



St Peter & St Paul's Church, Cranfield

NEWS & DIARY

October 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

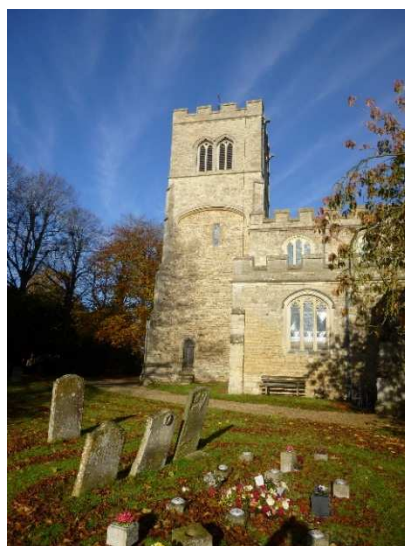
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www.cranfieldchurches.org.uk

Bishop Says Yes To New Rector



Members of the PCC were all greatly relieved at a recent meeting held between the Bishop of Bedford, the Archdeacon and the Rural Dean when the Bishop agreed that the process may begin for the appointment of a new Rector.

The process is a lengthy one and is unlikely to result in an appointment being made until the summer of 2020. The Bishop made his decision on the strength of the improvements made in church finances over the past 6 months. Those improvements are partly due to the great response we

have had from many parishioners who are adamant that the Parish should have a full time Rector living in the Rectory. Many members of our church family have also reviewed their monthly giving in the light of our financial circumstances.

The Bishop made it clear that the appointment would be considered temporary until we are able to demonstrate a sustainable improvement in our finances and clearly show the ability to pay our Parish Share in full.

The Parochial Church Council is now busy preparing a Parish Profile which will be approved by the Archdeacon and used as the basis for advertising the post to give our future Rector a detailed summary of our Parish and our church. The post will be advertised nationally in January.

We aim to hold a weekly prayer meeting starting in October to discern God's will for the future and to pray that the right person will be found to become our spiritual leader. More details will be available in Pews News.

By the time you read this we will also have spent time at our service on 29th September considering the sort of attributes we would like to see in our next Rector and what changes we would like to make in the way we run our church and our services.

Jesus spoke a great deal about money in his teaching and his parables, his main emphasis being to get our priorities right and to treat money as the means to an end, not the end itself. Our need continues to be for funds to meet our financial obligations and to ensure that our Parish Share is paid in full to enable us to concentrate on our duties to God and our neighbour.

Continued overleaf...

Bishop Says Yes To New Rector

Continued from front page

If you have not already signed up to our Parish Giving Scheme and would like to help by pledging a regular monthly sum, however small, please contact me on 01234 751321/07887 954644 or by email ttdimmock@btinternet.com and ask for a Parish Giving Pack.

Thank you.

Trevor Dimmock, Reader & Church Treasurer



Another Conditional Offer

“When you pray I will answer you”, (*Isaiah 58:9*) is our Motto Text for 2019. The promise is conditional on our obedience to God’s Will. We need to look at Isaiah’s words in context.

Isaiah lived in Jerusalem and was called to serve God around 700 years before Jesus was born. The people had “forsaken the Lord” (*Isaiah 1:4*) and he was sent to warn them of judgement and to call them to repentance.

When we arrive at Chapter 58, Israel has been restored after the exile to Babylon but the people are still not all pleasing God. Although they are going through the motions of religious practices, such as fasting and wearing sackcloth and ashes, this is not what God requires. They are serving their own interests (*Isaiah 53:3*).

What was it that God required? In verses 6 & 7 he tells them that God wants them to: “loose the bonds of injustice”; “let the oppressed go free”; “share your bread with the hungry”; “bring the homeless poor to your house”; “see the naked and cover them”. He also tells them not to fall out with members of their own families. If they do all of these things “THEN you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and He will say, Here I am.” (*Isaiah 58:9*).

Do these words sound familiar? In Matthew 25:31-46 Jesus tells us that when we are called to judgement we will be questioned as to whether we have done very similar things – feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, visit the sick or those in prison – and “Just as you did it to the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

Are we being obedient to His Will? Are we living in His Love? If so He will honour His promise to hear us when we pray to God in His name.

Jesus tells His disciples at the Last Supper: “I will do whatever you ask in my name so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask for anything I will do it” (*John 15:16,17*). “I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing” (*John 15:5*). “You did not choose me but I chose you and I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.” (*John 15:16*)

The promises to the disciples apply to us too. “I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.” (*John 17:20*)

We can pray in faith, believing and trusting that God hears our prayers and will answer in the best possible way for us, not necessarily for what we think we want, but what we need. We also should be open to His guidance, for what we do or say may lead to answering the prayers of others.

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

Answer on opposite page!

Harvest Thanksgiving

On 15th September the congregation were joined by Mr Joseph Piatczanyn (Mr P), the choir of Cranfield Church of England Academy, parents and supporters for a memorable and happy celebration of harvest.

We enjoyed singing "We plough the fields and scatter" and listening to a Harvest Hymn sung by the children. We were moved by a lovely hymn interpreting The Lord's Prayer.



Thank you to the flower arranging team of ladies who beautifully decorated the church.

Thank you also to all those who donated gifts of food, which will be appreciated by Bedford Food Bank.

"Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap: for the measure you give will be the measure you get back." Luke 6:38

A Prayer – Heavenly Father, we thank you for loving us, caring for and about us, and feeding us. May we be guided by Your Spirit to be more loving and generous towards others. Amen

Pew Top Sale

Saturday 16th November 2019

10.00am – 12.00 noon

Cranfield Parish Church

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

A big **THANK YOU** to all who continue to generously support our church financially. All innovative fundraising is welcomed!

Emily Ward continues to raise funds for the church through her Facebook page. She is also going to have an all-day stall at the Christmas Fayre, at Mitchell Hall on Friday 6th December. Do pay her a visit.

Thank you to the Friends of the Parish Church for their fundraising through the Pew Top Sales and other events. Thank you for supporting them. Previously, money raised contributed to much needed "fabric" and building works but now that our building is sound, it goes to the Church General Fund.

Thank You!

Answer from previous page:

Samson – He brought the house down! (Judges 16:23-30).

DIARY FOR OCTOBER 2019

Day	Time	Service/Event	Venue
Tuesday 1st	7.30pm	"Sounds Familiar" Community Choir (and every Tuesday): Contact Jean Lloyd (Tel: 751495)	Baptist Church
Thursday 3rd	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 or TBA Cranfield Church
Sunday 6th	8.00am 10.30am	Morning Prayer (Lead: Trevor Dimmock) Morning Prayer & Blessing (Lead: Rev Shaun Atkins)	Cranfield Church Cranfield Church
Friday 11th	8.00p	Home Group: Contact Linda Pearson (Tel: 751358 or email <i>l.d.pearson@btinternet.com</i>)	TBA
Sunday 13th	9.00am 10.30am 3.00pm	Holy Communion (Lead: Rev Ray Porter) Holy Communion (Lead: Rev Ray Porter) "Food 4 Thought": Food, Fellowship & Fun	Hulcote Church Cranfield Church Methodist Church
Sunday 20th	8.00am 9.00am 10.30pm	Morning Prayer (Lead: Trevor Dimmock) Morning Prayer & Coffee (Lead: Maurice Rust) Family Service & Baptism (Leads: Rachel Foster and Rev Duncan Goldthorpe)	Cranfield Church Salford Church Cranfield Church
Sunday 27th	9.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion (Lead: Rev Jennie Cappleman) Holy Communion – Joint Service with Methodists (Lead: Caroline Weaver)	Salford Church Cranfield Church
Thursday 31st	5.30-7.30pm	The Light Party – alternative Halloween fun for children of all ages (Lead: Jo Stannage)	Cranfield Church
NOVEMBER			
Sunday 3rd	8.00am 10.30am	Morning Prayer (Lead: Trevor Dimmock) University Service with the Bishop of Bedford	Cranfield Church Cranfield Church
Saturday 16th	10am-Noon	Pew Top Sale: Contact Wendy Norris (Tel: 353435)	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.

- ♦ On 31st October Jo Stannage welcomes all children and their parents to an alternative Halloween party – The Light Party – at Cranfield Church between 5.30 and 7.30pm.
- ♦ We welcome Bishop Richard to our University Service on Sunday 3rd November – students and all connected to Cranfield University are invited.