



St Peter & St Paul's Church, Cranfield

## NEWS & DIARY

December 2019 & January 2020

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The editors reserve the right to make alterations where necessary.

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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 Cranfield Parish Church look online at:**

[www.cranfieldchurch.org](http://www.cranfieldchurch.org)

## The Real Meaning Of Christmas



As we begin to dig out last year's Christmas card list and scratch our heads as to what presents to buy our loved ones; as we notice the shelves in the shops already stocked up with Christmas goodies enticing us to buy things we don't really need; it's no wonder that many dread the prospect of Christmas. Sadly, for many, Christmas is just about the glitter and the tinsel and the sound of tills ringing. I remember talking about Christmas to some of my young staff a few years ago and how they were amazed when I told them that Jesus was a real person and not just a fairy story.

We all know the wonderful Bible story of angels and shepherds and the baby in the manger, but how many non-churchgoing people read the Bible these days? It is sometimes worth reminding ourselves of the historical Jesus.

2000 years ago, news travelled largely by word of mouth. Very few people could read or write. There was no reed and parchment shop in every high street! Moreover, to the Romans, the Jewish lands were not terribly important and only a few historians bothered to write about what was going on in that remote part of the Roman Empire. It's little wonder then that, outside the Bible, we have only a handful of written records about Jesus. But, the crucial point is – these records do exist.

The Roman historian Tacitus (AD56-120) mentions Pontius Pilate having Jesus crucified. So does the Jewish historian, Josephus (AD37-100), who also refers to Jesus' brother James, and the fact that the Christian movement carried on after its leader's execution. Tacitus and Josephus are joined by the Roman governor Pliny the Younger (AD61-113) and Suetonius (AD69-122) in mentioning Jesus.

Those famous Roman and Jewish writers in the first century confirmed the existence of Jesus. None of them was a Christian. None of them wrote about Jesus so that their readers would believe in him. They agree that Jesus of Nazareth was a real person – someone who gathered followers who came to believe in him as the Son of God, and whose life was cruelly cut short on a Roman cross.

As we celebrate Christmas this year, do remind others that the story of the baby in the manger is not a fairy story but a life changing story about God, who came to earth as a baby to offer salvation to each one of us.

May God bless you all as we celebrate in church and in our homes the real meaning of Christmas.

*Trevor Dimmock*

**A Very Happy Christmas to all our readers**

## Launch Of New Church Website: [www.cranfieldchurch.org](http://www.cranfieldchurch.org)

It was the suggestion by Bishop Richard, that we had our own website to showcase our church, that galvanised the PCC into action. The joint Churches' Website ([cranfieldchurches.org.uk](http://cranfieldchurches.org.uk)) will close down now that ours is successfully launched, as all the churches have their own websites. It is Chris Hartley, with his diligence and expertise, who we need to thank for masterminding the project with the help of members of the PCC. Kranthi suggested the link to daily prayer which can be found on the Home Page. There are links to the Church Diary, latest Newsletters and Pews News. There is historical information as well as how to give generously to support the Church. You can add content by going to the contact page and sending a message which Chris will pick up.

Have a look – you will be impressed! Thank you, Chris, and all those who have contributed.

## The Light Party

October 31st saw the third Halloween Light Party held at the Parish Church. Around 180 children and a similar number of grown-ups passed through the church doors and enjoyed the various activities and refreshments provided. The evening was enjoyed by all, with some great feedback posted on social media by families from the village. Many thanks go to all the church family members and friends who helped with the event, both on the evening and beforehand, and to the Scouts and their leaders who helped to carve the pumpkins that lit up the path to welcome everyone. *Julia Cox*

## ART SHOW

Local artists are invited to exhibit works of art, including photographs.

The exhibition is on Friday 6th and Saturday 7th December from 11am to 4.30pm at Cranfield Parish Church.

Some exhibits will be on sale and refreshments will be served. Please come along to support Church Funds.

For details contact Diana Lord:  
Tel: 750951;  
email: [dianalord@john-lewis.com](mailto:dianalord@john-lewis.com)



Celebrate Christmas  
with

*Sounds Familiar*  
Community Choir's

**Christmas Concert**

at

**Cranfield Parish Church**

Sat., 7<sup>th</sup>. December 2019, 7:00 p.m.

Tickets £10 per head

Available from Sheila Ewen

Tel. 01234 750117

Mince Pies & Mulled Wine

In aid of Church Funds

## The Christmas Post

Friends of the Church will deliver your cards in Cranfield. The post box will be in church from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December until noon on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December. Donations will be given to SMART – the Bedford Charity supporting the homeless.

HELP IS NEEDED DELIVERING CARDS  
– contact Dennis Howe Tel: 751442.

*Welcome in the New Year  
with a concert by*

## The Manor House String Quartet

Saturday 4th January 2020, from 7.30pm  
at

St Peter And St Paul Church  
Court Road, Cranfield, MK43 0DR

Tickets £10:00 • £5.00 students

For tickets call:  
Trevor: 751321 ♦ Andrew: 751358

# DIARY FOR JANUARY 2020

Day	Time	Service/Event	Venue
Wednesday 1st	10.00am	<b>New Year Walk.</b> Lunch at Cross Keys to finish: Contact Andrew Pearson (Tel: 751358 Email: <a href="mailto:andy.r.pandy@btinternet.com">andy.r.pandy@btinternet.com</a> )	Meet at Lych Gate, Cranfield Church
Saturday 4th	7.30pm	<b>Manor House String Quartet</b>	Cranfield Church
<b>Sunday 5th</b>	8.00am 10.30am 4.00pm	Holy Communion (Lead: Rev Duncan Goldthorpe) Morning Service (Lead: Rev Duncan Goldthorpe) Joint Candlelit Epiphany Evensong (Lead: Rev John Bell)	Cranfield Church Cranfield Church Salford Church
Friday 10th	8.00pm	Home Group: Contact Linda Pearson (Tel: 751358)	7 East Hills
Saturday 11th	10am-Noon	Pew Top Sale: Contact Wendy Norris (Tel: 353453)	Cranfield Church
<b>Sunday 12th</b>	9.00am 10.30am 3.00pm	Holy Communion (Lead: Rev Ray Porter) Holy Communion (Lead: Rev Ray Porter) "Food 4 Thought": Food, Fellowship and Fun	Hulcote Church Cranfield Church Methodist Church
<b>Sunday 19th</b>	8.00am 9.00am 10.30am	Morning Prayer (Lead: TBA) Morning Prayer & Coffee (Lead: Maurice Rust) Family Service – "New Beginnings" (Lead: Jo Stannage)	Cranfield Church Salford Church Cranfield Church
<b>Sunday 26th</b>	10.30am	United Covenant Service with Methodists (Lead: Rev Caroline Weaver)	Cranfield Church

**On Epiphany Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January at 4pm** the Churchwardens of Cranfield, Hulcote and Salford warmly welcome the congregations of our Joint Benefice to join together at Salford Church for a special candlelit service. The service begins the new year 2020 as we journey together to find a new Priest to lead us in the coming years. 2020 will be a challenging year for our three Churches and the Churchwardens and PCC members of Cranfield, Hulcote and Salford need our prayers at this time. For Curate John Bell, a priest in training from Christchurch in Bedford, this will be a unique opportunity to lead our Evensong from the Book of Common Prayer in a rural country parish. Following the service, mulled wine and mince pies will be served by members of Hulcote and Salford PCC. *Maurice Rust, Churchwarden Hulcote with Salford*

**On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January at 10.30am** Jo Stannage will lead a Family Service to pray for and focus on "New Beginnings", with Church and Community working together to support each other during the exciting year of 2020. All are welcome. We are all one big family.

## The Gate of The Year

*And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown." And he replied: "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."*

Written by Minnie Louise Haskins in 1908, this caught public attention when King George VI quoted it in his 1939 Christmas broadcast to the British Empire in the early days of the Second World War.

## Pew Top Sale

**Saturday 11th January 2020**

**10.00am – 12.00 noon**

**Cranfield Parish Church**

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

# DIARY FOR DECEMBER 2019

Day	Time	Service/Event	Venue
<b>Sunday 1st</b>	8.00am 10.30am 3.30-4.30pm 5.30-6.30pm	<b>ADVENT SUNDAY</b> Morning Prayer (Lead: Trevor Dimmock) Advent Service (Lead: Trevor Dimmock) Christingle for under 9s (Lead: Rachel Foster) Christingle for over 9s (Lead: Rachel Foster)	Cranfield Church Cranfield Church 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 (and every Thursday): Contact Marjorie Cotton (Tel: 750025) Bellingring Practice (and every Thursday): Contact Mary Hartley ( <i>mary.hartley56@gmail.com</i> )	3 Thrift View or TBA  Cranfield Church
Friday 6th – Saturday 7th	11am-5pm	Art Exhibition with refreshments Contact Diana Lord (Tel: 750951)	Cranfield Church
Saturday 7th	7.00pm	Sounds Familiar Christmas Concert (Tickets £10 from Sheila Ewen – Tel: 750117)	Cranfield Church
<b>Sunday 8th</b>	9.00am 10.30am 3.00pm	Holy Communion (Lead: Rev Ray Porter) Holy Communion (Lead: Rev Ray Porter) “Food 4 Thought”: Crib Service	Hulcote Church Cranfield Church Methodist Church
Friday 13th	8.00pm	Home Group: Contact Linda Pearson (Tel: 751358)	59 Springfield Way
<b>Sunday 15th</b>	8.00am 9.00am 10.30am 6.00pm	Morning Prayer (Lead: Jonathan Billington) Morning Prayer & Coffee (Lead: Maurice Rust) Family Nativity Service (Lead: Jo Stannage) Service of Lessons and Carols	Cranfield Church Salford Church Cranfield Church Cranfield Church
<b>Sunday 22nd</b>	9.00am 10.30am  4.00pm	Morning Prayer & Coffee (Lead: Maurice Rust) Holy Communion – Joint Service with Methodists (Lead: Rev Caroline Weaver) Evensong	Hulcote Church Cranfield Church  Salford Church
Tuesday 24th	6.30pm 11.00pm	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> Candlelight Carol Service (Lead: Trevor Dimmock) United Churches Midnight Communion (Lead: Rev Caroline Weaver)	Salford Church Cranfield Church
Wednesday 25th	8.00am  9.15am 10.30am	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> Holy Communion (Lead: The Archdeacon Rev David Middlebrook) Holy Communion (Lead: Rev David Middlebrook) Family Service (Lead: The Churchwardens)	Cranfield Church  Salford Church Cranfield Church
Sunday 29th	8.00am 10.30am	Morning Prayer (Lead: Trevor Dimmock) Morning Service (Lead: Rev Duncan Goldthorpe)	Cranfield Church Cranfield Church

**MOTTO 2019 “ When you pray I will answer you ” Isaiah 58 v9**

**All are welcome to our services and events as we prepare for and celebrate Christmas. Families are welcome at either of the Christingle services whatever the age of their children. Our neighbours at Salford and Hulcote warmly invite you to join them at their services.**