



St Peter & St Paul's Church, Cranfield

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS & DIARY

February 2021

Information and Contacts

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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](http://www.hulcotewithsalfordchurches.co.uk)

or on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/
cranfieldchurch](https://www.facebook.com/cranfieldchurch)

“Wash me and I will be whiter than snow.”



There's something magical about snow. Jonathan, our littliest, got to experience it for the first time over the past few days – and it was such a joy to watch him enjoy it.

Snow is only mentioned in twenty-two verses in the whole bible, and I think my favourite of those has to be in

Psalm 51. Psalm 51 has established a place within the liturgy of our church services. You may be familiar with phrases such as, “Create in me a pure heart, O God”, “Open my lips, O Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise”, and of course, “Wash me and I will be whiter than snow.” However, when you read the opening setting for Psalm 51 you might be forgiven for wondering why this psalm is precious to so many. We're told that the psalm was written, “when the prophet Nathan came to him after David has committed adultery with Bathsheba.”

So what makes this psalm so special? In part it's the vivid imagery David uses, but at its heart I think it's the transformation that David goes through. You can almost see him transform in front of your eyes from guilty monarch to forgiven child of God. Who among us doesn't cry out for that kind of spiritual purity and restoration? And what better way to picture this than through the dramatic image of being made “whiter than snow”.

I have some friends in West Africa who work on bible translations and because the local villagers had no direct experience of snow they thought about how they could contextualise this verse, and settled on: “I will be whiter than sheep's wool.” It was a good idea, until you actually spent some time looking at the local sheep which were some of the messiest and dirtiest sheep you could imagine!

Sometimes we can struggle with being forgiven. We might think that despite God giving it a decent go – he's made us whiter than sheep's wool, but not whiter than snow. But the truth of the gospel is that when we come to him he promises to make us whiter than dazzling, crisp, fresh fallen white snow.

Rev. Isaac Pain

DIARY FOR FEBRUARY 2021

Day	Time	Service/Event	Venue
Friday 5th	7:30pm	Home Group via Zoom – Contact Linda Pearson (<i>l.d.pearson@btinternet.com</i> – Tel. 751358)	Zoom
Sunday 7th	10.30am	Whole Benefice Morning Service	Zoom and Phone
Wednesday 10th	7:30pm	The Bible Course – Exile and Prophets	Zoom and Phone
Sunday 14th	10.30am	Whole Benefice Morning Service	Zoom and Phone
Monday 15th	7:30pm	Cranfield PCC Meeting	Zoom and Phone
Wednesday 17th	7:30pm	The Bible Course – Jesus and the Gospels	Zoom and Phone
Friday 19th	7:30pm	Home Group via Zoom – Contact Linda Pearson (<i>l.d.pearson@btinternet.com</i> – Tel. 751358)	Zoom
Sunday 21st	10.30am	Whole Benefice Morning Service	Zoom and Phone
Wednesday 24th	7:30pm	The Bible Course – Acts and the Church	Zoom and Phone
Sunday 28th	10.30am	Whole Benefice Morning Service	Zoom and Phone



Cranfield Community Auction of Promises
Cranfield Church and Cranfield Academy are arranging an 'auction of promises'. Please have a think about what you might be able to put up for auction. Some fantastic offers have come in already, but could you offer a skill, trade, or gift that you have that others would be interested in bidding for? Or could you approach local businesses on our behalf? Please be in contact with offers and ideas. All proceeds will be divided between the church and the school. The date and more details will be advertised in due course.

Church Services Currently on Zoom

Whilst in this current lockdown we are holding a join online benefice service. To join over Zoom please use this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8138758394?pwd=aTRsL29KS2orQUtXNjIPTSt4aXVYZz09>

Alternatively, the account id is: 813 875 8394

Password: bible

To join over the phone:

Dial: 0333 0164 757

When asked for a Room number type in:

93748362#

And use Guest PIN: 4198#

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