



St Peter & St Paul's Church, Cranfield

NEWS & DIARY

October 2018

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Latest date for entries into

Church News and Diary

For November 2018 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

Welcome to Bishop Richard and incoming students



It will be a great pleasure to have the Bishop of Bedford visit us on Sunday 14th October. He will preach and preside at our 10.30am Holy Communion service that morning. Also we hope there will be a chance for him to meet with us over tea/coffee after the service. Bishop Richard has a special connection with Cranfield in that his wife Helen is Pro-Vice-Chancellor at Cranfield University and also Head of School of Aerospace, Transport Systems and Manufacturing.

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One of the great strengths of the Church of England is that individual parish congregations are linked by the care and oversight of Bishops. This means that in time of change or crisis we can gain from the wisdom and guidance of leaders who have a wider perspective. Key to this of course is the building of a relationship of trust and understanding. So this visit is an opportunity for us to get to know Bishop Richard better and for him to understand us and our local context more fully.

And this autumn time is important for us as we aim to welcome University students arriving at Cranfield. A good proportion are from overseas countries and greatly appreciate the friendship of local Christians. They also have much to share with us, often coming from vibrant churches and hoping to find encouragement as they undertake demanding courses. Others are encountering Christian worship for the first time so our welcome and witness is doubly important. On the first Sunday in November we will be holding our 'University Service' as a formal expression of our prayerful concern for them.



Whatever our stage or situation in life we can rejoice that the love of God in Jesus Christ reaches out to embrace us: God richly blesses all who call to him. As the Scripture says: "Everyone who calls out to the Lord will be saved" (*Romans 10 v13*).

Hugh Symes-Thompson

Harvest Service

It was good to praise God for our wonderful world and all that nature provides at our Family Harvest Service on Sunday 30th 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 2018 - supporting the Christian Aid project to grow the remarkable 'Pigeon Pea' in rural Malawi. These have the advantage of being suited to the increasing variability of climate change - they are very nutritious, have a deep root system, and there is both a local and international market for them. We have been encouraged to 'Give Peas a chance!' and transform the opportunities for remote farmers such as Frank Zulu.



Loved Ones Remembered

On Sunday 28th 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. 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 or to Liz Symes-Thompson at the Rectory on 01234 750214.



All Welcome

Halloween Drop-In at St Peter & St Paul, Cranfield

Come along on Wednesday 31st October
The Parish Church will be open
from 5.30pm-7.30pm
to welcome Children and Parents
- when the night outside seems dark and spooky.

Come up the churchyard path, if you dare,
and enjoy crafts, activities, fun and refreshments.

Stay for as long or as little as you like – this is a night not to be missed!

Last year the church opened on Halloween to provide a place where children and parents could safely visit, be welcomed and have refreshments, fun and activities. This Christian-themed Halloween was a reminder that Christians are not frightened by the dark and believe the power of God can overcome all evil. That evening large numbers of parents and children visited the church and it proved a wonderful bridge in connecting with them at a community level. We pray that this year will again witness to the love of God in Christ who overcomes every barrier and destroys the powers of darkness.

Stonework Repairs Complete

In 2011 we spent £167,000 on the interior refurbishment of the church. This included the children's room, servery and toilet at the back of the church, with the balcony above – along with painting the nave and chancel for the first time in a century.

However, at our following quinquennial the architect said that we should seek to restore the stonework and mortar on the south side of the church which was being damaged by water ingress (and bees). We tackled this in two phases: in 2016 we finished the chancel south wall and eastern part of the south aisle which cost us over £30,000 – all our available resources at the time. Fundraising resumed and this year we have paid a further £30,000 to complete the second phase: the walls of the south aisle and tower (plus stonework for north and east windows). The scaffolding went up in the spring and most of the work was done by early July when it was removed. However, the windows lagged behind a bit, and last of all has been the ironwork by the boiler house steps (see photo). These have been let into new stone as the original mountings proved excessively worn and there was little difference in cost between their restoration and renewal.



We are most grateful to our architect Henry Sanders and to Peter Sharman who has been a wonderfully skilled Parish Project manager. Our thanks to churchwardens Andrew Pearson and Jo Stannage in fundraising, Trevor Dimmock as treasurer and to all who have contributed to the cost of the works – Friends of the Church, Co-op community funding, Francis Coales, Beds & Herts Historic Churches and so many more. A magnificent achievement.

Do I hear you ask what's next? Netting to prevent birds entering and nesting in the bell tower is due to be fixed in place on 4th October. This will stop them getting trapped inside and fouling the area as they have been doing these last few years. Also for the Tower, the replacement or augmentation of the lightning conductor is under review. And we are informed that our present boiler is nearing the end of its life. Please pray hard that it lasts this winter as at present our funds for building and maintenance are understandably depleted!

Pew Top Sale

Saturday 3rd November 2018

10.00am – 12.00 noon

Cranfield Parish Church

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

PRAYERS FOR OCTOBER

This month, please pray for:

- ◆ The residents of Georges Close, Home Close, and Swabey Lane;
- ◆ Our Bishops and Church leaders;
- ◆ Young families;
- ◆ The people of Yemen and Iran.

DIARY FOR OCTOBER 2018

Day	Time	Service/Event	Venue
Tuesday 2nd	7.30pm	"Sounds Familiar" (and every Tuesday)	Baptist Church
Thursday 4th	10.30am 2.00pm 6.30pm 7.30pm	Bible Study (& following Thursdays) Academy Harvest Service Christian Union Welcome Evening Bellringing Practice (and every Thursday)	The Rectory Cranfield Church University Chapel Cranfield Church
Sunday 7th	8.00am 10.30am 6.00pm	Holy Communion Morning Service, followed by Prayers in Church Deanery Evensong at St Andrew's Church	Cranfield Church Cranfield Church Bedford
Sunday 14th	10.30am	Holy Communion with Bishop of Bedford	Cranfield Church
Monday 15th	7.00pm 7.30pm	Air Cadets AGM and Award Night PCC Meeting	Cranfield Church The Rectory
Friday 19th	8.00pm	Home Group – Contact A. Pearson (Tel: 751358)	59 Springfield Way
Saturday 20th	10.30am	Visiting Bellringers	Cranfield Church
Sunday 21st	8.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion Family Service with Baptism	Cranfield Church Cranfield Church
<i>Monday 22nd – Friday 26th</i>		<i>Schools Half Term Week</i>	
Monday 22nd	12 noon	Wedding of Joseph Craffy & Selina King	Cranfield Church
Sunday 28th <i>Clocks go back</i>	9.15am 10.30am	Holy Communion Holy Communion – All Souls	Salford Church Cranfield Church
Wednesday 31st	5.30-7.30pm	'Halloween Drop-In'	Cranfield Church
NOVEMBER			
Saturday 3rd	10am-Noon	Pew Top Sale & Refreshments	Cranfield Church
Sunday 4th	8.00am 10.30am 12 noon	Holy Communion University Service Prayers in Church/Parish Lunch?	Cranfield Church Cranfield Church Cranfield Church

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