



St Peter & St Paul's Church, Cranfield

## NEWS & DIARY

March 2019

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### Latest date for entries into

*Church News and Diary*

For April 2019 is

**Friday 15th March**

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The editors reserve the right to make alterations where necessary.

Distribution organised by Jo Stannage.

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

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

## Brexodus?



We are rapidly approaching the date when the UK is due to leave the European Union. Big decisions need to be made by March 29th: Will it be Deal, No Deal or Delay?

Huge consequences for the future of our country are at stake, so it is no surprise that party political temperatures are rising.

Some might see the Exodus story, when the people of Israel left Egypt, as something equivalent. There was a lot of chaos and fear. There was uncertainty about the future. There was grumbling and questioning of the leadership of Moses. Clearly, for them, escaping meant freedom as they were in slavery, but it still meant leaving a lot of things behind.

In the Old Testament Story there was a clear call of God, with strong guidance through plagues and miracles. But for Brexit everyone has their own opinion and it is mostly based on economic outlook. It is a people's decision (and the referendum was fairly close!) with no obvious lead or sign from God. Some see Brexit as an escape from foreign control, others have bright hope for a future outside the EU. Yet there are many who see departing as a failure of responsibility and rejection of good relationships – likely to lead to disappointment. Is it all more an example of the Genesis story of the Tower of Babel? That project collapsed with people spread across the face of the earth unable to co-operate. They had planned without God and without God they were diminished, scattered and got nowhere.

What will it mean for transport and freight? What will it mean for science? What will it mean for farming and fishing? While the different sectors each try and assess how we may be affected, there seems no simple Christian diagnosis. Will we be split further away from the churches in Europe? Will it help the spread of the Gospel? No one knows. Presumably God does – as St Paul observes in Acts 17 v26: 'God created all races of mankind and made them live throughout the whole earth. He fixed the times and places where they would live. He did this so that they would look for him and perhaps find him – for God is not far from any one of us'.

In all the changing circumstances of life it is wonderful to know that our Heavenly Father is looking out to welcome his prodigal children. Here and now we may face uncertainty, but the life of the Kingdom of God is like a seed growing. Christians are to grow in that life and show Christ's love whatever happens.

*Hugh Symes-Thompson*

## Peter Jones

We give thanks for Peter's Christian faith and rejoice in the hope of heaven. His funeral is to be held at 2.30pm on Friday 1st March in Cranfield Church.

Peter worked at Cranfield University until retirement. He served on the PCC, produced the church Pews News and for many years helped with the sound system. Another interest was writing Christian poetry. He was always keen to promote church unity and often attended the Methodist church. For the past couple of years he has been in Orchid Lawns Care Home. His wife Leila, and daughter Melissa with James, will be in our prayers.



## Pew Top Sale

**Saturday 16th March 2019**

**10.00am – 12.00 noon**

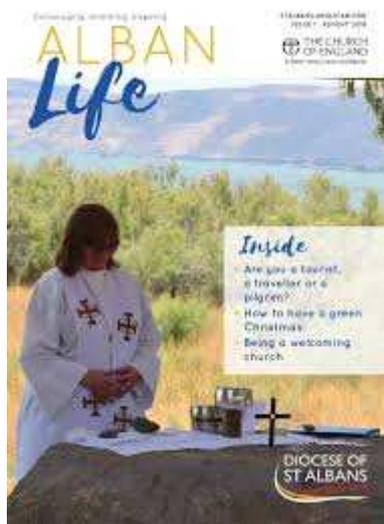
**Cranfield Parish Church**

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

## PRAYERS FOR MARCH

This month, please pray for:

- ◆ The residents of Bedford Road and Thrift View;
- ◆ The staff and pupils of Holywell School;
- ◆ The elderly and their carers;
- ◆ The people of Thailand.



## Alban Life

Named after our founding saint, St Alban, Alban Life is a new quarterly printed magazine for the people of St Albans Diocese. Published at Advent, Lent, Pentecost and Harvest, each edition gives you 28 pages of encouraging, informing and inspiring stories about current issues and themes relevant to the life of people and churches in St Albans Diocese. Please pick up a free copy of the Lent edition from our book table in Church.

## 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.

## *A Prayer for Lent*

Almighty God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days  
in the wilderness,  
and was tempted as we are, yet without  
sin:  
give us grace to discipline ourselves in  
obedience to your Spirit;  
and, as you know our weakness,  
so may we know your power to save;  
through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord,  
Amen



## New Church Electoral Roll



This year our parish must prepare a new Electoral Roll, as all parishes in the Church of England must do every six years. Sheila Ewen has been appointed as our new Electoral Roll Officer and will be contacting all those on the current roll. Even if you are on the current Church Roll, you will need to complete a new application form if you wish to continue supporting the mission and work of the parish as a member of the Church Family. Having your name on the Church Roll enables you to vote at the AGM, stand for election to the PCC - and it even qualifies non-residents to be married at this church! It is our 'membership list' which will be revised annually for the next five years. If you have not joined previously, this may be a good time to consider doing so as this year there will be changes for our Church, with the forthcoming vacancy following the planned retirement of the Rector this summer. This is an opportunity for you to have your say at the AGM. Application forms will be available from the beginning of March in church. The forms must be returned, signed, to Sheila by 17th March. The names on the new Roll will be posted in the Church a fortnight prior to our AGM on 7th April.

## Prebend Centre, Bedford

Our Christmas Card delivery, organised by the Friends of the Church, raised £378 towards the work of SMART at the Prebend Centre. We have just received their thanks and a report on what they have done from Jen Robus, Acting Outreach Manager:

### Top 5 areas we offer support for:

1. Rough sleeping
2. Financial / budgeting
3. Drug and Alcohol problems
4. Undiagnosed mental health issues
5. Diagnosed mental health issues

**There has been a lot happening at the centre since our last update; the team have been extremely busy. With the help of our staff and volunteers, and your generous donations we have helped hundreds of vulnerable, homeless people.**

### In December alone we:

- Provided comfort and care for **200 visitors**, who accessed the service **over 1500 times**.
- Served **775 breakfasts** and **1100 hot lunches**.
- Provided **Christmas dinner for 60** people who received **Christmas parcels** containing hats, gloves, toiletries, biscuits and chocolates.

**The Winter Night Beds**, our emergency winter night provision for the homeless and rough sleepers of Bedford is going really well. The project, which went live on 1st November has **20 beds available** every night of the week and is funded until 31st March 2019. Based on the last official count (31st January 2018) more than **50% of rough sleepers in Bedford have accessed the winter night beds for emergency shelter**.

**Rough sleepers in Bedford have decreased by 33% between Autumn 2017 to Autumn 2018. Bedford has achieved the 8th biggest reduction in rough sleeping across the country and has moved out of the top 10 for highest number of rough sleepers for the first time in over 5 years.**

**Our first annual Dinner Dance** took place on 2nd November and was a very well attended event, which **raised over £7000** towards ongoing centre costs, while raising awareness of our work.

**Together we grow** (our gardening project) has been out and about brightening some of our local community's spaces with some beautiful winter flowers, developing service user's skills, increasing social interaction and getting people involved in different activities.

# DIARY FOR MARCH 2019

Day	Time	Service/Event	Venue
Friday 1st	2.30pm	Funeral of Peter Jones	Cranfield Church
<b>Sunday 3rd</b>	10.30am	<i>No 8.00am Holy Communion</i> Morning Service	Cranfield Church
Tuesday 5th	7.30pm	“Sounds Familiar” (and every Tuesday)	Baptist Church
Wednesday 6th		<b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> <b>Lent Begins</b>	
Thursday 7th	7.30pm	Bellringing Practice (and every Thursday)	Cranfield Church
<b>Sunday 10th</b>	9.15am 10.30am	Holy Communion Holy Communion	Hulcote Church Cranfield Church
Thursday 14th	10.40am 7.30pm	Bible Study (& following Thursdays) Bellringing Practice (and every Thursday)	The Rectory Cranfield Church
Saturday 16th	10am-Noon	Pew Top Sale	Cranfield Church
<b>Sunday 17th</b>	8.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion Morning Service with Baptism	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)	Ivy House
Saturday 23rd	10am-Noon	Church Working Party	Cranfield Church
<b>Sunday 24th</b>	9.15am 10.30am	Holy Communion Holy Communion	Salford Church Cranfield Church
Saturday 30th	4.00pm	Licensing of new Archdeacon of Bedford	St Mary’s, Woburn
<b>Sunday 31st</b>	8.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion <b>Mothering Sunday Service</b>	Cranfield Church Cranfield Church
<b>APRIL</b>			
<b>Sunday 7th</b>	12 noon	Annual General Meeting	Cranfield Church
<b>Sunday 21st</b>		<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>	

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