



St Peter & St Paul's Church, Cranfield

## NEWS & DIARY

October 2017

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### Latest date for entries into

*Church News and Diary*

For November 2017 is

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## The Reformation 500

On October 31st, five hundred years ago, Martin Luther published his '95 Theses' on the issue of church indulgences and (perhaps) fixed them to the church door in Wittenburg, Germany. The theses were prompted by the dubious practice of selling 'time-off-purgatory' passes to raise money for the building of St Peter's Basilica in Rome. Luther was arguing that ultimate

authority lay with Scripture and not the Pope, and that salvation could only be granted through God's grace, not earned through good works. This struck at the heart of late medieval belief and behaviour – controlled by the all-powerful Roman Church – and returned to the simple gospel of the New Testament.

The timing was perfect, as many European nations were unhappy with their church being run from Rome. The printing press enabled the ideas to spread rapidly through the emergent, increasingly literate middle classes. Others before Luther had questioned the Roman Church's doctrines and tried to move it back to a more Biblical position, but God used Luther to undermine the whole edifice. And Luther – stubborn, charismatic and brilliant – was the perfect lightning-rod. 'Faith alone' challenged the whole sacramental system and mediatory role of the priesthood. 'Scripture alone' questioned the role of the Pope, the veneration of Mary and the Saints, the celibacy of the clergy, the existence of purgatory and so on. His ideas were unacceptable to the Roman Church. His excommunication became inevitable.

Other theologians developed and sometimes challenged Luther's ideas and, though there were disagreements on several issues, there was unity around the essence of what became known as the 'Protestant' faith: Salvation by faith alone, by grace alone, from scripture alone – giving glory to God alone.

Although Henry VIII of England had been given the title 'Defender of the Faith' by the Pope for his enthusiastic condemnation of Luther, his own break with Rome (due to failed divorce proceedings) opened the door for change in the new Church of England. In 1547, when Henry died and his nine year old son Edward came to the throne, the ideas of the European Reformation were embraced under Archbishop Thomas Cranmer. In 2017, as we remember the legacy of Martin Luther, we can pray that the Church of England today remains rooted in these foundational biblical truths: **Sola scriptura, sola fide, sola gratia, soli Deo Gloria.**

*Hugh Symes-Thompson (with thanks to Clare Heath-Whyte, writing in 'Crossway')*



# Harvest Service

It was good to praise God for our wonderful world and all that nature provides at our Family Harvest Service on Sunday 17th September. Our flower arrangers did us proud in decorating the church. We raised funds towards this year's Bishop of St Alban's Harvest Appeal 2017, supporting the development of community projects which transform the lives of people in remote rural villages of the Philippines.



In the Tinglayan mountain district they have discovered their soil is perfect for growing high quality beans. A generous harvest of beans enables a family to eat well, with more to sell at market. Consequently, family life can improve significantly; they are able to buy basic household items such as salt, sugar and soap. Their children can also have the required educational resources. They look forward to a much brighter future.

## Student Welcome



We warmly welcome all students arriving here at Cranfield in 2017. There are opportunities to meet other Christians on campus through the Christian Union and a place to pray and worship at the Chapel (Building33). There are a variety of churches and fellowships which seek to work together where practicable, co-ordinated by the Christian Union. Here at St Peter and St Paul's, Cranfield (Church of England), students are most welcome at our 10.30am Sunday morning services, followed by tea/coffee. On the first Sunday in November we hold our University Service 2017 when our prayers and worship are especially focused on the students, staff and families of the University. All are most welcome.

## Loved Ones Remembered

On Sunday 29th October (All Souls) we will be taking time to think of all those family members who have passed away. During the 10.30am morning service we will read aloud the names of all those for whom a funeral service has been conducted by this parish over the past year. Their families will be invited and there will be time for reflection, prayers for those who are missing loved ones and the opportunity afterwards for refreshments and conversation. If any others would like to come along and have the name of their loved one(s) read out we would warmly welcome you, whether there is an immediate connection with this church or not. For planning purposes, it would be most helpful if you could let the Rector know if you are thinking of coming and the name of the person dear to you. Do bear in mind there is an extra hour to spare due to the clocks changing from summer time - and even if you decide late you are most welcome. Please respond by email to [revhugh.st@gmail.com](mailto:revhugh.st@gmail.com) or to Liz Symes-Thompson at the Rectory on 01234 750214.

### PRAYERS FOR OCTOBER

This month, please pray for:

- ◆ The residents of Court Road and East Hills;
- ◆ The Police, Fire and Ambulance services;
- ◆ The people of Germany and Austria;
- ◆ The elderly and their carers.

## Parish Giving Scheme

You may have seen an article in the Cranfield Express explaining how the ministry of this parish is supported principally through personal donations. While we are most grateful to any who may contribute for historic or community reasons, it is clear that it is those with church connections and personal Christian faith whom we must most rely on. In recent years, though we have done well in restoring our ancient building, we have been failing to raise the full amount required for running and ministry costs. This autumn we will therefore be launching a stewardship campaign encouraging existing members to review their regular giving and hopefully to increase the number of givers. As well as devoting two Sundays to preaching about Christian Giving and explaining our situation here at St Peter & St Paul's, we will provide information about the Parish Giving Scheme: this is the tax-efficient way of giving to support the local church that is now recommended by St Albans Diocese. The PCC have agreed to promote it here at Cranfield because it enables individuals to pledge a regular sum, gift aided if possible, so that for every £1 donated we can claim 25p from the government. It allows our treasurer to claim back the tax promptly while reducing the workload. We plan to give all our regular supporters the information and the opportunity to consider it. For more information visit the website: [www.stalbans.anglican.org/ministry/parish-giving-scheme](http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/ministry/parish-giving-scheme).



## Pew Top Sale

**Saturday 7th October 2017**

**10.00am – 12.00 noon**

**Cranfield Parish Church**

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

## St Francis of Assisi - October 4th

All creatures of our God and King  
Lift up your voice and with us sing,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Thou burning sun with golden beam,  
Thou silver moon with softer gleam!

O praise Him! O praise Him!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless,  
And worship Him in humbleness,  
O praise Him! Alleluia!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
And praise the Spirit, Three in One!

from St Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)

It is said that, one day, while Francis was travelling with some companions, they happened upon a place in the road where birds filled the trees on either side. Francis told his companions to "wait for me while I go to preach to my sisters the birds." The birds surrounded him, intrigued by the power of his voice, and not one of them flew away. He is often portrayed with a bird, typically in his hand.

## Holywell School Prayer 2017

Dear Lord  
Thank you for our school,  
our families and our community.  
May we always try to achieve,  
enjoy and excel in Your name.  
Fill our classrooms with respect,  
learning and happiness,  
Fill our hearts with kindness, love and hope.  
Help us to be the best we can be  
And to show kindness to everyone.  
Help us to find peace when we are angry  
And courage to try again when we fail.  
So guide us in our darkest moments  
And lead us towards your Light.  
Amen

# DIARY FOR OCTOBER 2017

Day	Time	Service/Event	Venue
<b>Sunday 1st</b>	8.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion Morning Service with Blessing Followed by Prayers in Church	Cranfield Church Cranfield Church
Tuesday 3rd	7.30pm	“Sounds Familiar” (and every Tuesday)	Baptist Church
Wednesday 4th	2.10pm	Holywell Year 6 Church Assembly	Cranfield Church
Thursday 5th	10.30am 2.10pm 6.30pm 7.30pm	Bible Study (and following Thursdays) Holywell Year 5 Church Assembly Christian Union Welcome Evening Bellringing Practice (and every Thursday)	Rectory Cranfield Church University Chapel Cranfield Church
Saturday 7th	10am-Noon	Pew Top Sale & Refreshments	Cranfield Church
<b>Sunday 8th</b>	9.15am 10.30am	Holy Communion Holy Communion	Hulcote Church Cranfield Church
Saturday 14th	10.30am	Visiting Bellringers from Norton	Cranfield Church
<b>Sunday 15th</b>	8.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion Family Service with Baptism Deanery Evensong at Elstow Abbey	Cranfield Church Cranfield Church Elstow Abbey
Monday 16th	7.30pm	PCC Meeting	Rectory
Friday 20th	8.00pm	Home Group – Contact A. Pearson (Tel: 751358)	10 Church Walk
<b>Sunday 22nd</b>	9.15am 10.30am	Holy Communion Holy Communion	Salford Church Cranfield Church
		<b><i>Schools Half Term Week</i></b>	
<b>Sunday 29th</b> <b><i>Clocks Go Back</i></b>	8.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion All Soul’s Service with names remembered	Cranfield Church Cranfield Church
<b>NOVEMBER</b>			
<b>Sunday 5th</b>	8.00am 10.30am 12 Noon	Holy Communion <b>University Service</b> Prayers in Church/Parish Lunch?	Cranfield Church Cranfield Church Cranfield Church

MOTTO 2017 “ I am here with good news for you ” Luke 2 v10