



St Peter & St Paul's Church, Cranfield

## NEWS & DIARY

October 2020

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**For more information on Cranfield Parish Church look online at:**  
[www.cranfieldchurch.org](http://www.cranfieldchurch.org)

### **Confused And Anxious?**



As I put pen to paper the news of the spread of coronavirus is not good and we await to hear from the Prime Minister what the government plans to do to prevent more hospitalisation and deaths.

It is no wonder that confusion is rife: no sooner do we get used to one set of rules, they get changed!

It seems that every announcement comes up with another sound bite. For the

moment we have 'the rule of 6', talk is of a 'circuit break' to stop the spread. Social distancing is still the order of the day; a rule that goes against our basic Christian instinct to want to hug someone when they are in trouble.

Confusion inevitably leads to fear and anxiety, and that can lead to depression. We seem to be in a vicious circle with no way to turn and no way out.

St Paul reminds us that God is not the author of confusion, but of peace. And the Bible assures us that God has made a way for each one of us, a personal promise to us that all will be well. The prophet Isaiah reminds us of God's words: "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." St Paul in his letter to the church at Corinth reminded his readers that: "He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again."

There are dark forces in this world that sow seeds of doubt and confusion, forces that try to turn us away from God and to doubt his love for each one of us. The book of Proverbs reminds us to "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding."

Sometimes it may not seem like it, but God is with us and He asks us to trust Him. We must continue to trust in His love and His mercy and His grace and His power.

Before he was taken back to the Father, Jesus said: "Do not fear, I am with you always, even to the end of the world."

*Trevor Dimmock*

# Lectionary Reflections

*Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. (James 4: 8)*

## Sunday 4th October – The 17th Sunday after Trinity



**Exodus 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20** God spoke on Mount Sinai, giving the Ten Commandments.

The Ten Commandments are the bedrock of the Law. They are inscribed on the gold panels at either side of the altar in our church, along with the Lord's Prayer.

**Philippians 3: 4b-14** *Whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. (v7) Forgetting what is behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. (vv 13,14)*

**Matthew 21: 33-46** Jesus tells the chief priests and elders another parable directed at themselves. This is the parable of the owner of a vineyard who leased it to tenants. When he sent his slaves to collect the harvest the tenants beat them. So he sent his son, who they also killed. What would the owner do? *"He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at harvest time."* (v41)

Jesus said to them, *"Have you never read the scriptures: "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes."?* (v42) (This is a quotation from Psalm 118 vv 22 & 23) *Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom."* (v43)

## Sunday 11th October – The 18th Sunday after Trinity

**Exodus 32: 1-14** *When the people saw that Moses delayed coming down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron and said to him," Come, make gods for us"* (v1)

Aaron told the people to take off their gold rings so that he could cast an image of a golden calf.

**Philippians 4: 1-9** *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. **Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*** (vv 6,7)

The above verses echo the sentiments in Trevor's article. It is one of my favourites.

*Finally beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, 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. (vv 4-8)*



**Matthew 22: 1-14** Another parable. This one is about the wedding banquet the king had prepared for his son. The invited guests made excuses so the king sent his slaves into the streets to invite everyone they found to the banquet. The king noticed that one of the guests wasn't wearing a wedding robe and he was thrown out. *"For many are called, but few are chosen."* (v14)

A difficult one. What do you think this means? Does it mean that even though the invitation is held out to enter the Kingdom, we have to make an effort? Should we aim to be clothed in righteousness? The garment may be supplied. We have to put it on.



### **Sunday 18th October – The 19th Sunday after Trinity**

**Exodus 33: 12-23** Moses asked God to show him His glory, but as no one could see His face and live, He hid Moses in the cleft of a rock and covered Moses with His hand so that after he had passed by Moses only saw His back. (vv 18-23)

**1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10** Paul and Silas (Silvanus) had hurriedly left Thessalonica, in northern Greece (*Acts 17:1-9*), on his Second Missionary Journey. There was much opposition from local Jews and others.

The letter was written from Corinth after Paul had sent Timothy back to Thessalonica. He had returned with good news.

*"And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word of the Lord with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit."* (v6)

**Matthew 22: 15-22** The Pharisees were trying to trap Jesus. They asked Him whether it was lawful to pay taxes to the emperor or not. After asking them to show Him a coin, *He replied "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's."* (v21)

### **Sunday 25th October – The 20th Sunday after Trinity**

**Deuteronomy 34: 1-12** God shows Moses the land He had promised. *"I have let you see it with your eyes, but you will not cross over there"* (v 4) Moses died and was buried in the land of Moab. *Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the Lord had commanded Moses.* (v9)

**1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8** *You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi (see Acts 16:16-40), as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition.*

**Matthew 22: 34-46** Jesus is again tested by the Pharisees. A lawyer asks Him which commandment is the greatest. *He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And the second is like it: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."* (vv 37-40)



# DIARY FOR OCTOBER 2020

Day	Time	Service/Event	Venue
Friday 2nd	7.30pm	Home Group via Zoom – Contact Linda Pearson ( <i>l.d.pearson@btinternet.com</i> – Tel. 751358)	
<b>Sunday 4th</b>	10.30am	Morning Prayer (Lead: Trevor Dimmock)	Cranfield Church
<b>Sunday 11th</b>	9.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion (Lead: Rev Peter Ackroyd) Holy Communion (Lead: Rev Peter Ackroyd)	Hulcote Church Cranfield Church
Friday 16th	7.30pm	Home Group via Zoom – see above	
<b>Sunday 18th</b>	9.00am 10.30am	Morning Prayer (Lead: Maurice Rust) Harvest All Age Worship (Lead: Jo Stannage)	Salford Church Cranfield Church
<b>Sunday 25th</b>	9.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion (Lead: Rev Ray Porter) Holy Communion (Lead: Rev Ray Porter)	Salford Church Cranfield Church

Please check with the church website: [cranfieldchurch.org.uk](http://cranfieldchurch.org.uk) for updates on church opening times, material for personal worship and links to other services. Thank you to Revd Caroline Weaver for sending through a weekly reflection.

We have been successfully opening for public worship since August. 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 come in good time and 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.

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

**Cranfield Church is open to visitors and for private prayer daily from 10.00am – 4.00pm**

Please use the hand sanitiser provided on entering and leaving the building and do not enter any area that is clearly forbidden.

We hope you will be blessed by your time spent in church.

## Psalm 46 (vv 1,2 & 10)

God is our refuge and our strength, a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change.

Be still, and know that I am God!

## Pew Top Sale

Because of the change in government guidelines, the Pew Top Sale planned for 3rd October has been cancelled.