

# Together



Parish news for the united benefice of Cranford, Grafton  
Underwood, Twywell and Slipton

**February - March 2020**

# Letter ...



**Dear friends,**

We feel that residents might appreciate an update on the process of finding a replacement Rector for the United Benefice. This is essentially a three-stage – no, four stage – process.

First, we needed to agree and write a Prospectus for the Benefice, aimed at informing and attracting potential candidates for the job. This has to be factually accurate and realistic, but also be couched in terms that would not put off any applicants. It has to be agreed by all the parishes, and approved by the Church authorities. This has virtually been completed.

Second, is the question of housing, which involves the present Rectory. Daniel Foot is still in the Rectory, because the Church has been slow to find and modernise a suitable new house for him. A house has now been found, but the dates for completion of the required works have slipped several times. Then, no doubt, there will be some work required to the Rectory, which has not been modernised for some time. It is probably fair to hope now that issue is within sight of being resolved, but it may take some months more.

Third, we have to satisfy the Church authorities that the benefice will not be a financial drain on the Church, who pay the salary of any minister. The benefice contributes to the central Church via the Parish Share system. A full-time rector or vicar requires just under £70,000 annually to support: that is, salary, on-costs, and contribution to overheads. The benefice is paying under half that sum. This raises difficult questions, which have not yet been resolved.

Fourth, and critical, is the matter of actually finding someone. Given the financial issue discussed above, it is likely that we will be able to offer only a part-time position. To develop the benefice would be a challenge full-time, and may be unrealistic for a part-time job. A part-timer would probably need to have another role as well, either within the Church, or outside. We have not yet tested the market, but it is not clear that there are likely to be many applicants on this basis.



Given these considerations, it is likely that the Benefice will be on its own for some while, or we shall have to apply some creative thinking to the issue. The financial difficulties mentioned above are probably too large and beyond our ability to fix. Many other rural parishes and benefices face similar problems, and it may well be that successful formulae have been found elsewhere. As you may expect, we are open to all helpful suggestions and ideas.

A note such as this would not be complete without acknowledging the support and input given by many people, towards keeping the Benefice operating with a semblance of normality: in some respects, a greater community involvement is paying dividends. A number of clergy, some retired, some with other jobs in the Church, have been a great help with our services. The Rural Dean and the Archdeacon have been supportive with advice; and a working group, entitled 'The Future of the Benefice' has been very active in exploring the options and in planning for the future. We can say that progress is being made, but a great deal more will need to be done.

Best Wishes

**Sir John Robinson**

**All enquiries about Church Services to  
Churchwardens:**

**Cranford**

Brian Keech ~ 01536 330232

**Grafton Underwood**

Rog Hatlem ~ 01536 771279

Paul Harris ~ 01536 330567

**Twywell**

Sean Flanagan ~ 01832 733569

Michael Hurst ~ 01832 733926

**Slipton**

Tony Fraser ~ 01832 734059

Parish Representative

Together is distributed to every household in the four parishes. If you would like to contribute to the costs, a donation of £5.00 per annum would be much appreciated.

Please send your donations to the Church Treasurer in your village:

Cranford – Jo Fry

Grafton Underwood – Rob Donnelly

Twywell – Cathy Steele

Slipton – Liz Heath

Many Thanks

## Diocesan News

### 'Saying Yes to Life' – Lent and Lambeth 2020

This summer, almost 1,000 bishops from all over the world will be gathering in Canterbury for the Lambeth Conference. Some of the bishops, including from our link dioceses in Korea, will be spending a few days beforehand at Launde Abbey with Bishop Donald and myself.

A key theme of the conference will be the global climate emergency that is already impacting the dioceses from which some of the bishops serve. For example, low-lying areas flooded by rising sea-levels and conflict triggered by expanding deserts, forcing people to move and compete for scarce land. Archbishop Justin has recorded a short interview highlighting this aspect of Lambeth 2020. You can view it on Vimeo at <https://vimeo.com/359740285>.



As we approach the season of Lent I'd like to commend two ways in which we can engage with these important matters from the perspective of our Christian faith:

The Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book, *Saying Yes to Life* by Ruth Valerio, is a brilliant exploration of what it means to look after God's world, reflecting on creation themes including light, water, land and seasons alongside environmental concerns. It's full of good stories and great insights. Archbishop Justin says that this book "is perfect for individuals and groups to reflect, pray and be challenged together". Copies are currently available for loan from the Bouverie Court Library.

The Church of England's Lent Campaign, '#LiveLent – Care for God's Creation', has produced challenges for 40 days in adult and children's versions that are available as a pocket-sized booklet, via an app or by email. The aim is to broaden our view of Christ's redeeming mission. The campaign has distributed over 13,000 sample copies – your church may have some. The daily Bible readings, reflections and suggested actions link with Ruth's book. I think both versions are really inspiring and great fun! If you wish to order copies of these books, contact [environment@peterborough-diocese.org.uk](mailto:environment@peterborough-diocese.org.uk)

In this diocese, we are aiming to make 2020 a year of greater focus on our stewardship of God's earth as the fifth of the Five Marks of Mission – tell the good news of Jesus; teach the faith; tend for all in his name; transform society in line with Kingdom values; treasure God's creation. Throughout 2020, look out for new initiatives from the Diocesan Environmental Team.

With my prayers and best wishes for a holy and world-changing Lent.

Yours,

+John, Bishop of Brixworth

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**[www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk](http://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk)**



# Cranford News

## St John's Church

The first thing to mention in this post-Christmas issue of *Together*, and while looking back over the special Christmas events, is the magnificent success of St John's first Christmas Tree Festival organised and carried through by the newly formed 'Friends of Cranford Church'. For a fuller report look under the 'Friends' heading further on in the Cranford news section. We simply say "Thank you and well done!"

The round-the-village carol singing took place on the rainy evening of 18th December when, after two hours of singing and brisk walking between venues the small group arrived wet, cold and generally bedraggled at the Red Lion where we were very hospitably received with reviving refreshments. Carol sheets were distributed and the singing continued. The total collection in aid of the *Northamptonshire and Warwickshire Air Ambulance* amounted to £167.48. Thanks to all who participated.

The church fully decorated by Sandra Naylor and her team, plus several Christmas trees left over from the festival, looked particularly spectacular - thank you everyone. A notable feature, as usual, was the 'memory tree, donated by David and Jean Andrews. A total of £90.04 in donations for *Cransley Hospice* was given by those who added bows to the tree in memory of loved ones.

The collection of £342.88 at the candlelight carol service on 22nd December was this year split between the Goodwill Children's Villages in India and St John's general fund.

To complete our list of recent charitable giving, we should also report that £209.05 has been sent to the Ex-Servicemen's Mental Welfare Association, that being the collection at the Remembrance service on 10th November.

In thanking individuals and groups for their contributions towards specific aspects of the Christmas season we risk, of course, leaving someone out! We therefore say "Thank you" to all those who have contributed so much to St John's church over the years and, particularly, we think at this time of those who are currently reviewing their standing orders for regular giving, and of those who are setting up standing orders for the first time. If there is anyone

who would like a form to set up a standing order, please let a member of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) know or pick up a form from the font.

Those who took part in the 1st January 'Sunrise' service were in no way dismayed when, after a short church service at 7.30am and a walk up Stanbridge Hill, the rising of the sun was not actually visible because of cloud. However, we all had faith that at the appointed time of 8.13am the sun was actually there at the horizon. After a further hymn and prayer we came back down to the village for a breakfast of warm croissants and preserves in the church.

The village C of E Primary School's Christmas events encompassed carol concerts, nativity events and an end of term service led by Reverend Doug Spenceley, the Bishop's vicar for church schools in the diocese as well as being an associate priest with the Emmanuel group of churches in Northampton. We are indebted to Douglas for coming back to conduct the candlelight carol service, this time with his wife, Hilary, who provided piano accompaniment for the singing. He then made a further return to conduct the baptism service for Willow Ava West on 5th January. We look forward to the first two of the programme of Sunday services in which the school will participate on 26th January and 8th March.

On the subject of the repair to the south aisle roof following the lead theft of almost a year ago, we have now received the go-ahead from the Diocesan Advisory Committee, following their scrutiny of the church architect's proposals, to proceed with the application for a formal faculty to replace the lead with terne-coated steel. Alas, as I write I am awaiting a call back from the police to enable me to report a triggering of the church roof alarm system at about 2.30am this morning (Monday 13th January). Although an inspection in daylight this morning revealed no signs of further damage to the roof, subsequent reports have been received of what sounded like two people running along Church Lane immediately after the alarm sounded towards a vehicle parked somewhere near the school. We are certainly most appreciative of the alertness of all the near neighbours of St John's who should never hesitate in calling 01536 330232 or 01536 330248 immediately they hear the alarm or see anything suspicious.

Following an expression of interest in the work of the PCC from Sandra Naylor, who played such a major part in the Christmas tree festival, Sandra has been co-opted on to the PCC and we look forward to the valuable contribution we are sure she will make. *Brian Keech*

### **Friends of St John's Church**

The Friends of St John's would like to thank all those who helped raise the massive amount of £1353 at the Tree Festival in December. Apart from the money raised it was great to see the church look so festive and full of friends old and new.

An especial thanks to those individuals and businesses who entered a tree. The Friends are planning another event soon which we hope will be as well supported.

## **The Cranford and District Over 60s**

Everyone enjoyed a delicious meal at our Christmas Party and we were entertained by an hilarious 'Christmas Fairy' The Christmas hamper was won by Margaret Keevil.

On 25th February our speaker is Sue Jakeman who will tell us about "My Auntie Peggy Spencer. The meeting will begin at 1.30pm, but on 31st March the meeting begins at 12.30pm as we are having a Fish and Chip Lunch. All meetings are in the Village Hall.

For further details please ring Doreen Mayes 01832 733961. *Margaret Keevil*

## **Cranford WI**

We all enjoyed the Christmas Party held in the Village Hall before Christmas with excellent entertainment by Hugh Beynon. Members also enjoyed the film night in January, especially the refreshment of popcorn, drinks and ice creams. Our thanks go to Penny and Roger Payne for putting on the film show.

We are looking forward to hearing Bob Brind-Surch's talk about Africa on 13th February and Rita Chambers will tell us about 'Heritage Baking' on 12th March. New members are always welcome to our club. It is held in the Village Hall on the second Thursday of each month starting at 7pm. *Jenny Potter*

## **The Village Hall**

Several successful village events augmented the usual bookings, on which the hall survives. The successful Craft Fair provided sales potential for the exhibitors, and a cheery welcome for the 'punters', who were able to buy food and drinks as they scoured the exhibits.

Then the Cranford Light Up provided many children with the challenge of making decorations, followed by refreshments and then a trek, with carol accompaniment across the illuminated route to the Red Lion for a concluding glass of punch. Thanks to all those who participated, planned and provided. One of hopefully many new events for all the locals to enjoy. Next opportunity to share a village hall function is Bingo Night on Friday 6th March. *George Potter*

## **Cranford Men's Club**

Now in our second year, we met on Wednesday 8th January for our usual soup/ cake and coffee lunch at the village hall. Sadly some found it difficult to come due to illness, but even so there were 15 good souls to enjoy a bit of food and chat. We will continue with this rendezvous on the first Wednesday of the month.

Please contact me with any forthcoming events to be included in the February / March 2020 edition by 8th March 2020 at The Dial House, Rectory Hill Cranford NN144AH or email [jandg.potter@btconnect.com](mailto:jandg.potter@btconnect.com) or phone 01536 330696.

Best wishes

*Jenny Potter*

## More Cranford News

### Holy Baptism

5th January  
2020

**Willow Ava**

Daughter of Jonathan Alan West and Kellie Dianne West

## RECIPE

### Vegetable Lent Pie

#### Ingredients

500g (1lb) potatoes  
2 large carrots  
2 large onions  
1 large turnip  
500g can/carton sieved pureed tomatoes  
180g (6oz) breadcrumbs  
1 tsp mixed dried herbs  
2 tsp liquid vegetable extract  
salt and pepper



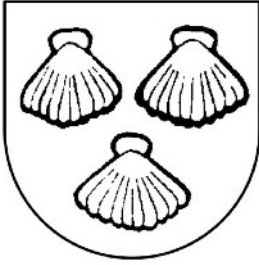
#### Method

1. Peel and chop the onions and fry in little cooking oil or butter until soft.
2. Peel the vegetables and cut into small pieces. Note: The vegetables need to be cut quite small in order to cook quickly in the oven; however, if you like your vegetables in larger chunks, you can part-boil or steam them for 5 to 10 minutes before cooking in the oven.
3. Mix the vegetables with the onions and place in a large oven-proof dish. Season with salt and pepper to taste and pour the pureed tomatoes over the top.
4. Cover and cook in a pre-heated moderate oven at 180°C/350°F/Gas mark 4) for 30 minutes.
5. Mix the breadcrumbs with the herbs and stir in the vegetable extract until thoroughly mixed. Spread this mixture over the cooked vegetables.
6. Cook for a further 30 minutes until the topping is golden brown and the vegetables are cooked through.

Serve warm from the oven with a little white onion sauce or vegetable gravy.

*(recipe from [travelaboutbritain.com](http://travelaboutbritain.com))*





# Grafton Underwood News

I would like to start this newsletter by wishing everyone good health and happiness in 2020.

Secondly I would like to thank the team of people who have so willingly helped to keep our church services running smoothly during 2019, and those who gave their time to make our church clean and welcoming. It's much appreciated. If there is anyone else who would like to join us and have a go at something, please do let me know, whether it is helping at services or cleaning (we are always short of volunteers for this ), flowers or mowing the churchyard, we would love to have your help.

Our Nativity went very well despite the lack of cast and rehearsals and we thank all those who took part. A full church also enjoyed a lovely Carol Service and we were delighted to have a soloist to make it a little special, for which we thank Olivia Delaney.

On a sadder note our condolences go to the Coles family, especially Richard on the loss of his partner David. Our thoughts and prayers are with them  
May one remind everyone that donations to the cost of this newsletter are due and can be given to me at any time (suggested amount is £5).

We are due to have the speed cameras back again this year so Penny will be needing some volunteers to man them yet again!

There will also be a First Aid/Defibrillator course hopefully in the near future. The Parish Council will also be organising the Annual Litter Pick on Saturday 14th or 21st March. Please look for out for notices or check on the Parish council website for further information.

The next PC meeting will be on 11th February 2020.

*Jenny Daykin*

## **Village Hall**

Belated Happy New Year to everyone from the committee. We had a quiet Christmas Party on 7th December, however, there was an opportunity for people to catch up and actually to sit down and have a chat, so not all was lost. We also managed to raise £140 on the night.

There are a couple of dates for your diary, the first is 29th February. Wine tasting, an evening of fine wine and cheeses. Wine can be purchased on the night. Time and details to follow.

On 4th April we will be serving a Spring Brunch as our September Brunch is so popular. This is an ideal time to brush off the cobwebs and reward your spring cleaning efforts with a hearty Brunch. Again times to follow.

Many thanks

*GUVH committee Village Hall Committee*

### **Flood warden**

After a very wet Autumn with very high rainfall and the brook close to overflowing a couple of times, no events to report! I hope to soon move the flood kit to Mark's garage! And he can have the mound of paperwork though "she" says that a lot must be out of date and needs sorting. (Daniel is not the only one who can accumulate paperwork!)

My morning walks up the footpath indicate that the ground is thoroughly waterlogged and any rainfall will lead to the brook filling up fast! Also note that the road junction to Geddington floods rapidly, not deep but a hazard to cars going at speed. (I know it's a 30 mph zone but when did everyone observe the speed limit?)

I note that a community in Snowdonia have put in a mini hydro electric scheme. Is there a potential for Grafton? Also note that Beavers are being reintroduce around the country, their dams are good for flood control!

*Mark Bird & Richard D*

### **Tree warden**

One must chase the estate as no action has been taken re. the removal of the dead horse chestnut at the bottom of the churchyard path! And the dew pond up on the way to White House farm is an absolute disgrace.

I read in the paper the other day that some English elms have been found to be resistant to Dutch Elm Disease and are being bred in one or two nurseries! I then realised that there are a group of semi mature elms beside the public footpath in an overgrown hedge that are growing vigorously, with dead elms either side of them. Now I wonder if I can take a few cuttings in the spring?

*Richard D*





# Slipton News

The theme at our annual Carols by Candlelight service on Christmas Eve concentrated on Christmas Trees and, as usual, it looked wonderful. After the service, our ladies laid on mince pies and mulled wine for the adult congregation which proved to be so popular that it ran out very quickly. Gilly says she will remember to double the quantity for next year! Our thanks to all those who helped to make the evening such a success, especially our young readers who coped so well with the pronouncement of some difficult and unusual words.



These young children decorated their own tree and also helped with the collection.

Thanks also to our church decorators, our organist Hazel Stimpson and, of course, Rev Graham Bell for leading the service. There was not a spare seat in the house. This special service was started by Allen and Wynn Worsfold some years ago and we are all thinking of them now in their difficult circumstances. We found a pair of lady's tortoiseshell glasses in the church after the service so if the loser reads this she should contact Tony or Gilly Fraser on 01832 734059. Finally, we are planning to hold a non-religious Chat in the Church with coffee for all Slipton residents on third Sunday mornings between 11 and 12am for the next three months. All are welcome. The first one has been planned for 19th January.

*Tony Fraser*



# Twywell News

By the time you read this, Christmas will begin to feel a little distant. It was a wonderful time for our village. The Church hosted our annual *Carols by Candlelight* service and, this year, the Joint Benefice Christmas mass on Christmas Eve. Both were very well attended with around 60 for the Carol service being a recent record congregation who enjoyed the abundant mince pies and mulled wine and also the impromptu Christmas cake sale- clearing up all offerings! This was immediately followed by the lighting of the village Christmas tree and a further sing-song of popular Christmas hits. The whole chain of events was a collaboration between the Parochial Church Council, The Parish Council and the Community Events team and was a huge success. We hope this has laid the foundation for many similar events.

The Christmas Mass service was also very well attended by village and wider benefice folk and was blessed with two outstanding solo performances by young members of the congregation. Barney enchanted us with a Christmas song which he had learned at school and Martha led us into the carols by singing the first verse of 'Once in Royal David's city'. The atmosphere was truly lovely.

At both services in December we were surrounded by wonderfully decorated, shimmering Christmas trees and seasonal flowers. This created a magical atmosphere and we thank all contributors for their hard work which helped make the festive season so special.

February and March are book ended by two important Christian events. Candlemas & the Annunciation:

Candlemas falls on 2nd February which is a Sunday this year. Candlemas celebrates the presentation of the child Jesus' first entry to the temple. Christians consider Jesus is the "light of the world" so it is fitting that candles are blessed on this day. In France it is traditional to eat Crepes on Candlemas Day. Each family member cooks a crepe whilst holding a coin in their hand. This is believed to assure wealth & happiness until the next celebration. Snowdrops also known as Candlemas bells represent hope in our faith.



The feast of the Annunciation falls on 25th March, celebrating the Archangel Gabriel's visit to the Virgin Mary, where he informs her that she would be the mother of Jesus Christ, the son of God.

The final Christian festival of note for this issue is St. Dorothy's day, which falls on 6th February. Dorothea of Caesarea (modern day Turkey) was a virgin martyr. Little is known of her life. She is patron of horticulture, brides, midwives & love. Her Saints day is believed to be the most likely day for snow to fall in the year!

### **'Comings & Goings'**

We say *adieu* to the Beech family who have moved from *Fairview*, High Street, to Brigstock. We wish them all the best in their new adventure and thank them for all they have contributed to village life during their time here.

In their place we welcome Rob & Charley Stanley. Rob Stanley has strong historical ties to Twywell: his Grandfather was the late Don Green who lived a long and happy life in Twywell, residing at a number of locations within the village for most of his 90 years.

We also say a fond farewell to Pauline Thomas, who has left *The Lawns*, Lower Street for a new start in Corby. Pauline sadly lost her husband Philip last year. We wish her well and hope to see her back in the village from time to time.

### **'Other news'**

In the run up to Advent Mark and Claire Coales organised a Christmas Feast at *MacQueen House*, High Street, for the 'Young at Heart' members of the parish. Close to 40 residents enjoyed a sumptuous dinner, accompanied by fortifying drink and plenty of chatter and laughter! This thoroughly enjoyable afternoon was a huge success, and we thank and congratulate Mark and Claire for creating and providing this splendid community initiative. The money raised from the event was donated to a very worthwhile homeless charity in Kettering.

The Parish Council has been successful in their most recent National Lottery application, having secured funds for a marquee with lighting and catering equipment. This will enable a more flexible approach to future event planning and facilitate a greater number of 'outdoor' village events. A sub-committee is finalising the details to satisfy the grant rules and it is hoped a launch event can be planned for the late springtime. Further details will follow.

In the last issue we announced that the Parish Council has launched the website [www.twywellparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.twywellparishcouncil.co.uk) This has been well received. Important village information is listed in an easy to navigate format, which is subject to regular updates. Additionally, some great old photos of the village and broader parish are included in the gallery section. If you haven't visited the website yet, please do.



Coffee Mornings continue to be held monthly. The total raised for the Air Ambulance Service for October-December 2019 was an impressive £156.80, which included a donation of £20. We thank all concerned for supporting this worthy cause. If you think you might like to host a coffee morning, please contact Margaret Ansell at *Greystones*, Lower Street or by telephone on 01832 733144. It is not an onerous task and attendees are always well behaved, if voluble!

And finally .... 'A Pause for Thought'

"A flower does not think of competing with the flower next to it. It just blooms".

*Twywell PCC*

st.nicholas.twywell@gmail.com



### **More Twywell News**

#### **Banns of Marriage**

9th & 23rd  
February

**Sophie E Winfield and Capt. Thomas E Dudley**

## Diocesan News

### “I think these belong to you”



The items are safely returned to St Giles

St Giles Church in Desborough enjoyed “a Christmas miracle” during the festive season when stolen silverware from the church turned up in a neighbour’s garden!

The discovery was made during a TV interview about the burglary. St Giles’ Assistant Priest, the Revd Canon Neil Clarke, takes up the story: “We were filming a piece for ITV Anglia News when a person who lives near the church walked in with a plastic shopping bag and said ‘I think these belong to you’! All of the lost items were in there. It was amazing. He just saw the bag over the fence at the end of his garden.”

The items in question had been part of the fabric of the church for generations, including one item from the 16th century.

“We had lost three silver chalices – the oldest we believe is from 1577, the other two were donations from the 1960s. There was also a metal chalice, two silver patens, one metal paten, a silver ciborium and a silver flagon.”

The robbery was the second of two thefts to take place at St Giles during December, and it was Neil who discovered that the church had been burgled once again.

“The previous break-in was on 13th December. During the first break-in, one safe was damaged and two doors. Other than that, there was no loss,” explains Neil. “But when I went to the church at 8.45am on Monday 30th December to prepare some wedding returns, I found the church had been broken into for a second time.”

This time, the damage to the church was far more substantial, and ongoing repairs are needed. “Two safes were broken into and are not able to be repaired. The church main door, back door and vestry door were also broken and need repair. The thieves also took £107 in cash. It’s thought to be the same criminals that came back for the main safe.”

But this begs the question of why the thieves left the silverware behind – an outcome which has baffled both Neil and the police. “We initially thought the objects would be



Revd Andrew Farrington (left) and Revd Canon Neil Clarke with the returned silverware

melted down for their scrap value. The items may have been left to collect later. Maybe they were abandoned because they thought that they could not be sold. The police have no thoughts on that. Either way, we're delighted at the recovery – a Christmas miracle." Northamptonshire Police remain on the lookout for the perpetrators of the break-ins. Anyone with information or who may have witnessed this incident is asked to call Northamptonshire Police on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

## **Will you be registering for the 2020 Northamptonshire Churchyard Conservation Award Scheme?**

The Northampton-based charity The Wildlife Trust has announced its 2020 Conservation Churchyard Award Scheme, which aims to help churches to increase the wildlife in their churchyards or gardens. Churches can register for the scheme and will receive an advisory visit on making the most of their trees, shrubs, grasslands and meadow plants, as well as on providing habitats for a variety of animals.

Registered churches can then work towards receiving Bronze, Silver and Gold awards. The Bronze award is aimed at churches who are starting out managing their churchyards for wildlife. These churches will need some form of management plan, and to have made a start on some conservation work. The Silver award is aimed at churchyards whose conservation management is up and running, and starting to benefit a range of wildlife, while the Gold award is aimed at the best churchyards for wildlife, where conservation management is well established across a range of habitats and species, and benefiting a host of wildlife.

Each award lasts for three years, after which churches can reapply or go for a higher award. Applying for an award costs £5. To request a visit or apply for an award, please contact the Wildlife Trust for an application form. You can email [northamptonshire@wildlifebcn.org](mailto:northamptonshire@wildlifebcn.org) or phone 01604 405285. The closing date for entries is 28th February 2020.







## Dates for Your Diary

### Cross-benefice Groups

- Bellringers** practise on Mondays at 7.30pm, rotating every 2 weeks between Cranford St John and Grafton Underwood churches. Enquiries to Laurence Stapleton (01832 720321) or Michael Hurst (01832 733926).
- Handbell Ringers** Enquiries to John Evans (01832 732993) or Richard Walters (01536 330380).
- Home Group** Meeting twice a month, at the moment we meet on the first and third Monday afternoon, 2-4pm, in various homes. Starting with tea/coffee and biscuits, followed by Bible study, discussion and prayers. Everyone welcome. For current information, please contact Margaret McDonald (01536 370126).
- Over 60s Club** normally meets on the last Tuesday in the month at lunchtime in Cranford Village Hall. Enquiries to Doreen Mayes (01832 733961).
- Cranford WI** meets on the second Thursday in the month at Cranford Memorial Hall at 7.30pm. Enquiries to Lady Fry.

### Parish Council Meetings

*(See also Parish Council Notice Boards)*

- Cranford** please note the Parish Council is changing the day on which it meets due to other commitments at the Village Hall. For all future meetings please refer to Parish Council minutes posted on the village notice-boards or visit <https://cranfordparishcouncil.com> until further notice.
- Grafton** quarterly normally on the second Tuesday at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. Next meeting: 11th February 2020. Enquiries to David Hinckley or Sue Cook (07825 925210 or [clerkgupe@gmail.com](mailto:clerkgupe@gmail.com)).
- Twywell** Every 2 months on third Thursday at 7.30pm. Next meeting: Wednesday 19th February (MacQueen House). Enquiries to Peter Kelly (07768 206314) or [twywellclerk@gmail.com](mailto:twywellclerk@gmail.com)
- Slipton** represented on Lowick Parish Council by 2 councillors, meets quarterly normally on a Tuesday at 7.30pm, Germain Rooms, Lowick. Enquiries to Filomena Palmer (01832 733503)

## Services in February 2020

<b>Sunday 2nd February</b>	8.00am	<b>Cranford St John's, HC BCP</b>
<i>PRESENTATION OF CHRIST</i>	11.00am	<b>Grafton Underwood, Family Half Hour +RR</b>
<i>Candlemas</i>	11.00am	<b>Slipton, HC with Father John Tiernan</b>
<b>Sunday 9th February</b>	9.15am	<b>Twywell, HC CW (trad.)</b>
<i>SEPTUAGESIMA</i>	10.15am	<b>Cranford St John's, All Age Worship</b>
	11.00am	<b>Grafton Underwood, MP CW (mod.) + RR</b>
<b>Sunday 16th February</b>	9.15am	<b>Cranford St John's, HC CW (mod.)</b>
<i>SEXAGESIMA</i>	11.00am	<b>Grafton Underwood, Family Worship +RR</b>
	12noon	<b>Slipton, Church Open for Private Prayers following Chat in the Church if required.</b>
<b>Sunday 23rd February</b>	9.15am	<b>Twywell, MP CW</b>
<i>QUINQUAGESIMA</i>	11.00am	<b>Grafton Underwood, HC CW (mod.) + RR</b>
	6.00pm	<b>Cranford St John's, EP CW (mod.)</b>
<b>Wed. 26th February</b>	6.00pm -	<b>Cranford St John's, Church Open for Private Prayers</b>
<i>ASH WEDNESDAY</i>	7.00pm	

HC = Holy Communion; MP = Morning Prayer; EP = Evening Prayer;  
 +RR = Refreshments; BCP = Book of Common Prayer (1662);  
 CW = Common Worship (2000)  
 trad. = traditional language; mod. = modern language.

*All our churches are available for your private prayers during the day-time. Please look in the porches for the names of the keyholders.*

*Listings of services for the next 3 or 4 weeks appear on the church gates, notice boards and elsewhere. You are most welcome if you wish to attend only occasionally or to re-start after a long absence. Never worry if you have to arrive late or leave early.*

Please keep this schedule for 2 months. Spare copies are available from the churches. The full schedule for April / May 2020 will be printed in the next issue.

## Services in March 2020

<b>Sunday 1st March</b> <i>LENT 1</i>	8.00am <b>Cranford St John's</b> , HC BCP
	11.00am <b>Grafton Underwood</b> , Family Half Hour +RR
	11.00am <b>Slipton</b> , HC with Father John Tiernan
<b>Sunday 8th March</b> <i>LENT 2</i>	9.15am <b>Twywell</b> , HC CW (trad.)
	10.15am <b>Cranford St John's</b> , All Age Worship with Cranford School
	11.00am <b>Grafton Underwood</b> , MP CW (mod.) + RR
<b>Sunday 15th March</b> <i>LENT 3</i>	9.15am <b>Cranford St John's</b> , HC CW (trad.)
	11.00am <b>Grafton Underwood</b> , Family Worship +RR
	12noon <b>Slipton</b> , Church Open for Private Prayers following Chat in the Church if required.
<b>Sunday 22nd March</b> <i>LENT 4</i> <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	9.15am <b>Twywell</b> , MP CW
	11.00am <b>Grafton Underwood</b> , HC CW (mod.) +RR
	6.00pm <b>Cranford St John's</b> , EP BCP
<b>Sunday 29th March</b> <i>LENT 5</i>	10.15am <b>Cranford St John's</b> , United Holy Communion CW (mod.) for ALL four Parishes +RR

## Services in early April 2020

<b>Sunday 5th April</b> <i>PALM SUNDAY</i>	10.15am <b>Cranford St John's</b> , All Age Worship
	11.00am <b>Grafton Underwood</b> , Family Half Hour +RR
	11.00am <b>Slipton</b> , HC with Father John Tiernan
<b>Thursday 9th April</b> <i>MAUNDY THURSDAY</i>	6.00pm - <b>Cranford St John's</b> , Church Open for Private Prayers
	7.00pm Prayers
<b>Friday 10th April</b> <i>GOOD FRIDAY</i>	11.00am <b>Slipton</b> , meditation and prayers with Father John Tiernan
	1.00pm - <b>Cranford St John's</b> , Church Open for Private Prayers
	3.00pm Prayers
<b>Sunday 12th April</b> <i>EASTER SUNDAY</i>	8.00am <b>Cranford St John's</b> , HC BCP
	9.15am <b>Twywell</b> , HC CW (trad.)
	11.00am <b>Grafton Underwood</b> , MP CW (mod.) + RR
	11.00am <b>Slipton</b> , HCwith Father John Tiernan



## More Dates for Your Diary

### FEBRUARY 2020

- 1st (Sat) **Peterborough Diocese**, Concert by Peterborough Cathedral Choir at St Mary the Blessed Virgin, Warmington, PE8 6TE at 7pm. Free and all are welcome.
- 6th (Thu) **Twywell Book Club**, 7.30pm at *The Old Friar*, Lower Street. Come and share your views of your latest read, get next book ideas, swap books, or just come to listen and be inspired. (Every month on the first Thursday).
- 11th (Tue) **Cranford Coffee Morning**, at 10.40am in the Village Hall, Grafton Road. Enquiries to Margaret Keevil 01536 330367.
- 12th (Wed) **Twywell Coffee Morning**, 10.30am to 12noon at *White Arbours*, High Street, by kind invitation of Jim Bradshaw. Proceeds in aid of *Air Ambulance*. Enquiries to Margaret Ansell (01832 733144).
- 12th (Wed) **Twywell Dining Club**, 7.00pm at *The Old Friar*, Lower Street. Please telephone Becca on 01832 732625 for further information and to book your places.
- 13th (Thu) **Cranford WI**, talk by Bob Brind-Surch on Africa at 7pm in the Village Hall.
- 14th (Fri) **Peterborough Diocese**, Cathedral at Night: Photographers' Evening at Peterborough Cathedral. 6.30pm to 10.00pm. £5 per person for a 60 minute slot. Book online or call 01733 355315.
- 15th (Sat) **Peterborough Diocese**, The Love of Flowers at Peterborough Cathedral. 1.00pm to 3.00pm. £10 per person, including both the demonstration and afternoon tea. Book online or call 01733 355315.
- 22nd (Sat) **Peterborough Diocese**, Bishop's Bible Day at Peterborough Cathedral. 9:30am to 4.00pm. Free (donations are welcome). To book a place, phone 01604 887049 or email [bookings@peterborough-diocese.org.uk](mailto:bookings@peterborough-diocese.org.uk)
- 23rd (Sun) **Peterborough Diocese**, Ashley Snowdrop Walk at St Mary's Church, LE16 8HF. 12 noon to 3.30pm. All are welcome. £5 adults / £3 children aged 12 and under (this includes hot homemade soup and a bread roll).
- 25th (Tue) **Cranford & District Over 60s**, Speaker Sue Jakeman 'My Auntie Peggy Spencer'. Meeting begins at 1.30pm in the Village Hall.
- 29th (Sat) **Grafton Underwood Village Hall Committee**, Wine Tasting Evening, with wine and cheeses. Time and details to follow.

## More Dates for Your Diary

### MARCH 2020

- 3rd (Tue) **Cranford Coffee Morning**, at 10.40am in the Village Hall, Grafton Road. Enquiries to Margaret Keevil 01536 330367.
- 5th (Thu) **Twywell Book Club**, 7.30pm at *The Old Friar*, Lower Street. Come and share your views of your latest read, get next book ideas, swap books, or just come to listen and be inspired. (Every month on the first Thursday).
- 6th (Fri) **Cranford Village Hall Committee**, Bingo Night, time to be confirmed. See village notice-board for more details.
- 8th (Sun) **Cranford CE Primary School**, Sycamore Family Church Service at 10.15am
- 11th (Wed) **Twywell Dining Club**, 7.00pm at *The Old Friar*, Lower Street. Please telephone Becca on 01832 732625 for further information and to book your places.
- 12th (Thu) **Cranford WI**, talk by Rita Chambers on 'Heritage Baking' at 7pm in the Village Hall.
- 17th (Tue) **Twywell Coffee Morning**, 10.30am to 12noon at *Cosy Nook Cottage*, Oliver's Walk, by kind invitation of Peter & Annette Kelly. Proceeds in aid of *Air Ambulance*. Enquiries to Margaret Ansell (01832 733144).
- 24th (Tue) **Cranford Coffee Morning**, at 10.40am in the Village Hall, Grafton Road. Enquiries to Margaret Keevil 01536 330367.
- 31st (Tue) **Cranford & District Over 60s**, Fish and Chip Lunch. Meeting begins at 12.30pm in the Village Hall.

### early APRIL 2020

- 2nd (Thu) **Twywell Book Club**, 7.30pm at *The Old Friar*, Lower Street. Come and share your views of your latest read, get next book ideas, swap books, or just come to listen and be inspired. (Every month on the first Thursday).
- 3rd (Fri) **Cranford CE Primary School**, Easter Bonnet Parade and Church Service at 9.15am.
- 3rd (Fri) **Twywell Police Surgery**, 1.10pm-1.40pm at *The Phone Box*, The Green. Meet your local PCSO to discuss safety and general community concerns.
- 14th (Tue) **Twywell Coffee Morning**, 10.30am to 12noon at *The Cottage*, High Street, by kind invitation of Michael & Janet Folkes. Proceeds in aid of *Air Ambulance*. Enquiries to Margaret Ansell (01832 733144).

*If you have any local events taking place in April, May and early June 2020 that you would like to promote on these pages, please contact emcoleman@hotmail.co.uk before 15th March 2020.*



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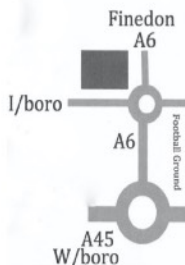
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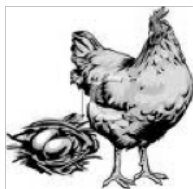
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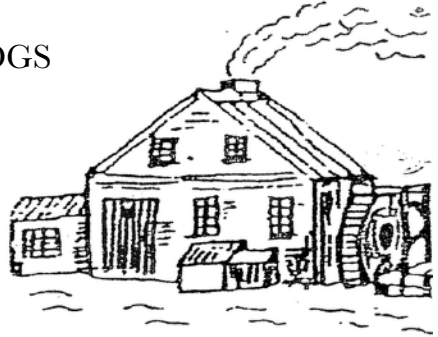
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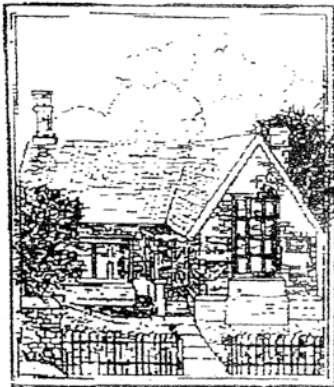
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