



St Peter & St Paul's Church, Cranfield

NEWS & DIARY

February 2019

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Latest date for entries into

Church News and Diary

For March 2019 is

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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

When you pray I will answer you



Our motto text for 2019 (Isaiah 58v9) is a reminder that we need to keep close to God as we journey through the ever changing circumstances of life. To forget him is often to lose direction, motivation and hope in situations which may be challenging, where our own wisdom and resources are clearly insufficient. But to bring God into the situation can be transformative. Christians have confidence that he is willing and able to help. He has shown his love to us most marvellously in the coming of Jesus and his power to transform shines from the pages of the New Testament.

As a Parish, my approaching retirement in the summer will clearly be a time of change. Decisions will have to be made

and various responsibilities taken on during the vacancy. How vital that we remember that God is faithful, keeps his promises and delights to answer prayer. We are not on our own but have him to encourage us whatever may arise.

As individuals we also travel through different stages and challenges in life, whether it be in health, relationships, employment or bereavement. Again, whatever our own emotional landscape, how important it is to remember that we are not alone. We have a God who walks with us, enabling us both to appreciate beauty and to endure loneliness or suffering. Answers to prayer may be material, yet they are most often in opening new avenues of opportunity, new ways of understanding and interacting – freeing us from prisons of our own limited outlook.

But this wonderful positive motto: “When you pray I will answer you, when you call to me I will respond”, does not give us a blank slate for selfish expectation in the heavenly supermarket. In context it comes with the background of believers who are determined to help the poor and needy amongst whom they live. When our love for God is shown by love of our neighbour – then God is indeed ready to open the windows of heaven in blessing. As Jesus put it:

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness,
And all these things shall be given unto you . . . Alleluia, alleluia!

Hugh Symes-Thompson

Christmas Card Delivery 2018

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 £378. The money will go to SMART, to provide homeless services from the Prebend Day centre such as toiletries, breakfast etc.

Fred Canodonga

Fred has been our Church's 'sponsored child' in Gulu, Uganda for 8 years. He is now a mature and able young man.



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. For more information see 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 most below the age of 18. Many have witnessed violence and have no adult support. SOS Villages are now engaged in a strategic review of how best to operate within the new national framework for care.

Safeguarding

Firstly, I would like to thank Jo Stannage as our retiring Parish Safeguarding and Recruiting Officer for the great job she has done in keeping us up to date with Diocesan procedures. This has not been an easy task and with her growing commitment as Church Warden she decided help was needed. As such, I agreed to take over from her and the PCC have now officially appointed me as the church Safeguarding and Recruitment Officer for St Peter and St Paul along with Hulcote and Salford.

I am in the process of getting my head around the processes and policies involved in keeping us a safe church and I cannot stress enough our need to be vigilant in the care and protection of our church family and beyond.

Working closely with Rev Hugh, the welfare of any person who feels vulnerable, child or adult, is paramount and as such both I or he can be contacted on either 751321 for myself or 750214 for Hugh, should any issue arise.

Anne Dimmock

Circulation and Distribution

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

Please can you email Jo Stannage or phone on 01234-752116 to say if you no longer wish to receive a hard copy of this newsletter. Equally, we are able to add or unsubscribe you to the e-version.

Pilgrims to Holy Land

The Rector will be leading a group of 26 to the Holy Land at the end of February. Of these, fourteen are from Cranfield, eight from Great Maplestead in Essex and four from Harlow where Hugh was once a curate. The trip has been organised through the travel company McCabe Pilgrimages and we hope to visit most of the well-known sites such as Bethlehem, Nazareth, Galilee, and Jerusalem. As well as walking the land where Jesus lived, our hope is to see how it looks today and hear the voices of those who live there. And of course, we may learn a great deal from and about those who are part of our group!



“We are pilgrims on a journey,
and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.”

Next Archdeacon of Bedford

The next Archdeacon of Bedford is to be the Revd Canon Dave Middlebrook, currently Vicar of the thriving St Luke’s Church, Watford. He will be one of three archdeacons in the 1100 square miles of the Diocese of St Albans. Their role is popularly and historically described as being ‘the eyes and ears of the bishop’.

Dave has ministered in St Albans Diocese since his ordination in 1998, serving also in Chorleywood and Adayfield (Hemel Hempstead). His new role will involve contact with the hundred or so parishes of Bedfordshire, including those in Luton. The urban, suburban and rural communities of the area are ethnically and religiously diverse. He will live in Luton with his wife of 31 years, Anne, and daughter Katie and will, diary permitting, become a familiar sight on a local Parkrun, which he currently enjoys in Watford.



Dave and Anne Middlebrook

Dave is no stranger to Bedfordshire, having studied at Cranfield Institute of Technology and worked in Bedford for National Freight, as it was then known. With that experience and his love of walking, Dave is confident that he will soon get to know Bedfordshire and Luton. He is already thinking about a walking tour of parishes one summer, spending time between churches as well as in them, where people can get to know him as they share the walk.

Dave’s Master’s Degree from Cranfield was in Distribution Technology and Management, which he feels will set him in good stead at a time of change in the church and nation: “We must accept and enjoy what is good in our traditions and be ready to look at new ways of being church and new ways of reaching people.” Speaking about his appointment, Dave added: “I am very excited to be taking on this challenging role. I look forward to working with Bishop Richard, the many committed and devoted people among the clergy and congregations of Bedfordshire, and getting to know the area and people.”

Dave will be welcomed and licensed at a service on Saturday 30th March at 4pm in St Mary’s, Woburn.

DIARY FOR FEBRUARY 2019

Day	Time	Service/Event	Venue
Friday 1st	8.00pm	Home Group – Contact A. Pearson (Tel: 751358)	59 Springfield Way
Sunday 3rd	8.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion Morning Prayer with Baptism (Amber Nanton)	Cranfield Church Cranfield Church
Tuesday 5th	7.30pm	“Sounds Familiar” (and every Tuesday)	Baptist Church
Thursday 7th	10.40am 7.30pm	Bible Study (& following Thursdays) Bellringing Practice (and every Thursday)	The Rectory Cranfield Church
Sunday 10th	9.15am 10.30am	Holy Communion Holy Communion	Hulcote Church Cranfield Church
Monday 11th – Friday 15th		Schools Half Term	
Sunday 17th	8.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion Family Service	Cranfield Church Cranfield Church
Monday 18th	7.30pm	PCC Meeting	The Rectory
Thursday 21st	7.30pm	Deanery Synod	St Paul’s, Bedford
Friday 22nd	8.00pm	Home Group – Contact A. Pearson (Tel: 751358)	7 East Hills
Sunday 24th	9.15am 10.30am	Holy Communion Holy Communion	Salford Church Cranfield Church
Monday 25th – Wednesday 6th March	11.45am 18.45	Pilgrimage to the Holy Land Led by Hugh & Liz (McCabe Travel)	Luton Easyjet
MARCH			
Sunday 3rd	8.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion Morning Service	Cranfield Church Cranfield Church
Wednesday 6th		ASH WEDNESDAY Lent Begins	

MOTTO 2019 “ When you pray I will answer you ” Isaiah 58 v9

PRAYERS FOR FEBRUARY

This month, please pray for:

- ◆ The residents of Graces Close and Little Spinney;
- ◆ The Police, Fire and Ambulance services;
- ◆ SOS Villages & Fred Canodonga;
- ◆ Chinese Christians.