



St Peter & St Paul's Church, Cranfield

NEWS & DIARY

December 2020

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This Newsletter is available on the Church website. If you would like to sign up for an email copy please email Marjorie Cotton.

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If you would like to receive *The Church News & Diary* in a larger print, please contact the Editors

For more information on our churches look online at:
www.cranfieldchurch.org
www.hulcotewithsalfordchurches.co.uk

Christmas Joy



entered into a second national lockdown, but despite all this my heart is filled with hope and excitement.

My family and I are very excited at the prospect of meeting you, the church family, and the wider parish. It is likely to be the case with the restrictions that we won't be able to meet as many of you as quickly as we would like, but it is certainly our desire to get to know you all as soon as possible. For now, however, let me briefly introduce ourselves. Rebekah, my wife, and I have three children: Josiah (9), Lois (7), and Jonathan (3). They are all looking forward to moving to Cranfield, meeting everyone, making new friends, and exploring the area.

Beginning ministry amongst you just in time for Christmas is a particular joy. Though this is going to be a Christmas like no other, the unchanging good news of Christmas remains. Christmas is a time for celebration and joy, just as the angel declared: "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all people."

That good news is that, though the world around us can be dark, God has come to bring us light. Though we experience isolation, God has come to be with us. Though death seems like an ever-present threat, God has come to bring us life. Jesus, God's gift to us, is indeed good news of great joy!

And so, remembering all that God has done for us in Jesus, may you have a truly joy-filled Christmas. Do come and introduce yourself and say 'hello' at one of our church services over Christmas and the New Year. I can't wait to meet you!

Isaac Pain



It's wonderful to be able to introduce myself a little. I'm Isaac, and I will be licensed on 7th December as the new Priest in Charge of Cranfield, with Hulcote and Salford. I'm currently writing this from the depths of Sussex on a pretty miserable November morning as we've recently

O Little Town of Bethlehem

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming;
But in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive Him, still
the dear Christ enters in.
Phillips Brooks (1835 – 93)

The Answer To Our Prayers

For the past 16 months we have been praying that God would send us a new Rector who would be excited by the good news brought to earth by Jesus Christ, a new Rector who had a yearning to spread that good news and who would be approachable, young and energetic. Our prayers have been answered. It is clear from Rev Isaac's introductory article that he has precisely the qualities and the commitment we have been praying for.

Please remember him in your prayers as he prepares to be licensed by the Bishop of St Albans and makes plans for how he will lead us in the future. I know we will all give him our full support as he leads us in worship and brings us closer to our Lord and Saviour.

We welcome Isaac and his family to Cranfield and look forward to many years with him at the helm of our church.

Trevor Dimmock

Christmas Post - HELP NEEDED!

Thanks to Haydn Distin the post box for cards within Cranfield will be in church from **Sunday 29th November until Sunday 13th December**. Sorting is sorted but help is needed with delivery.

Please contact Haydn on 751451 if you could deliver cards in your own street - these can be dropped off to you. **THANK YOU!** Donations to SMART - the Bedford Charity for the Homeless.



A Christmas Present?

Lovely bone china mugs, a new second edition, with illustrations of the Church, Bells and Village Pump are now on sale at £7.50.

All proceeds go to church funds. Please phone Diana Lord (750951) to order and collect.

Lectionary Reflections

Through the season of Advent, to Christmas and beyond, this month's Bible readings from the Lectionary (Year B) contain some of our most loved and well-known readings. In the familiarity it is important not to lose the sense of wonder and gratitude for God's Love for His world and us, His children, and the gift of His Son, Jesus.

In Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians, read on the Third Sunday of Advent, he uses the phrase; "Do not quench the Spirit". We cannot comprehend the breadth and depth of God's Power and Love and shouldn't limit the Power of God by the measure of our own understanding. However, just as we need Him, He needs us to show His Spirit of Love to others through our lives. His Spirit can only work through us if we are humble, kind and unselfish. We have seen this Spirit manifest wonderfully in recent times through the selfless acts of ordinary and extraordinary people.

Christingle

This year Christingle services will be held in Cranfield Academy and Holywell School, organised by the head teachers and Jo Stannage and led by Rachel Foster. Thank you to all those involved and to the Co-op for providing 750 oranges for the children!



Sunday 6th December – The Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40: 1-11 The words of Isaiah, prophesied some 700 years before Jesus' birth, ring out in Handel's Messiah, written in 1741.

2 Peter 3: 8-15a Peter warns us that God doesn't want anyone to perish on the Last Day, but to come to repentance; to be at peace.

Mark 1: 1-8 Mark refers to the above passage in Isaiah. Then he tells us that John the Baptist said that Jesus was more powerful than him and that he wasn't worthy even to untie the thongs of Jesus' sandals. Although John baptised with water, Jesus would baptise with the Holy Spirit.



Sunday 13th December – The Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11 After these words from Isaiah were read by Jesus in the synagogue in Nazareth, (Luke 4: 16-19) He said to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." (v21)

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24 *Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good.* (vv 16-21)

John 1: 6-8, 19-28 John echoes some of Mark's words about John. (vv 19-28)



Sunday 20th December – The Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7: 1-11 This passage is known as Nathan's Oracle. In it he contrasts David's proposal to build a house for the Ark with God's plan to build a house (i.e. a dynasty) for David.

Romans 16: 25- 27 The final verses from Paul's letter.

Luke 1: 26-38 The angel Gabriel appears to the virgin Mary, telling her that she will bear a son and will name him Jesus and that her cousin, Elizabeth, has also conceived. *Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be according to your word."* (v38)

Thursday 24th December – Christmas Eve

Acts 13: 16-26 Paul speaks in the synagogue in Antioch in Pisidia during his first Missionary Journey. Although some followed him, he and Barnabus were persecuted and driven out of the region. (vv 44-52)

Luke 1: 67-79 The prophesy of John's Father, Zechariah - The Benedictus

Friday 25th December – Christmas Day

Isaiah 52: 7-10 *How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."* (v7)

Hebrews 1: 1-4 *In these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, who he appointed to be heir of all things. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains things by his powerful word.* (vv 1-3)

John 1: 1-14 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (v1) And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.* (v14)

Sunday 27th December – The First Sunday of Christmas

Isaiah 61: 10-62: 3 *I greatly rejoice in the LORD. My whole being shall exult in my God* (v10)

Galatians 4: 4-7 *You are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.* (v7)

Luke 2: 15-21 The angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds. (vv 8-14) *So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in a manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.* (vv 16-19)

DIARY FOR DECEMBER 2020

| Day | Time | Service/Event | Venue |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|
| Sunday 6th | 9.00am 10.30am | Holy Communion (Lead: Rev Ray Porter) Holy Communion (Lead: Rev Ray Porter) | Salford Church Cranfield Church |
| Monday 7th | 7.30pm | Licensing of Rev Isaac Pain by the Bishop of St Albans (By Invitation Only) | Cranfield Church |
| Friday 11th | 7.30pm | Home Group via Zoom – Contact Linda Pearson (<i>l.d.pearson@btinternet.com</i> – Tel. 751358) | |
| Sunday 13th | 9.00am 10.30am 6.00pm | Holy Communion (Lead: Rev Isaac Pain) Holy Communion (Lead: Rev Isaac Pain) Service of Nine Lessons & Carols | Hulcote Church Cranfield Church Cranfield Church |
| Sunday 20th | 9.00am 10.30am | Holy Communion (Lead: Rev Isaac Pain) Crib Service – children to dress as favourite Nativity character. BOOKING ESSENTIAL (Contact Jo Stannage – 752116) | Salford Church Cranfield Church |
| Thursday 24th | 5.00pm 11.00pm | CHRISTMAS EVE Outdoor Carol Service (Contact Maurice Rust – 751143) Midnight Holy Communion (Lead: Rev Isaac Pain). BOOKING ESSENTIAL (Contact Jo Stannage – 752116) | Salford – Venue to be confirmed Cranfield Church |
| Friday 25th | 9.00am 10.30am | CHRISTMAS DAY Holy Communion (Lead: Rev Isaac Pain) Christmas Morning Service (Lead: Rev Isaac Pain) | Salford Church Cranfield Church |
| Sunday 27th | 9.00am 10.30am | <i>NO SERVICE</i> Morning Prayer (Lead: Andrew Pearson) | Salford Church Cranfield Church |

Please check with the church websites: cranfieldchurch.org and hulcotewithsalfordchurches.co.uk for updates on church opening times, material for personal worship and links to other services. Thank you to Revd Caroline Weaver for sending through a weekly 'worship from home' resource.

Thank you for complying with the Covid safety guidelines. Unless the rules change, the following will apply:

- ◆ Contact details will need to be taken on arrival to enable future tracing if required. Please come in good time and follow the sidesperson's guidance.
- ◆ Social distancing of two metres needs to be observed but household members will be able to sit together.
- ◆ Hand sanitiser is available and should be used on entering and leaving the building and after touching any surfaces.
- ◆ Hugs and even handshakes need to be put on hold.
- ◆ There will be no hymn singing. There will be no chalice, only bread for Holy Communion.
- ◆ Please wear a face covering.

Sadly there will be no refreshments afterwards. All are welcome to attend but please don't put yourself under any pressure to do so.

Cranfield Church is open to visitors and for private prayer daily from 10.00am - 4.00pm

Please use the hand sanitiser provided on entering and leaving the building and do not enter any area that is clearly forbidden.

We hope you will be blessed by your time spent in church.