



St Peter & St Paul's Church, Cranfield

NEWS & DIARY

March 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 April 2018 is

Friday 16th March

Send to:

Susan Webster

susan.anita.webster

@googlemail.com

The editors reserve the right to make alterations where necessary.

Distribution organised by Joan Rees.

If you would like to receive an email colour copy of this newsletter either as a backup or replacement to your ordinary printed version please email one of the addresses above.

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



Don't forget you can follow us on Twitter:
@Peter_n_Paul

The Separation Wall



This Watchtower, at the edge of Bethlehem, is part of the high dividing wall that surrounds the Palestinian territory. It was manned by Israeli soldiers who, while we were there, fired tear gas to discourage disaffected youths from throwing stones and firing marbles from catapults. The Israelis would explain it as necessary for the protection of their citizens, while those within would see it as a means of oppression.

On the wall is painted a Banksy cartoon image: President Trump kissing the wall, promising 'I will build you a bigger brother!' in reference to his proposed wall along the USA/Mexican border.

Of course we know of numerous walls from our history, ranging from Hadrian's Wall and the Great Wall of China, to the Berlin Wall. We cannot forget the Irish Border, the Iron Curtain, nor the invisible wall of apartheid in South Africa. Perhaps the sadness that all these dividing walls should have been necessary is matched by hope as all have eventually failed or fallen.

But the greatest wall of separation is not a physical one, nor any divide of class, culture, capitalism, religion or race. Rather it is the spiritual barrier that clouds and cuts off our relationship with God. The Bible explains that all humans, though made in the image of God, have fallen short of his glory and standards. How can we ever approach a perfect and Holy God?

In Jesus we find the example of a perfect human life. He lived to serve others and loved his heavenly Father wholeheartedly. But wonderfully it is his death on the cross that broke apart the barrier of sin and opened the way for us to know God. The separation wall that divided us from our heavenly Father has been breached. The curtain of the Temple was torn in two. We can have peace with God. This is the Good News.

Let us listen carefully to the message of Lent and Holy Week. May we not be those that build walls to separate – but rather bridges to bring people together.

Hugh Symes-Thompson

The Tower Captain Reports:



Recently there have been two notable changes for the Bellringers. The first, which you can see by looking through into the ringing chamber as the picture shows, is the introduction of a Bell Rope Heater.

Some time ago when Jim Ewen was tower captain, building a Rope Dryer was discussed. So when Alex Fishburn – Steeplekeeper, St John, Sidcup – said he would make one for us here at Cranfield, present tower captain Chris Hartley jumped at the chance.

The heater consists of a plastic drain pipe, into which the bell ropes are lowered. Inside, a 24 watt bulb provides sufficient heat to warm the ropes. A 24/7 timer switch turns it on before Sunday and Thursday ringing and for a short time on the other days. The base can be turned over and used as a box for shorter ringers to stand on.

Why is it needed? The Church is very damp and as a consequence the ropes swell up and become very stiff, sometime so stiff that they hardly bend at all, making control of the rope very difficult when ringing.

The second change is organisational. After 50 years the Cranfield Tower has moved back to the Bedford District of the Bedfordshire Association of Church Bell Ringers (BACBR).

In 1967, St Peter and St Paul's Church, Cranfield was moved from the Bedford District of the BACBR to the Luton District in a failed attempt to balance numbers. Ever since then, visitors to the Tower have expressed surprise that we are in the Luton District and there have been several failed attempts to move us back. As there was nothing in the Association Governance to specify where a tower should be or how to change districts, Chris Hartley informed them that unless they had any legal reason why we could not change, we would now pay our subscriptions to the Bedford district. He received the following message after their General Committee meeting from their Secretary:

"I am pleased to tell you that at the General Committee meeting this morning there were no objections and, indeed, there was a very positive reaction to support your request to change Cranfield tower from Luton District to the Bedford District affiliation."

Rector's Day Off

Hugh normally has Friday as his day off, though he sometimes makes exceptions to take a wedding planned in advance. For this reason, Trevor Dimmock kindly aims to take funerals requested on Fridays, though of course these need to be agreed through funeral directors.

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*

Mothering Sunday

11th March 2018 10.30am



Our Mothering Sunday service will include crafts, activities and fun for children and families – making posies, goodies, cards and other Mother's Day treats. And, of course, there will be refreshments too. Come along and enjoy the morning at the Parish Church where the action begins at 10.30am on Sunday 11th March. All are welcome!

Looking Ahead to Easter Services

Maundy Thursday (29th March) Communion Service at 6.00pm at Cranfield Methodist Church. Afterwards all who can stay are invited to Supper. They are planning to serve a simple meal as in previous years. If you plan to come, please sign up on the list in church or let Jan (751085) or Hayley (751336) know by Sunday, 25th March at the latest so they can cater for everybody. If there are any dietary problems, please can you also let them know by the same date.

On **Good Friday** morning at 10.30am we will have a service of Reflection in Church followed by hot cross buns at the Rectory.

On **Easter Sunday**, 1st April, our 10.30am Family Communion will be followed by our traditional Easter Egg hunt for the children.



iSingPOP Concerts are a real hit!

On Friday 2nd February the children from Cranfield Academy put on two wonderful concerts here in Church. They had been learning the songs and movement for just this one week and delighted a full church with a wonderful show. iSingPOP is a primary school music project that brings together school, church and community. The initiative came from the school and had the support of our church PCC. Particular thanks to Trevor Dimmock and Jo Stannage who helped at the evening concert.

PRAYERS FOR MARCH

This month, please pray for:

- ◆ The residents of Folly Farm and Willow Springs;
- ◆ Doctors, Surgery and Nurses;
- ◆ Evangelism and outreach;
- ◆ The people of Georgia and Ukraine.

Church Electoral Roll Revision

Being on the Church Electoral Roll signals your commitment, as part of the church family, to support your church. It enables you to vote at the AGM and stand for election to the PCC. If you are not on the roll and would like to be please fill in the revision form and return it by Monday 26th March. They will be available in church. The Roll will be displayed for a fortnight prior to our AGM on Sunday 29th April.

DIARY FOR MARCH 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
Sunday 4th	8.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion Morning Prayer with Baptisms	Cranfield Church Cranfield Church
Tuesday 6th	7.30pm	“Sounds Familiar” (and every Tuesday)	Baptist Church
Saturday 10th	10am-Noon	Pew Top Sale	Cranfield Church
Sunday 11th	9.15am 10.30am	Holy Communion Mothering Sunday All Age Activity Service	Hulcote Church Cranfield Church
Friday 16th	8.00pm	Home Group – Contact A. Pearson (Tel: 751358)	59 Springfield Way
Saturday 17th	10am-Noon	Church Working Party	Cranfield Church
Sunday 18th	8.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion Holy Communion	Cranfield Church Cranfield Church
Monday 19th	1.30pm-3pm 7.30pm	‘Easter Cracked’ for Year 4 Academy PCC Meeting	Cranfield Church The Rectory
Sunday 25th <i>Clocks change</i>	9.15am 10.30am	PALM SUNDAY Holy Communion Holy Communion	Salford Church Cranfield Church
Wednesday 28th		School Terms End	
Thursday 29th	6.30pm	MAUNDY THURSDAY Communion followed by Supper	Methodist Church
Friday 30th	10.30am	GOOD FRIDAY Service of Reflection Followed by Hot Cross Buns	Cranfield Church The Rectory
APRIL			
Sunday 1st	8.00am 9.15am 10.30am	EASTER SUNDAY Holy Communion Holy Communion (BCP) Easter Family Communion <i>Followed by Children’s Easter Egg Hunt</i>	Cranfield Church Salford Church Cranfield Church
Sunday 29th	12 Noon	Annual General Meeting	Cranfield Church