas was certainly about family – but about a struggling family. His parents needed help and shelter: Jesus was born into relative poverty. His life was soon under threat. And in our society we need to remember the poor, lonely and vulnerable. They should be at the heart of our Christmas today quite as much as the celebrations, feasting and thanksgiving.

Those who devote themselves to the care of others at Christmas time have got it right. Perhaps it is helping with a homeless shelter, perhaps inviting a neighbour to lunch, possibly visiting someone who cannot get out – these things are more important than the glitter and noise. Faith may be found in church and singing, but even more so in practical care and kindness. So our challenge this Christmas is not just to celebrate the Christ from comfort, but to seek how we can serve the Christ who loves the marginalised.

As Good King Wenceslas  
concluded:

‘Therefore, Christians all, be sure,  
Wealth or rank possessing,  
Ye who now will bless the poor  
Shall yourselves find blessing.’

*Hugh Symes-Thompson*



### A Christmas Blessing

May the joy of the angels, the wonder of the shepherds, and the peace of the Christ child, fill your hearts this Christmas time; and the blessing of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, be with you now and always. Amen

## Twelfth Night Concert with the Manor House String Quartet

6th January 2018 : 19:30  
St Peter & St Paul's Church,  
Court Road

20 † C † M † B † 18

20 † C † M † B † 18

Love and joy come to you,  
And to you your wassail too;



And God bless you and send you a  
Happy New Year

Tickets £10:00 ♦ £5.00 students  
☎ Andrew 01234 751358  
☎ Rev Hugh 01234 750214  
☎ Trevor 01234 751321

## 'Nativity Service' – Your invitation!



This year will again be a 'Nativity with a difference' on Sunday 17th December at our 10.30am Morning Family Worship. There will be something for everyone to do and traditional Christmas ingredients to spark our creative impulses. So come along, bring all your family friends, and take home your special memories of the Nativity Story.



## Christmas Card Delivery

The Friends of the Church will be carrying out the Christmas card delivery again this year in aid of SMART of Bedford. The Christmas Post Box will be in Church until after the last church service on Sunday 10th December 2017. Delivery is limited to Cranfield (including Bourne End). This facility is open to all and is not restricted to members of the Church. Any help in delivery of cards would be very welcome, just let Dennis know (01234 751442 or 07813432558 or [dennis.howe@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dennis.howe@hotmail.co.uk)).

SMART have taken over BECHAR operations at the Prebend Centre, Bedford which provide vital facilities and services for the homeless including: breakfast, lunch, emergency food packs, showers and toiletries.

The money raised will help SMART's Prebend Centre provide aid for less fortunate people in the Bedford area. Donations can be placed into a sealed envelope and put into the post box or handed to any Friends Committee member.

There will be one delivery only, commencing Monday 11th December (however, it will probably take us several days to deliver to all the houses).

Cards delivered by the Friends of the Church will carry our stamp...

**HAPPY CHRISTMAS**  
Delivered by Friends of the  
Parish Church in support of  
SMART's Prebend Centre.

# DIARY FOR JANUARY 2018

Day	Time	Service/Event	Venue
Monday 1st	10.00am	New Year's Walk (and lunch?) – meet at:	Cranfield Church
Saturday 6th	7.30pm	<b>Manor House Strings – New Year Concert</b>	Cranfield Church
<b>Sunday 7th</b>	8.00am 10.30am 12.00 noon	Holy Communion Morning Prayer (Motto Text 2018) Prayers in Church	Cranfield Church Cranfield Church Cranfield Church
Tuesday 9th	10.30am	Academy KS2 Worship	Cranfield Church
Thursday 11th	10.30am 7.30pm	Bible Study (and following Thursdays) Bellringing Practice (and every Thursday)	Rectory Cranfield Church
Saturday 13th	10am-Noon	Pew Top Sale	Cranfield Church
<b>Sunday 14th</b>	9.15am 10.30am	Holy Communion Holy Communion	Hulcote Church Cranfield Church
Monday 15th	7.30pm	PCC Meeting	The Rectory
Tuesday 16th	10.30am	Academy KS1 Worship	Cranfield Church
Friday 19th	8.00pm	Home Group – Contact A. Pearson (Tel: 751358)	7 East Hills
<b>Sunday 21st</b>	8.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion Family Service 'Week of prayer for Christian Unity'	Cranfield Church Cranfield Church
Tuesday 23rd	10.30am	Academy EYFS Worship	Cranfield Church
<b>Sunday 28th</b>	10.30am	<b>Holy Communion</b>	Cranfield Church



## Good News from the Co-op

Andrew Pearson, as our churchwarden, was delighted to accept a cheque for £1,630.45 from the Co-op on Thursday. Part of their local 'good causes' funding, this is a great boost to our fabric restoration plans ready for this coming spring. And wonderfully they agreed to donate 200 oranges for our Christingle Service too!

## Pew Top Sale

**Saturday 13th January 2018**

**10.00am – 12.00 noon**

**Cranfield Parish Church**

*By the Friends of the Parish Church,  
in aid of Church Restoration*

## PRAYERS FOR DECEMBER & JANUARY

This month, please pray for:

- ◆ The residents of Harter Ave and Wood End Road;
- ◆ Sounds Familiar;
- ◆ The people of Poland and the Czech Republic;
- ◆ SMART and the homeless of Bedford.

# DIARY FOR DECEMBER 2017

Day	Time	Service/Event	Venue
Saturday 2nd	7.00pm	"Sounds Familiar" Christmas Concert	Cranfield Church
<b>Sunday 3rd</b>	8.00am 10.30am 4.00pm	<b>ADVENT SUNDAY</b> Holy Communion Advent Morning Service <b>Christingle Service</b>	Cranfield Church Cranfield Church Cranfield Church
Tuesday 5th	7pm-9pm	"Sounds Familiar" Choir	Tesco, Kingston
Wednesday 6th	1.00pm	'Christmas Cracked' Academy Year 4	Cranfield Church
Thursday 7th	10.30am 7.30pm 8.00pm	Bible Study (and following Thursdays) Bellringing Practice (and every Thursday) Bellringers' Christmas Dinner	Rectory Cranfield Church Social Club
Friday 8th	8.00pm	Home Group – Contact A. Pearson (Tel: 751358)	Ivy Cottage
<b>Sunday 10th</b>	9.15am 10.30am	Holy Communion (+ Salford Christmas Lunch) Holy Communion	Hulcote Cranfield Church
Tuesday 12th	7pm-9pm	"Sounds Familiar" Choir	'Xscape, MK
Wednesday 13th	1.10pm	University Carols – Whittle Building Forum	University
Thursday 14th	9am-9pm	Holywell School Carol Services	Cranfield Church
Friday 15th	7.30 for 8pm	"Sounds Familiar" Carol Service	Renhold
<b>Sunday 17th</b>	8.00am 10.30am 6.00pm	Holy Communion Family 'Nactivity' Creative Service Lessons and Carols	Cranfield Church Cranfield Church Cranfield Church
Monday 18th	2pm/5.30pm 7.30pm	Academy KS2 Church Carol Concerts PCC Meeting	Cranfield Church Ivy Cottage
Tuesday 19th	7pm-9pm	Carol Singing around Home Farm – meet at:	Ivy Cottage
Wednesday 20th	7pm-9pm	Carol Singing around Willow Green – meet by:	Fish & Chip Shop
<b>Sunday 24th</b>	10.30am 6.30pm 11.00pm	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> Sunday Morning Worship Carols by Candlelight United Churches Midnight Communion	Cranfield Church Salford Church Cranfield Church
<b>Monday 25th</b>	8.00am 9.15am 10.30am	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> Holy Communion Christmas Communion Family Christmas Service	Cranfield Church Salford Cranfield Church
Friday 29th	8.00pm	Home Group – Contact A. Pearson (Tel: 751358)	1 Walk House Close
<b>Sunday 31st</b>	10.30am	<b>Holy Communion</b>	Cranfield Church