



St Peter & St Paul's Church, Cranfield

NEWS & DIARY

May 2018

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Latest date for entries into

Church News and Diary

For June 2018 is

Monday 14th May

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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

Fruitful?



produce grapes year after year, though some years are clearly better than others for reasons that escape me. Not that I do anything to it other than the occasional accidental trim!

In John's Gospel chapter 15 Jesus explains: "I am the true vine and my Father is the gardener". The vine is an Old Testament symbol of Israel. There, however, in every image it is growing wild or failing to produce fruit. Despite God's care and cultivation, his people remain unfruitful. But here in the New Testament Jesus is at the heart of a picture transformed – the vine flourishing, the branches set to bear much fruit.

In order to grow properly a vine needs careful pruning at the right time of year, cutting out the unnecessary and unfruitful branches to conserve its growth and energy. And when everything is right with water, soil and sunshine then it can produce abundant and magnificent grapes. From our Rectory vine one kind parishioner harvested the grapes and produced 17 bottles of wine! Jesus said: "I am the vine and you are the branches" – unless we remain properly attached to him we will bear no fruit. This close relationship with Jesus means listening to God's spirit and an eagerness to do what he asks. It is certainly prayerful and involves being close to God's will, His word in the Bible and His people as they gather.

The sort of fruit that God looks for in us is first of all 'the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.' And our witness to Christ should also make a difference. The story of 'fruitful Philip' in Acts 8v26-40 is inspirational. And after he baptised the Ethiopian official, Phillip ended up in Caesarea where he had four daughters who prophesied!

When we gather for communion and taste the wine, we remember we are linked to the True Vine and are called like him to witness God's life to the world.

Jesus said: "By this is my Father glorified – if you bear much fruit".

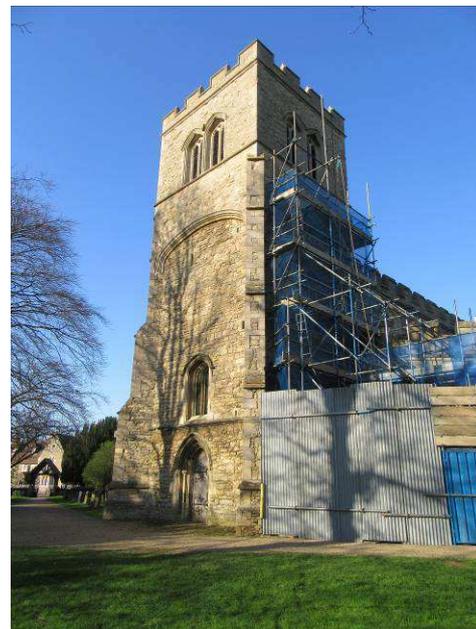
Hugh Symes-Thompson

My knowledge of viticulture is extremely limited. I certainly should know more as there is a vine in the Rectory garden that continues to grow and

AGM Report 2018

Our 2018 Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday 29th April after the morning service. With just the two completed nominations for churchwarden, the Rector happily declared Jo Stannage and Andrew Pearson re-elected. The Minutes of the previous AGM were accepted and the updated Electoral Roll now stands at 77.

Treasurer, Trevor Dimmock noted, with thanks, that our income overall has increased by about 10%. He attributed this in some measure to the 'Parish Giving Scheme' which the PCC introduced last year. He warmly recommended it for reducing administrative workload as well as improving cash flow and enabling Gift Aid to be reclaimed more swiftly. However, we are still not near to paying the full amount of the Parish Share requested – and the Bishop is 'frowning' upon those parishes with regular shortfalls (i.e. it might affect future staffing levels). The Fabric fund, supplemented by £10,000 from the Friends of the Church, will soon be drawn on to pay for the masonry repairs to the tower and walls which is now in progress. Steve Frost kindly 'examined' the accounts before us and indeed printed them for our benefit. It was agreed to ask him to be our examiner for next year. The Accounts were approved and Trevor was thanked for his hard work.



Andrew Pearson reported on the Fabric of the church. Though the south aisle and tower are now covered in scaffolding, the church building had no repairs of any substance in 2017. There have been some minor repairs (toilet lock and light outside etc.), but nothing of consequence. The Inventory was signed as correct.

Diana Lord was elected to our vacant position as a Deanery Synod Member, joining Sheila Ewen in this capacity. Nominations for PCC were: Wendy Norris, Jean Hood, Peter Sharman and Jean Sampson. Hugh declared them elected, noting that we had further places yet to fill.

Many of the reports on church activities are now included as part of the annual report. However, Wendy Norris also gave a short summary of the 'Friends of the Church' fundraising, explaining that £3,000 of the £10,000 being given by the Friends towards the present masonry work came from the Co-op Community Fund. A further donation of £1,000 channelled through them will guard against birds becoming trapped inside the belltower louvres. The Rector had produced a Schools report. It highlighted the recent Ofsted inspection at Holywell 'GOOD' and the appointment of Mr Joe Piatczany as Headmaster of Cranfield Academy to succeed Mrs Joanna Farbon. Both schools have visited the church for excellent Easter and Christmas services.

Under Chairman's remarks the Rector first commented on the scaffolding now in place – these major works are only possible because of the skill and hard work put in by PCC and the support of parishioners. He mentioned how his pilgrimage trip to Israel in January with Liz had been so wonderful that he was now aiming to lead a similar one for parishioners at the end of February 2019. Hugh thanked Jo Stannage and Andrew Pearson for all they did as churchwardens. He was grateful to Jean Hood for taking over the role of PCC secretary. There were many others who also played an important part in the life of our church family: thanks are due to all who clean the church, arrange flowers, play music, raise funds, ring bells, give time as school governors, produce our newsletter and contribute in so many ways.

The meeting closed with the Grace.

Joint Churches Pentecost Open Air Celebration



At 10.30am on Sunday 20th May there will be a Pentecost outdoor service on the green in Court Road.

As in previous years we hope to have contributions from our Methodist, Baptist and Church of England churches - with all other local Christians warmly welcomed. Do bring a picnic chair or rug, a hat in case of sunshine - and invite your friends. If it rains we will move into St Peter & St Pauls for shelter and refreshments!

Spirit of holiness, wisdom and faithfulness,
Wind of the Lord, blowing strongly and free:
strength of our serving
and joy of our worshipping
Spirit of God, bring your fullness to me!

A Celebration of Love and Marriage

with the

Manor House String Quartet

Saturday 19th May
at 7:30pm

St Peter & St Paul's Church,
Court Road



Tickets £10:00 ♦ £5.00 students

☎ **Andrew 01234 751358**

☎ **Rev Hugh 01234 750214**

☎ **Trevor 01234 751321**



Queen Heads Up For Cranfield High Street

We are marking the Royal Wedding on 19th May with two special events. In the evening there will be a concert in church with a wedding appropriate repertoire (see advert left).

During the day, between 10am and 1pm, we will be organising a "Mile of Coins" along the High Street from the Co-op to Budgens.

Please empty your pockets and look down the back of your sofa for your loose change and come along to the High Street to place your coins - **QUEEN'S HEAD UP** - along the pavement. Let's see how far we can stretch the line, and at the same time raise some much-needed funds for the Parish Church.

Then come and celebrate with us by toasting the royal couple with a traditional cup of tea in Church.

There will be a prize of £20 if you can guess the exact amount raised on the day. Email ttdimmock@btinternet.com with your estimate.

DIARY FOR MAY 2018

Day	Time	Service/Event	Venue
Tuesday 1st	7.30pm	"Sounds Familiar" (and every Tuesday)	Baptist Church
Thursday 3rd	10.40am 7.30pm	Bible Study (and following Thursdays) Bellringing Practice (and every Thursday)	Rectory Cranfield Church
Saturday 5th	10am-Noon	Pew Top Sale and Coffee Morning	Cranfield Church
Sunday 6th	8.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion Main Morning Service with Baptism	Cranfield Church Cranfield Church
Tuesday 8th	2.00pm	Funeral of Marguerite Rust	Cranfield Church
Thursday 10th		Ascension Day – <i>'Thy Kingdom Come'</i>	Prayer
Sunday 13th	9.15am 10.30am	Holy Communion (with PCC commissioning) Holy Communion (with PCC commissioning)	Hulcote Church Cranfield Church
Friday 18th	8.00pm	Home Group – Contact A. Pearson (Tel: 751358)	1 Walk House Close
Saturday 19th	7.30pm	'Royal Wedding Concert' – Manor House Music	Cranfield Church
Sunday 20th	8.00am 10.30am	PENTECOST Holy Communion Joint Churches 'Open Air' Worship Service	Cranfield Church Church Green
Monday 21st	9.30-11.30am 7.30pm	Chestnuts School Year 3 visit PCC Meeting with informal Holy Communion	Cranfield Church Cranfield Church
Sunday 27th	9.15am 10.30am	Holy Communion Holy Communion	Salford Church Cranfield Church
Monday 28th		Bank Holiday – <i>Schools Half Term</i>	
Thursday 31st	1.00pm	Wedding of Daniel Clark & Christina Williams	Cranfield Church
JUNE			
Sunday 3rd	8.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion Morning Service	Cranfield Church Cranfield Church

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

PRAYERS FOR MAY

This month, please pray for:

- ◆ The residents of the High Street and Townsend Close;
- ◆ Our Royal Family;
- ◆ CARE (Christian Action Research & Education);
- ◆ The people of Romania, Serbia and Bulgaria.

Pew Top Sale

Saturday 5th May 2018

10.00am – 12.00 noon

Cranfield Parish Church

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