



St Peter & St Paul's Church, Cranfield

## NEWS & DIARY

February 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)

### A New Year, A New Decade, A New Rector

As we step into a new year and a new decade and look around at our church family, we cannot ignore the fact that we are getting older!

With a few exceptions most of us are drawing our retirement pensions.

If our church is to survive into the next few decades, change will be essential. But, change is hard, change is painful. Our brains don't like change; it's difficult to reprogram ourselves. We are too comfortable with old habits and most people won't change until the pain of not changing is worse than the pain of changing.

Within the next month or so the appointment of a new Rector will take place. A Rector who I am sure, in the words of 1 Peter 5, will have "a real desire to serve." However, it is likely that the new person will have new ideas, new ways of 'doing church' and will understand the need to reduce the average age of our congregation by bringing greater numbers of young people into the church family.

I pray that we will be accepting of change and, if necessary, will be prepared to cast off the old and put on the new. The gospel of Jesus Christ – the good news – remains the same, but we are required to preach it anew to each generation.

If you are worried about possible change, our motto text for 2020 is there to help: "Leave all your worries with Him, because He cares for you." (1 Peter 5 v7).

*Trevor Dimmock*



The photograph is of the carving on our pulpit of St Peter and St Paul. St Peter, on the left, holds a book and the keys of the Kingdom. Paul holds a sword which represents the Word of God. Panels on either side show symbols of their deaths – the inverted cross for Peter's crucifixion and the sword reminding us of Paul's execution. An inscription alongside reads: "Be ye doers of the word and not hearers only". Erected in 1891, the impressive pulpit was given in memory of their mother, Elizabeth Jessie, and father, George Gardner, by the Harter children.

# **“Leave all your worries with Him, because He cares for you” - 1 Peter 5:7**

Trevor ended his article on the opening page by reminding us of the Motto Text chosen for 2020. There are different translations. This is the version from the Good News Bible. An alternative is from the NIV translation - “Cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you”.

We all experience anxiety, worries and care. Why is it so important to let them go before they overwhelm us?

On Sunday 12th January, at our 10.30 Holy Communion Service, the Revered Ray Porter gave an inspiring sermon on the above text. He chose as the Gospel reading Matthew 13: 18-23. This is Jesus’ explanation of the parable of the sower. In verse 22 we read: “As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word and it yields nothing”. When we worry it creates stress which can separate us from our precious union with Jesus and the Father. He cares so much for us that He doesn’t want us to be weighed down by worries. Reverend Porter put the verse into context: Peter was writing from Rome to the Christian churches which had been established through Peter’s mission to the dispersed Jews in the region which is now Turkey. They were living in worrying times when Christians were being persecuted by the Emperor Nero. Peter, himself, was facing death. He was telling them to humbly put themselves in God’s hands and to trust in His care. Jesus has conquered even death so there is, ultimately, nothing to fear. We can look forward to being with Him in Glory.

We all face problems at different times in our lives. These may be to do with money, health or relationships. Social media is adding an additional stress to many. We are bombarded daily by our newspapers, radio and TV with news which seems to focus on the bad things that are happening in our world: knife crime and murders, climate change - fires and floods, unrest in all parts of the world and political shenanigans at home. Reverend Porter warned us not to become news junkies! However, if we try to keep ourselves informed, and take anything that makes us angry or concerned to God in prayer, we can protect ourselves from becoming over-anxious about things that we can’t do anything about.

It is important to share problems. Mental health issues and, very sadly, suicide, can be the result of bottling things up. Jesus invites us to share everything with Him and with God. In Matthew 11: 28-30 the much-loved passage: “Come unto me all that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” Oxen would be used to pull heavy loads, but two oxen working together, joined by a wooden yoke, would find the burden easier. Jesus is offering Himself to share our burdens but we must come very close to Him and walk with Him.

In our Holy Communion Service we say the words of the Prayer of Humble Access - “Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us”. As we say these words, we have the promise that they are true and that Christ’s Spirit is in us, not only to strengthen us but to let His Light of Love shine through us. We need to be open to opportunities to listen to and help others. Our listening must be in confidence, non-judgemental and totally focussed on the other person. We should not be too quick to come up with advice or relate what the person is telling us to our own problems. Good listening is an art. May we all cultivate it, listening to others and to God.

This is a quotation from a plaque brought into “The Repair Shop”:  
“Today is the tomorrow we worried about yesterday, and all is well”. Know that ALL IS WELL in God’s hands.



*Dr Marjorie Cotton*

*Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
Give thanks to the Holy One;  
Give thanks because He's given  
Jesus Christ, His Son.*

*And now let the weak say, "I am strong",  
Let the poor say "I am rich"  
Because of what the Lord has done for us.  
Give thanks.*

A lovely hymn by Henry Smith. We have so much to be thankful for:

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**Thank You** that our prayers are being answered and that as a result of the generosity of our regulars and many in the Parish who are not such regular church goers, we are now able to pay our Parish Share in full. An advert has been placed in the Church Times inviting applicants to apply for the post of Priest in Charge for Cranfield and Salford with Hulcote.

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**Thank You** for those who helped with the **Christmas Post**. It is a wonderful service and raised over £400 for the SMART charity in Bedford which supports the homeless.

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**Thank You** Jean, Karen, Jan and others for arranging and continuing to care for the wonderful flowers and foliage which adorned our church over Christmas.

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**Thank You** to those who helped to put up and decorate the Christmas tree and those who helped to take it down.

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**Thank You** to Andrew for arranging the New Year Concert and to all those who supported and enjoyed it. £320 was raised for church funds.

## A Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank you that you know and care for each of us. May we grow in faith so that we trust you absolutely, stop worrying and, taking a day at a time, know that all is well.

## Pew Top Sale

**Saturday 14th March 2020**

**10.00am – 12.00 noon**

**Cranfield Parish Church**

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

## This is YOUR Newsletter!

Have you a favourite Bible verse, hymn or poem that has inspired you? Even a humorous anecdote, clean joke or anything you would like to share! Please contact me (Marjorie) – contact details on the front page.

This is one of my favourites:

Whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

*Philippians 4: 8*



# DIARY FOR FEBRUARY 2020

Day	Time	Service/Event	Venue
<b>Sunday 2nd</b>	8.00am 10.30am 12 noon	Morning Prayer (Lead: TBC) Morning Prayer (Lead: Rev Rachel Simmons) Prayers for the vacancy (and every week)	Cranfield Church Cranfield Church Cranfield Church
Tuesday 4th	7.30pm	“Sounds Familiar” Community Choir (and every Tuesday): Contact Jean Lloyd (Tel: 751495)	Baptist Church
Thursday 6th	10.45am- Noon 7.30pm	Bible Study (and every Thursday): Contact Marjorie Cotton (Tel: 750025) Bellringing Practice (and every Thursday): Contact Mary Hartley ( <i>mary.hartley56@gmail.com</i> )	3 Thrift View Cranfield Church
<b>Sunday 9th</b>	9.00am 10.30am 3.00pm	Holy Communion (Lead: Rev Jennie Cappleman) Holy Communion (Lead: Rev Kate Scott) “Food 4 Thought”: Food Fun & Fellowship - Love	Hulcote Church Cranfield Church Methodist Church
<b>Sunday 16th</b>	8.00am 9.00am 10.30am	Morning Prayer (Lead: TBC) Morning Prayer & Coffee (Lead: Maurice Rust) Family Service with Cranfield Academy (Lead: Andrew Pearson)	Cranfield Church Salford Church Cranfield Church
Friday 21st	8.00pm	Home Group: Contact Linda Pearson (Tel: 751358)	1 Walk House Close
<b>Sunday 23rd</b>	9.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion (Lead: Rev Jennie Cappleman) Holy Communion – Joint Service with Methodists (Lead: Rev Caroline Weaver)	Salford Church Cranfield Church
<b>MARCH</b>			
<b>Sunday 1st</b>	8.00am 10.30am	Morning Prayer (Lead: TBC) Morning Prayer (Lead: Rev Rachel Simmons)	Cranfield Church Cranfield Church
<b>Sunday 8th</b>	9.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion (Lead: Father Paul Davies) Holy Communion (Lead: Father Paul Davies)	Hulcote Church Cranfield Church

**MOTTO 2020** “Leave all your worries with Him, because he cares for you” 1 Peter 5 v7

**All are welcome to join us at our services for worship and fellowship.**

**We look forward to welcoming parents with their children from Cranfield Academy to our Family Service on Sunday 16th February.**

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

*Philippians 4: 6,7*