



St Peter & St Paul's Church, Cranfield

CHURCH DIARY

August 2022

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[www.hulcotewithsalford
churches.co.uk](http://www.hulcotewithsalfordchurches.co.uk)

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Article VII: Of the Old Testament

We continue our series through the 39 Articles of Religion, of the Church of England, and this month we consider Article VII, which states: "The Old Testament is not contrary to the New: for both in the Old and New Testament everlasting life is offered to Mankind by Christ, who is the only Mediator between God and Man, being both God and Man. Wherefore they are not to be heard, which feign that the old Fathers did look only for transitory promises. Although the Law given from God by Moses, as touching Ceremonies and Rites, do not bind Christian men, nor the Civil precepts thereof ought of necessity to be received in any commonwealth; yet notwithstanding, no Christian man whatsoever is free from the obedience of the Commandments which are called Moral."

This Article is quite long, and says a number of things regarding how the Christian is to regard the Old Testament. However, there are two main points of emphasis. The first is that the Old Testament and the New Testament are not contrary to one another. The Old Testament is to be received as Scripture just as the New Testament is. In the second century of the Church there was a teacher called Marcion who argued that the Old Testament should be rejected and that the God of the Old Testament was different from the God of the New Testament. In 144AD Marcion was expelled from the Church as a heretic, and his teaching rejected.

This Article establishes the Church of England's teaching on the Old Testament to be in agreement with the what the Church has always held. Namely, that the Old Testament is to be accepted, alongside the New Testament, as the Word of God. After all, this is simply to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, who himself declared in the Sermon on the Mount: "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

Secondly, the Article also expresses the belief that though some parts of the Old Testament law have been fulfilled in Christ (we might immediately, for example, think of the sacrificial law which Jesus' death on the cross fulfilled), the moral law of the Old Testament remains in effect for the Church today. The moral law is best summed up in the Ten Commandments, though it is far from limited to this.

This Article is an encouragement for us to view the Old Testament as Jesus viewed the Old Testament. To read it, trust it, and obey it. We have done this over the last two years by spending some time in both Exodus and Isaiah on Sunday mornings. And though this month our sermon series turns again to the New Testament as we consider the Gospel of Mark, in the future we will again return to the treasure trove that is the Old Testament.

AUGUST 2022

Day	Time	Service/Event	Venue
Wednesday 3rd	7:30pm	Music Group Practice	Cranfield Church
Thursday 4th	7:30pm	Bell Ringing Practice	Cranfield Church
Saturday 6th	2:00pm 6:30pm	Wedding: Harry and Melanie Bedford Road Home Group	Cranfield Church 95 Bedford Road
Sunday 7th	9:00am 10.30am	Holy Communion – 1662 Prayer Book Morning Service (followed by monthly prayer meeting).	Salford Church Cranfield Church
Wednesday 10th	10:00am 7:30pm	Holy Communion Service Music Practice	Cranfield Church Cranfield Church
Thursday 11th	7:30pm	Bell Ringing Practice	Cranfield Church
Saturday 13th	12:00pm 6:30pm	Wedding: Michael and Clair Bedford Road Home Group	Cranfield Church 95 Bedford Road
Sunday 14th	9:00am 10.30am 2:00pm	Holy Communion - 1662 Prayer Book Morning Service (with Holy Communion and Thanksgiving) Hulcote with Salford Churches Afternoon Tea	Hulcote Church Cranfield Church The Rectory
Wednesday 17th	7:30pm	Music Practice	Cranfield Church
Thursday 18th	7:30pm	Bell Ringing Practice	Cranfield Church
Saturday 20th	6:30pm	Bedford Road Home Group	95 Bedford Road
Sunday 21st	9:00am 10.30am	Holy Communion - 1662 Prayer Book Morning Service	Salford Church Cranfield Church
Wednesday 24th	10:00am 7:30pm	Holy Communion Service Music Group Practice	Cranfield Church Cranfield Church
Thursday 25th	7:30pm	Bell Ringing Practice	Cranfield Church
Saturday 27th	6:30pm	Bedford Road Home Group	95 Bedford Road
Sunday 28th	9:00am 10:30am	Morning Prayer – 1662 Prayer Book Morning Service (with Holy Communion)	Hulcote Church Cranfield Church
Wednesday 31st	7:30pm	Music Group Practice	Cranfield Church