



St Peter & St Paul's Church, Cranfield

NEWS & DIARY

December 2018 / January 2019

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Latest date for entries into

Church News and Diary

For February 2019 is

Friday 18th January

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The editors reserve the right to make alterations where necessary.

Distribution organised by Jo Stannage.

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If you would like to receive *The Church News & Diary* in a larger print, please contact the Editors

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

www.cranfieldchurches.org.uk

Christmas Tree Festival



On the weekend of the 7th to 9th December, Cranfield Church will be celebrating with a Christmas Tree Festival. The trees are donated and decorated by local schools, groups and organisations with our overall theme being 'Peace'. There will be refreshments and a program of informal live music.

The Christmas tree, popularised in Britain by Queen Victoria and Albert, may have been gained its Christian symbolism centuries beforehand through the teaching of St Boniface, a Devon born missionary to Germany around 725 AD. According to tradition, when Boniface chopped down the pagan 'Thor's Oak' at Geismar, he noticed a tiny fir tree growing in its roots and claimed it as the new Christian symbol:

- "This humble tree's wood is used to build your homes:
let Christ be at the centre of your households.
- Its leaves remain evergreen in the darkest days:
let Christ be your constant light.
- Its boughs reach out to embrace and its top points to heaven:
let Christ be your comfort and your guide."

Hugh Symes-Thompson

Once upon a Christmastime
The angels sang with joy,
To herald the coming
Of a precious Baby Boy.
Their shouting filled the heavens
And shook the mighty Earth,
And sent the shepherds searching
For the place of His glorious birth.
And when they found the manger
And gazed upon His face,
They knelt in adoration
In that low and holy place.
Oh, Father, fill me with the love
That filled the Earth that night,
A love that reaches throughout the world
And fills it with Your light.

By Dona Maroney



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 9th December 2018. 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 (Tel: 01234 751442 or 07813 432558 or 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 10th 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.

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

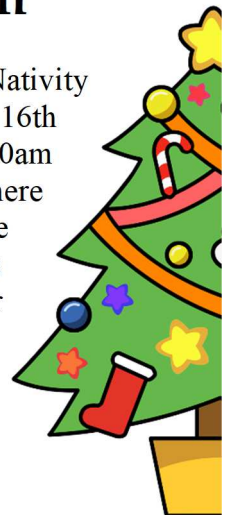
Kid Stuff

The wise guys
tell me
that Christmas
is Kid Stuff...
Maybe they've got
something there—
Two thousand years ago
three wise guys
chased a star
across a continent
to bring
frankincense and myrrh
to a Kid
born in a manger
with an idea in his head...
And as the bombs
crash
all over the world
today
the real wise guys
know
that we've all
got to go chasing stars
again
in the hope
that we can get back
some of that
Kid Stuff
born two thousand years
ago—

by Frank Horne

Nativity Service - Your Invitation

This year will again be a 'Nativity with a difference' on Sunday 16th 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.



DIARY FOR JANUARY 2019

Day	Time	Service/Event	Venue
Tuesday 1st	10.00am	New Year's Walk (and Lunch?) – meet at:	Cranfield Church
Sunday 6th	8.00am 10.30am 12 noon	Holy Communion Morning Prayer (Motto Text 2019) Prayers in Church	Cranfield Church Cranfield Church Cranfield Church
Thursday 10th	10.30am 7.30pm	Bible Study (& following Thursdays) Bellringing Practice (and every Thursday)	The Rectory Cranfield Church
Friday 11th	8.00pm	Home Group – Contact A. Pearson (Tel: 751358)	Tbc
Sunday 13th	9.15am 10.30am	Holy Communion Holy Communion	Hulcote Church Cranfield Church
Monday 14th	7.30pm	PCC Meeting	The Rectory
Saturday 19th	10am-Noon	Pew Top Sale	Cranfield Church
Sunday 20th	8.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion Family Service <i>'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity'</i>	Cranfield Church Cranfield Church
Sunday 27th	9.15am 10.30am	Holy Communion Holy Communion: Preacher – John Fisher CPAS	Salford Cranfield Church

Mended and Splendid



We are most grateful to Alan Merritt and Roy Phillips for restoring the Chancel Reading Desk and font lid to tip-top condition. They both had severe cracks and there were several pieces missing from the reading desk. But they are now structurally secure, and look fantastic polished and gleaming. The angels on the Chancel desk appear especially happy! Thank you to Diana Lord for arranging this.



Pew Top Sale

Saturday 19th January 2019

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 Partridge Piece and Gadsden Close;
- ◆ Sounds Familiar;
- ◆ The people of Nepal and Bangladesh;
- ◆ SMART, Bedford homeless.

DIARY FOR DECEMBER 2018

Day	Time	Service/Event	Venue
Saturday 1st	7.00pm	"Sounds Familiar" Christmas Concert	Cranfield Church
Sunday 2nd	8.00am 10.30am 3.30pm 5.30pm	ADVENT SUNDAY Holy Communion Advent Morning Service Early Christingle Service Evening Christingle Service	Cranfield Church Cranfield Church Cranfield Church Cranfield Church
Thursday 6th	10.30am 1pm-9pm 7.30pm 8.00pm	Bible Study (& following Thursdays) Christmas Tree set up and decoration Bellringing Practice (and every Thursday) Bellringers Christmas Dinner	The Rectory Cranfield Church Cranfield Church The Cross Keys
Friday 7th – Sunday 9th	10am-5pm	Christmas Tree Festival Weekend	Cranfield Church
Sunday 9th	9.15am 10.30am	Holy Communion (& Salford Christmas Lunch) Holy Communion	Hulcote Cranfield Church
Monday 10th	7.30pm	PCC Meeting	Church Room
Tuesday 11th	1.00pm	'Christmas Cracked' Academy Year 4	Cranfield Church
Wednesday 12th	1.10pm 1.30pm	University Carols – Whittle Building Forum Academy KS2 Christmas – for grandparents	University Cranfield Church
Thursday 13th	2pm, 6pm	Academy KS2 Christmas – for parents	Cranfield Church
Friday 14th	7.00pm	Holywell Christmas Carols	Cranfield Church
Sunday 16th	8.00am 10.30am 6.00pm	Holy Communion Family 'Nactivity' Creative Service Lessons and Carols	Cranfield Church Cranfield Church Cranfield Church
Monday 17th	9am-Noon	Academy Christmas Service	Cranfield Church
Wednesday 19th	9am-1pm 7-9pm	Holywell School Carol Services Carol Singing round Home Farm – meet at:	Cranfield Church Ivy Cottage
Thursday 20th	7-9pm	Carol Singing round Willow Green – meet by:	Fish & Chip Shop
Friday 21st	8.00pm	Home Group – Contact A. Pearson (Tel: 751358)	Ivy House
Sunday 23rd	10.30am	Morning Worship with Baptism of Violet Gore	Cranfield Church
Monday 24th	6.30pm 11.00pm	CHRISTMAS EVE Carols by Candlelight United Churches Midnight Communion	Salford Church Cranfield Church
Tuesday 25th	8.00am 9.15am 10.30am	CHRISTMAS DAY Holy Communion Christmas Communion Family Christmas Service	Cranfield Church Salford Cranfield Church
Sunday 30th	10.30am	Holy Communion (welcoming Methodists)	Cranfield Church