



St Peter & St Paul's Church, Cranfield

NEWS & DIARY

September 2019

Information and Contacts

Rector: Vacant

Rectory: Tel: 750214 – calls will be diverted

Reader:

Trevor Dimmock: 751321
ttdimmock@btinternet.com

Churchwardens:

Andrew Pearson: 751358
andy.r.pandy@btinternet.com
Jo Stannage: 752116
jo.stannage@gmail.com

Editors:

Dr Marjorie Cotton: 750025
marjorie.cotton

@btinternet.com

Susan Webster

susan.anita.webster

@googlemail.com

The editors reserve the right to make alterations where necessary.

Distribution organised by Jo Stannage.

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 the Editors

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

www.cranfieldchurches.org.uk

Jesus Christ Is The Same, Yesterday, Today And For Ever



Whichever version of the Bible you choose to read, the message from the writer of Hebrews (Chapter 13.8) does not deviate from that basic truth. The writer of Psalm 102 speaks of God: "But you are always the same, and your life never ends".

Amid the turmoil and changes of life, Jesus Christ remains our rock: a rock to cling to and steady us as we encounter upheavals and upsets in our personal lives and in our church life.

It is human nature to yearn for stability and to detest change, but change is inevitable and as we begin the period of vacancy

in our church we will have feelings of nostalgia for the past and fears of uncertainty for the future.

During Hugh's tenure with us he has provided some wonderful motto texts for us to contemplate. The title of this article was our motto text for 2003. I think we should now concentrate on the motto text for 1999: "Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus".

Until a replacement is found for Hugh there will be different priests and others leading our services, but the message from every one of them will be the same: Jesus Christ died that our sins might be forgiven and that we might have eternal life.

The churchwardens, the PCC and all those engaged in the life of our church will for the time being need to work without the leadership of a Parish Rector, but every one of them knows that they have Jesus, the Rock, to cling to.

Please pray for all those in leadership roles within our church, that they will find the strength, the energy and the time to ensure that during this period of change our eyes are fixed firmly on Jesus, who is the same, yesterday, today and forever.

Trevor Dimmock

So long, farewell, auf wiedersehen, goodbye....

You all know now that Hugh and Liz departed for pastures new in Cornwall at the end of July. We couldn't let them go without having a buffet lunch on 28th July – the last Sunday at which Hugh led our service. The village hall was packed with so many people longing to wish them well for the future and we even had some bubbly to toast them. Parishioners donated generously to the collection for Hugh and he was presented with a cheque for over £1,500 which he is hoping to use to purchase an electric bicycle. They have now actually left Cranfield with all their worldly goods and headed to St Austell. We will miss them both but we nevertheless wish them a long, healthy and happy retirement.



Andrew Pearson

Dear Friends and Parishioners,

Liz and I have arrived safely in Cornwall and are very pleased by our new house here in St Austell. It is, however, stacked full of boxes remaining to be unpacked. Downsizing is partly therapeutic and also a spur to mental gymnastics. How do you fit everything in? Especially all the books, pictures and ornaments we love. The sitting room is beginning to look as it should but the 'spare' bedrooms upstairs are next to impenetrable. At least I have found and unpacked the computer – and it works! A big thank you to all who came and took things away on our Rectory Clearout day which really made a difference.

However, the main reason for this letter is to say thank you to all those who have wished us such a kind and wonderful farewell from Cranfield. We have some lovely cards we will treasure. We had a memorable 'Bring & Share' lunch beside Hulcote Church with the Bishop of St Albans. Then there was a moving farewell service at a full Cranfield Church on Sunday 28th July, followed by a finger-buffet lunch in the Village Hall. Kind words accompanied a most generous cheque of donations (towards a leaving gift, probably an electric bike) for me and some magnificent flowers for Liz. What a wonderful send off it has been and how we appreciate your thoughtfulness to us.

So now we are adjusting to a new phase of life in beautiful Cornwall. Yesterday we went to church and felt we were in the right place. We have already seen our two grandchildren coming round to play. I have become a member of the swimming pool which is close by.

We will always treasure our 23 years with you in Cranfield and wish you God's richest blessings in the years ahead.

Much love from Hugh & Liz Symes-Thompson

On the bright side – Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?

Answer on opposite page!

Living Lord – Saviour, Friend, Brother and King

The photograph accompanying Trevor's article on the first page is of the beautiful carving of Christ on the reredos behind the altar. Is He depicted giving a blessing? Or inviting us to come to Him?

Both the oak altar and the reredos were given to the church in 1909 by James Hatfeild Harter, the Squire of Cranfield Court, just a year before his death. His father, George Gardner Harter had been Rector from 1845 until his death in 1866 and was a great benefactor to our church and village. Both are commemorated on brass plaques in the chancel.

Not everyone approved. Rev. T.G. Manley, Rector from 1934 – 1937, was of a "low church" persuasion. The Bedfordshire Times of 3rd May 1935 recorded that the figure of Christ had been covered with a cloth. His interpretation of the Commandment forbidding graven images extended to such representations of Christ.

The carved figure of Christ is not there to be worshipped. We can think of it being like a family photograph to remind us of our loved ones and to keep them close to us. Of course, we have no photograph of Jesus. We have not seen him with our own eyes.

When Jesus appeared to Thomas after he had doubted that our Lord had risen, His words to Thomas, and to us, are "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."
John 20: 29.

Perhaps, because it is all so amazing, we can echo the words of the father of the epileptic boy who Jesus healed: "I believe; help my unbelief"
Mark 9: 24.

A Prayer – Heavenly Father, help us to be worthy to be your children. Give us the gift of Faith; to believe and trust; to turn to You through Your beloved Son; to open our hearts to You; to seek and to find. May the Light of the world shine in us and through us as we walk with Jesus in Love.

A big **THANK YOU** to:

- ◆ All those who have contributed to the church to help us to be financially viable.
- ◆ The "team" and all those who are helping the church not only to function, but to flourish!
- ◆ The visiting Ministers who are giving their time and supporting our services.
- ◆ Mr Simpson and Holywell School for kindly printing our monthly News and Diary, and those who distribute it.

Pew Top Sale

Saturday 7th September 2019

10.00am – 12.00 noon

Cranfield Parish Church

*By the Friends of
the Parish Church,
in aid of Church General Fund*

Thank You!

Answer from previous page:

Noah – he was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation.



DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER 2019

Day	Time	Service/Event	Venue
Sunday 1st	8.00am 10.30am	Morning Prayer (Lead: Trevor Dimmock) Morning Service (Lead: Rev Shaun Atkins)	Cranfield Church Cranfield Church
Tuesday 3rd	7.30pm	"Sounds Familiar" Community Choir (and every Tuesday): Contact Jean Lloyd (Tel: 751495)	Baptist Church
Thursday 5th	10.45am- Noon 7.30pm	Bible Study every week in term time: Contact Marjorie Cotton (Tel: 750025) Bellringing Practice (and every Thursday): Contact Mary Hartley (<i>mary.hartley56@gmail.com</i>)	3 Thrift View Cranfield Church
Saturday 7th	10am-Noon	Pew Top Sale: Contact Wendy Norris (Tel: 353435)	Cranfield Church
Sunday 8th	9.15am 10.30am 3.00pm	Holy Communion (Lead: Rev Quinton Chandler) Holy Communion (Lead: Gill Webb) "Food for Thought": Food, Fellowship & Fun	Hulcote Church Cranfield Church Methodist Church
Sunday 15th	8.00am 10.30pm	Morning Prayer (Lead: Trevor Dimmock) Harvest Festival with Cranfield Academy Choir	Cranfield Church Cranfield Church
Friday 20th	8.00pm	Home Group: Contact Linda Pearson (Tel: 751358 or email <i>l.d.pearson@btinternet.com</i>)	TBA
Sunday 22nd	9.15am 10.30am	Harvest Festival (Lead: Rev Richard Hibbert) Back to Church Sunday (Lead: Methodist Minister)	Salford Church Cranfield Church
Sunday 29th	8.00am 10.30am	Morning Prayer (Lead: Trevor Dimmock) Morning Prayer & Blessing (Lead: Trevor Dimmock)	Cranfield Church Cranfield Church
OCTOBER			
Sunday 6th	8.00am 10.30am	Morning Prayer (Lead: Trevor Dimmock) Morning Prayer & Baptism (Lead: Rev Peter Ackroyd or Rev Shaun Atkins)	Cranfield Church Cranfield Church

MOTTO 2019 " When you pray I will answer you " Isaiah 58 v9

All are welcome to join us:

- ◆ At our **services** – for worship and fellowship. This month, on the 15th, we celebrate our Harvest Festival with Cranfield Academy Choir. We encourage parents to come along with their children to this family orientated service. Gifts of non-perishable goods with a long date can be donated and will go to help those in need.
- ◆ At the **Home Group** which meets every three weeks on Friday evenings for informal Bible study and supper. Contact Linda Pearson – Tel: 751 358 or email: *l.d.pearson@btinternet.com*.
- ◆ At the Bible study group which meets every Thursday morning during term time. Contact Marjorie – Tel: 750 025 or email: *marjorie.cotton@btinternet.com*.
- ◆ At our bi-monthly Pew Top Sale (7th September) – organised by the Friends of the Church in aid of the Church General Fund. Bring and buy and enjoy tea/coffee and cake and have a chat. Contact Wendy Norris – Tel: 353 453.