



St Peter & St Paul's Church, Cranfield

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS & DIARY

January 2021

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This Newsletter is available on the Church website. If you'd like to sign up for an email copy please let us know.

Printed copies may be collected from Church.

For more information on our churches look online at:

www.cranfieldchurch.org

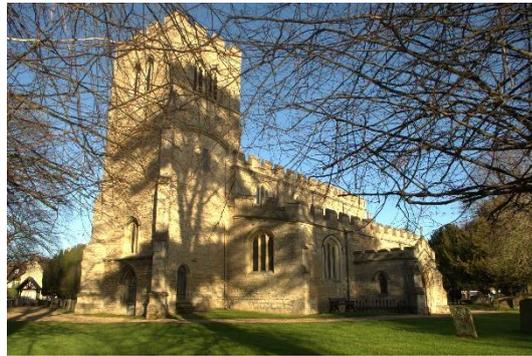
www.hulcotewithsalford

churches.co.uk

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With thanks to Charles Leslie for this photo.

Well... 2020 was quite the year. Not only did it give us a global pandemic, but it gave us a whole new vocabulary to go along with it: social distancing, lockdown, the rule of six, Covid-secure, key workers, and self-isolation, to name but a few. And though we enter into a new year, the virus doesn't know that;

both it and the new vocabulary will unfortunately continue with us for some time into 2021.

And yet, this new year there is reason for at least some hope: various vaccinations have begun to be administered, and all of us look forward to the time when we will enjoy again physical interaction, the security of economic productivity, and, of course, good health.

However, perhaps now is a good time to be reminded of Winston Churchill's statement to: "Never waste a good crisis." Churchill made this statement towards the end of WW2, in reference to how the war had brought the United Kingdom, America, and Russia together, and would ultimately lead to the forming of the United Nations.

This year, as we continue our own war on Covid-19, it is worth noting the many ways in which our community has 'not wasted' this global pandemic. Amongst the pain and hardship there have been real demonstrations of community spirit, and sacrificial generosity towards one another. On top of these, another positive is something a little more existential: rediscovering that we are but creatures, and that we are not the masters of our fate.

'Never waste a good crisis' is far more than the sentiment of 'every cloud has a silver lining', it is rooted in the core belief of Christianity: God is more than able to bring great good out of immense evil and suffering. Nothing is wasted in his economy. This belief is at the very centre of the Gospels: the great evil of the crucifixion of the Son of God was used by God as the very means of his salvation, forgiveness, and peace.

This year we will continue to face hardship and difficulties, however, can I encourage you to do so, trusting in the God who has promised to, "work all things together for the good of those who love him".

Wishing you a happy New Year,

Isaac

DIARY FOR JANUARY 2021

Day	Time	Service/Event	Venue
Sunday 3rd	10.30am 6.00pm	Morning Service Evensong	Cranfield Church Salford Church
Friday 11th	7.30pm	Home Group via Zoom – Contact Linda Pearson (<i>l.d.pearson@btinternet.com</i> – Tel. 751358)	
Sunday 10th	9.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion Morning Service (with Holy Communion)	Hulcote Church Cranfield Church
Sunday 17th	9.00am 10.30am	Morning Prayer Morning Service	Salford Church Cranfield Church
Friday 22nd	7.30pm	Home Group by Zoom as above	
Sunday 24th	9.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion Morning Service (with Holy Communion and Covenant Renewal)	Salford Church Cranfield Church
Sunday 31st	9.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion Morning Service	Salford Church Cranfield Church

A **huge** thank-you to both Marjorie Cotton and Susan Webster for their many years of service of organising, editing, and distributing this newsletter and diary. With the arrival of our new minister both are enjoying a well-deserved rest from this ministry, and we thank them both for their years of faithful service!

Village Christmas Card delivery Dec. 2020
I am pleased to report that this year's delivery of cards around the village raised a record £477 for the Bedford Homeless Charity - Smart CJS. Many thanks to this year's new volunteers helping to expand the "Delivery Team". Haydn Distin, on behalf of the Friends of the Church.

This month we're running **The Bible Course** by **The Bible Society**. The course lasts eight weeks and begins on Wednesday 6th 7pm - 9:30pm on Zoom. The course is open to all within the benefice. During each session there'll be opportunities to chat, watch a video, ask questions, and discuss. Please contact Isaac for details.

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 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.

Whilst in Tier 4 Cranfield Church will only be open for services. Though this may disappoint some, this is an extra precaution to ensure that we are all as safe as possible during this time.

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

MOTTO 2021 "These were written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." John 20:31