



St Peter & St Paul's Church, Cranfield

## NEWS & DIARY

February 2018

### Information and Contacts

#### Rector:

Rev. Hugh Symes-Thompson

Tel: 750214

revhugh.st@gmail.com

#### Reader:

Trevor Dimmock: 751321

#### Churchwardens:

Andrew Pearson

Jo Stannage

### Latest date for entries into

*Church News and Diary*

For March 2018 is

**Friday 16th February**

#### Send to:

Susan Webster

susan.anita.webster

@googlemail.com

The editors reserve the right to make alterations where necessary.

Distribution organised by Joan Rees.

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Don't forget you can follow us on Twitter:  
**@Peter\_n\_Paul**

## A New Song



Our Motto verse this year is from Psalm 98 v1:

**“Sing to the LORD a new song”.**

We naturally sing when we are happy or celebrating – often rejoicing with others. And certainly this is true in the Bible: Moses' sister Miriam sings when the people escape over the Red Sea and God delivers them from the pursuing Egyptian

army; the Psalms are the songbook of Israel as they remember the goodness of God; the angels sing when Jesus is about to be born.

Yet there is a special message here. A new song is not just freshly composed; it is one which fits together with several other new, God given, reasons for rejoicing.

In Isaiah 43 v19 God promises to do a new thing, in Jeremiah 31 v31 a new covenant, in Ezekiel 36 v26 a new heart and a new spirit. Jesus speaks of new wine, new birth and a new commandment. St Paul speaks of being a new creation and in the book of Revelation we are told that God is making all things new and introduced to a new heaven, a new earth and a new Jerusalem.

Christians are no longer tied to the old order of things which inevitably ends with disappointment, decay and death. We have been liberated by the cross of Jesus from the power and penalty of sin. We belong to the new which is made by God, guaranteed by God and can never be taken from us. There is every reason to sing of God's wonderful love and mighty deliverance. A new song bursts out from our lives and lips:

Tell out my soul the greatness of the Lord;  
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;  
Tender to me the promise of his word;  
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice!

*Hugh Symes-Thompson*

### **Circulation and Distribution**

We are in need of further volunteers to distribute this newsletter through the village. It is also time to update our circulation list as some people have moved and others perhaps receive it without knowing why!

Please can you email the editor or phone Joan Rees on 01234 750787 to say if you no longer wish to receive a hard copy of this newsletter, or you can help with distribution. We can also add or unsubscribe you to the e-version.



# Thank You!

## Christmas Card Delivery 2017

Congratulations and thank you to all who participated and contributed so generously. The Friends of the Church Christmas Post delivered the cards successfully and raised the fantastic total of £405. The money will go to SMART (formerly BeCHaR - Bedford Concern for the Homeless and Rootless).

Our 'Twelfth Night Concert' with the Manor House string quartet was much enjoyed though the attendance was disappointing. Nearly £200 was raised for church funds. We look forward to another great musical treat from Manor House Music (in the lighter evenings) and will let you know the date as soon as available.



## The Torch Trust

The aim of the Torch Trust is to enable people with sight loss to discover Christian faith and lead fulfilling Christian lives. Towards this end we provide Christian resources and activities for blind and partially sighted people worldwide. Our services

are offered to all who experience sight loss, of all faiths or none, and including those with sight loss who have other disabilities.

In the UK Torch has a staff of around 40 people. One fifth of the staff are blind or partially sighted people, as are half of the Trustees. The main office and production centre is located in Leicestershire. Torch operates a Holiday and Retreat Centre in the scenic Sussex countryside and has a staff member based in Northern Ireland. Around 1000 volunteers from across the UK contribute their time to transcription work, the running of Fellowship Groups and much else.

Torch International is based near Blantyre in Malawi, one of Africa's poorest countries. Here a team of five African staff operate a braille unit producing Bibles and other books in African languages. Around 60 Torch Fellowship Groups meet in villages across the country and through Torch's AID AFRICA programme much is done to help in practical ways more widely. For further information see [www.torchtrust.org](http://www.torchtrust.org).

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## Domestic Abuse

The Church of England is making a major effort to upgrade its clergy and key workers on various issues of Safeguarding. In part this is driven by allegations, often sadly true, but sometimes malicious or mischievous, and the fear of damages and claims on insurance.

On January 16<sup>th</sup> I attended a mandatory training morning put on by our Diocese of St Albans. About 35 of us were informed about Domestic Abuse in a thoughtful session led by a social worker, with our Diocesan Safety Adviser, Jeremy Hirst, also present.

Domestic Abuse has a wider meaning than just Domestic Violence. It would certainly include 'Battered Wives', and rape or assault within the family, however it could also mean coercive and controlling behaviour using personal criticism, financial or emotional pressure or threats to the children. Statistics show that women are more likely to be the victim. Every day approximately 30 women attempt suicide as a result of experiencing domestic abuse and every week three take their own life. Estimates suggest that 75,000 children a year witness domestic violence. In such households 50% of children are directly abused by the same person who is abusing their mother.

*Continued...*

As the clergy discussed various scenarios and what to do, it became clear that nearly all of us had encountered families where there was a controlling partner and become involved. Sometimes this was because a desperate person wanted to talk and the church was seen as 'safe' as it would not get back to the perpetrator. But many had known those who were Church members and outwardly Christian who hid their behaviour within the family.

The advice given to us was to be very careful and seek advice. It was the most dangerous time when a person tried to leave an abusive relationship. It needed to be handled with wisdom and often support from a number of social agencies. In 2013-4 there were 85 women murdered by their partner or ex-partner in England and Wales. This accounted for 46% of all murders of women aged 16 or over. By comparison just 7% of men were murdered/killed by their female partner and some of these were in self-defence.

Online bullying and surveillance is another opportunity for abusive control and manipulation to work. And it often means it is harder to end a relationship due to fear of being found and punished. The Church needs to encourage volunteers and professionals that provide safe refuge and to support teachers and schools where difficult problems often come to light. We need to be aware that we can be confused by complex situations and may understand only part of the story.

Of course, any abusive or bullying relationship is incompatible with Jesus' teaching. As Christians we need to be aware of failings in relationships and seek to put things right. We all have a desire to have things our own way, but the key is to respect the independence and choice of others also.



Call 0808 801 0327  
[www.mensadvice.org.uk](http://www.mensadvice.org.uk)

**women's aid**

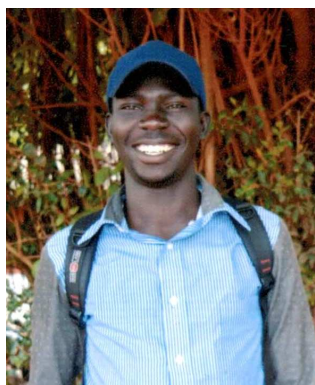
until women & children are safe

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

24-hour Freephone Helpline:

0808 2000 247

## Fred Canodonga



Fred has been our Church's 'sponsored child' in Uganda for seven years. He is now a mature and able young man. "After his finals Fred had a relatively longer school break from usual at Junior High School. With no studies to concentrate on during the school break, he was back to doing what he enjoys like football, knitting but mostly gardening. He joined his friends to plant some maize, vegetables and sweet potatoes. Since others had to go back to school earlier, Fred took full charge of the garden. The crops all grew well with his care while weeding until they were ready for harvest. The other young people enjoyed the food for some time, and all the credit was for him."

Our sponsorship is greatly appreciated and has played a major part in Fred's development. If you could help with his support please sign up for a month (£20) on the board at the back of the church. Children orphaned and abandoned due to civil war, extreme poverty, natural disaster and pandemics are the world's most vulnerable citizens. For over 65 years SOS Children's Villages has been working around the globe to give these children a family, a community and a promise of a brighter future.  
[www.soschildrensvillages.org.uk](http://www.soschildrensvillages.org.uk)

Uganda has now become the top refugee hosting country in Africa with some of the largest refugee settlements in the world as over two million flee wars in South Sudan, Somalia and the Congo. Most are women and children with 63 per cent below the age of 18. Many have witnessed violence and have no adult support.

# DIARY FOR FEBRUARY 2018

Day	Time	Service/Event	Venue
Thursday 1st	10.40am 7.30pm	Bible Study (and following Thursdays) Bellringing Practice (and every Thursday)	Rectory Cranfield Church
Friday 3rd	2pm & 6pm	Cranfield Academy iSingPOP Concerts	Cranfield Church
<b>Sunday 4th</b>	8.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion Morning Prayer with Baptism	Cranfield Church Cranfield Church
Monday 5th	10.30am	Funeral of Deborah North	Cranfield Church
Tuesday 7th	7.30pm	"Sounds Familiar" (and every Tuesday)	Baptist Church
Thursday 8th	7.30pm	Deanery Synod Meeting	St Peter's, Bedford
<b>Sunday 11th</b>	9.15am 10.30am	Holy Communion Holy Communion	Hulcote Church Cranfield Church
<i>Monday 12th – Friday 16th</i>		<b>Schools Half Term</b>	
Wednesday 14th	10.30am	<b>ASH WEDNESDAY (Lent Begins)</b> Holy Communion	Cranfield Church
Friday 16th	8.00pm	Home Group – Contact A. Pearson (Tel: 751358)	Ivy House
<b>Sunday 18th</b>	8.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion Family Service	Cranfield Church Cranfield Church
Monday 19th	7.30pm	PCC Meeting	The Rectory
<b>Sunday 25th</b>	9.15am 10.30am	Holy Communion Holy Communion	Salford Church Cranfield Church
<b>MARCH</b>			
<b>Sunday 4th</b>	8.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion Morning Service with Baptisms	Cranfield Church Cranfield Church
Saturday 10th	10am-Noon	Pew Top Sale	Cranfield Church

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

## Pew Top Sale

**Saturday 10th March 2018**

**10.00am – 12.00 noon**

**Cranfield Parish Church**

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

## PRAYERS FOR FEBRUARY

This month, please pray for:

- ◆ The people of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia;
- ◆ The Torch Trust;
- ◆ The British Legion & armed forces;
- ◆ The residents of Ailwyn's Acre and Lodge Road.