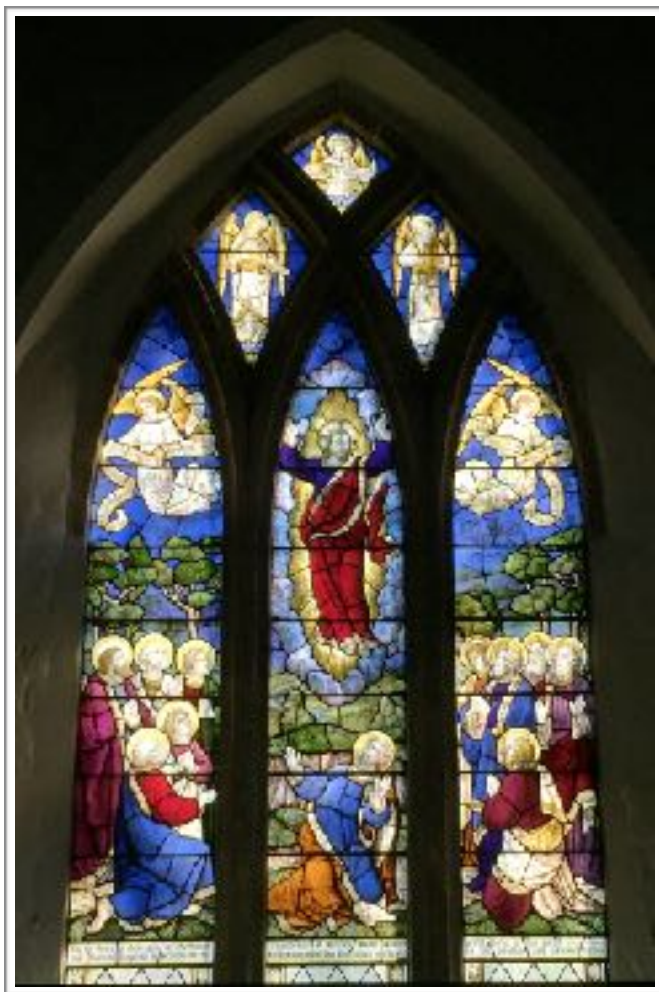


Together



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

April - May 2020

Letter ...



Dear friends,

As this letter is penned Daniel and his family are settling into their new home. We are sure that everyone in the four villages that make up our united benefice wish them a continued, wonderful, peaceful and happy retirement.



The world is entering an uncertain time, whether that be the Coronavirus outbreak, faith persecution or political division, in our country and across the globe. As Christians we pray for peace, understanding and truth. Whatever our future is, we hold to our faith for strength.

On a lighter note we are now into the magical season of spring. No other season in rural communities allows us to witness the miracle of birth and new growth so visibly. It is hard to put into words this beauty so we end with a couple of verses from Chapter 2 of *Song of Songs* that puts it better than we ever could.

“See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone.

Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land.

The fig tree forms its early fruit; the blossoming vines spread their fragrance.
Arise, come, my darling; my beautiful one, come with me.”

Best Wishes

Twywell PCC



Important Notice

HELLO! If you are self-isolating, I can help.

My name is

I live locally at

My phone number is

If you are self-isolating due to COVID-19 I can help with:

<input type="checkbox"/> Picking up shopping	<input type="checkbox"/> Posting mail
<input type="checkbox"/> A friendly phone call	<input type="checkbox"/> Urgent supplies

Just call or text me and I'll do my best to help you (for free!)

Coronavirus is contagious. Please take every precaution to ensure you are spreading only kindness. Avoid physical contact (2m distance). Wash your hands regularly. Items should be left on your doorstep. **aViralKindness**

For more information about people who can help,
please contact Jenny Potter on 01536 330696 or email
jandg.potter@btconnect.com

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

The cross stands

Holy Week and Easter mark the climax of the Christian year – and this indeed is the pivotal point of all human history. The extraordinary drama of this season, the gathering darkness as Jesus' enemies seek for the opportunity to destroy him, the poignancy of the Last Supper, the desolation of Good Friday as Jesus hangs upon the cross, the unprecedented, bewildering, unsettling events of Easter morning as Jesus' friends encounter not a corpse but an empty tomb, and the eruption of joy as they encounter the Risen Christ himself – all this will be recalled and enacted in churches across the diocese, up and down the land, throughout the world.

At the Cathedral, we do all this in the presence of sculptor Frank Roper's compelling image of Christ on the cross that hangs at the head of the Nave. The piece is red and gold, symbolising sacrifice and glory, with a Latin inscription that reads 'Stat Crux Dum Volvitur Orbis' which translates as 'The cross stands (or is steady) while the world turns' (or more accurately 'is being turned').

This phrase, which is the motto of the Carthusian Order, has immediate relevance to the drama of this season, but also has a much broader significance for Christians about where to find meaning in the midst of a world in turmoil.

As far as the narrative of Holy Week is concerned, the cross is the point of destiny and departure. Jesus has "turned his face towards to Jerusalem" – increasingly he sees the cross as the inevitable outcome of the challenge he has brought to "principalities and powers" (secular and religious) of this present age. Yet it is not the end. This is, in every sense, a crossroads, and the cross points forward to the "glorious freedom of the children of God" – freedom from the fear of death because the cross is the worst that the world can do, and it is not enough. The unstoppable power of the love of God revealed in Jesus cannot be defeated.

As for us, we need to know that living radically in the way of the Gospel will see us being challenged too, and so we need to refocus our attention on the cross. While the Church debates, while the world is in uproar, the cross stands as a sign of love, hope and meaning. The Cathedral itself has down the years had some tumultuous times, not least in the past few years, and we still face big challenges to become not least financially secure for the long term. But we face all this with a deep confidence because we stand day by day at the foot of the cross, and place our trust in Christ's power to redeem and renew.

We adore you O Christ and we bless you because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Yours,



The Very Revd Chris Dalliston
Dean of Peterborough

Diocese of Peterborough - Magazine Resource - April 2020

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www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk



Cranford News

St John's Church

The programme to involve the village school in Sunday services, as fostered by Richard Albert (head teacher), Sandra Day and Elizabeth Ross certainly gained momentum at the 10.15 am "All Age Worship" service on Sunday 8th March, when Sandra's telling of the David and Goliath story was supplemented by the acting out of the story, with Seth (son) and Richard Albert (father) in the principal roles. The spectacle of this unlikely combat was enjoyed by a congregation of 19 adults and 10 children. The next joint church/school service, involving years 1 and 2, will take place at 10.15am on Sunday 3rd May.

On 20th February a significant meeting took place between the Archdeacon of Oakham, the Venerable Gordon Steele, the Rural Dean of Kettering, the Rev. Canon Hannah Jeffery and representatives of the Four Parishes in the Benefice. With the 2019 Benefice share having been paid in full, the Benefice profile and vision statement having been finalised and Daniel, Katina and Matthew due to move out of the Rectory and into their new home in Barton Seagrave on 28th February, the way appeared to be clearing to a point which the vacancy can be advertised and a new incumbent recruited.

As I write these notes my mouth is almost watering at the thought of 'The Big Breakfast Brunch' on 15th March, the latest event organised by 'The Friends Of Cranford Church' for which all tickets have been sold. The enterprise and hard work of this group is highly commendable (see The Friends section below for a fuller report on their current and future activities) *Brian Keech*

Friends of St John's Church

A very successful Breakfast Brunch was held in the Village Hall on Sunday 15th March. Sixty tickets were sold and the resulting buzz of chatter was great to hear as everyone tucked into a full English breakfast.

Canadian pancakes were also a popular choice.

We couldn't have done it without a professional in the kitchen though! Rob brought his cooking skills from the the Old Forge to help out ... on his day off too. He also generously donated the eggs and bread.



In all, including a magnificent raffle, £493 was raised for the Church funds. Our next planned events are a joint community fête on Cranford School field on 4th July and a Village Garage Sale on 22nd August. More details to follow nearer the time.

The Cranford and District Over 60s

Sue Jakeman, dressed in a beautiful 'Flappers' dress, told us of the rise to fame of her Auntie Peggy Spencer MBE.

On 28th April John Kirby will speak about Music Memories. This meeting will begin at 1.30pm. On 26th May we are holding our AGM followed by a picnic lunch. This meeting will begin at 12.30 pm in the Village Hall. For further details please ring Doreen Mayes on 01832 733961.

Members of both the Coffee Morning and Over 60s groups are saddened by the death of Sylvia Wilson. Sylvia was a member of the coffee Morning group from its inception. At the time of her death she was Vice President of the Over 60s. We will all miss her vibrant personality. *Margaret Keevil ~ 01536 330367*

Cranford WI

The Cranford WI continues to grow with over 70 members now on our books. (we must be doing something right!!)

A few members attended an event organised by Mayor Kellie Watts to celebrate International Women's Day at the Toller Church rooms.

We were delighted to hear Lynn Stebbings, the National Chairman of the WI give a very interesting talk. Refreshments were provided by 'The Good Loaf' company. This organisation aim to provide real employment to vulnerable local women so that they can break the cycle of poverty, unemployment and offending. The food was delicious and beautifully presented. For more information visit www.thegoodloaf.co.uk

We are hoping that our meetings will still be able to go ahead as the corona virus seems to be becoming a real problem. The National WI are already looking at the situation very closely and will be advising us what to do. In April Rachel Dymott, a very inspirational speaker, is going to tell us about 'Nature Explorers' and in May we will be dealing with the resolutions and have fun doing a quiz. We do hope these events will take place. *Jenny Potter*

The Village Hall

The Village Hall website is being re-established and will become more informative and useful to discover what is going on and when it is available for use. Those with curiosity can 'google' cranfordvillagehall.co.uk, to see what is presented. Otherwise please contact Tracey 07483368663.

The Parish Council is providing a plaque, recognising those who fell in the World War, to be placed on the wall to the left of the memorial bench.



We are also erecting a sign to clarify the position of the Village Hall to visitors less well acquainted with our geography.

Although our famous CreamTeas do not occur until June, it is time to remind you to make a note to keep some June Sundays free, 2-4.30 pm, for these delicious outings. More details of associated activities later,(7th/14th/21st/28th June). *George Potter*

Please contact me with any forthcoming events to be included in the June / July 2020 edition by 8th May 2020 at The Dial House, Rectory Hill Cranford NN144AH or email jandg.potter@btconnect.com or phone 01536 330696.

Best wishes

Jenny Potter

More Cranford News

Holy Baptism

23rd February
2020

Tyga Lily

Daughter of Tyrone Christopher Williams & Reece
Marston

Forthcoming Weddings

14th May 2020

Emily Jarvie & Craig Heath Richard Steeples

6th June 2020

Ellena Rose King & Fraser Peter Smith

12th September
2020

**Kimberley Ann Wilson & Daniel Mark Garnet
Thompson**

At Rest

26th March
2020 at
Cranford St
John's Church

Sylvia Wilson

Died 5th March, Aged 85 years.

Please pray for her children, Ian and Debbie; for her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and for all her family and friends.



Grafton Underwood News

Firstly I would like to thank Tom from the Duke's Arms Farmhouse for organising this year's Litter pick in February. Tom is one of the younger residents in Grafton and he took the job on with much enthusiasm .So a big thankyou to him and the large band of workers that turned out to support him. An excellent job was done by all!

Secondly just to let everyone know that the speed camera will be back in the village during May and June. Hopefully Penny also will have a large working party.

This year in May it is time for the re-election of all the Parish Council members. Nominations for this will need to be into the Council Offices by Wednesday 8th April. Anyone interested in standing can obtain the necessary forms from Alistair Wildgoose or Penny Sneddon. For more information please contact the Parish Clerk (Sue Cook). The Parish Council is also looking for a new Parish Clerk, so if you think you might be interested, please ask Sue on 07825 925210 or email clerkgupe@gmail.com for more information.

Whilst on the subject of community jobs any help with church cleaning would be much appreciated, and I know that Mark would very much like at least one more person to mow the churchyard, so that everyone only has to do once a month.

We are all very sorry to see that the Bistro is closing and would like to thank Martin and Eleanor for being very much part of the village for the past two and a half years. They will be missed as will Cathy and Penelope from church! We wish them every happiness and success in the future.

The church AGM will be held in the village hall at 7pm on Wednesday 22nd April. Everyone is welcome to come and listen and ask questions should you wish.

Our church concerts start on Friday 8th May with a special VE Day celebration. The tickets for this are £10 (£5 for under 12's) , which includes hot food, served at 6pm. This will be in the village hall. For the full programme see separate advert. Tickets can be booked with Heather (01536 330 567) or Jenny (01536 330 646).

On Friday 5th June we welcome the Wellingborough Gospel Choir with their uplifting and joyous pop, choral and rock music. This will be back in church at 7.30 pm as usual.

At our March Family Half Hour service we were pleased to welcome extra members of the benefice for a photoshoot for the front cover of our profile for a new vicar. We do hope that those who have not attended this service before enjoyed our short informal service and they had the added bonus of being the first people to see our new windows! These three exquisite windows had only been finished the day before.

We would like to say a big thank you to David and Mary for their inspiration and generosity, they are a great asset to our church and David has written below how it all began.

Jenny Daykin

In 2016 Mary and I were invited to Leicester Cathedral for the service marking the re-interment of Richard III. A quite special day for Mary as her family firm had made the lead casket for the remains. It turned out to be a special day for both of us.

We had seen the commemorative window made for the Cathedral by Tom Denny and after the service we both said how good it was. After a night's sleep we talked again and said "Why not ask Tom Denny if he would accept a commission".

So we wrote to him to ask if he would make windows for Grafton Underwood based on the theme of LIGHT, as our family crest bears the motto LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE. Last week three and a half years later we walked into the church to see the quite wonderful works that have been created and installed to be shared and enjoyed for generations to come.

David Laing

Village Hall

Well, after many cheesy dreaming nights Odette and Steph hosted a marvellous cheese and wine evening at the village hall. A good selection of wines were enjoyed by all, complemented by a generous selection of cheese to suit all taste buds. A big thank you to Neil who had taken the time to construct a purpose built bar for the village hall, hopefully many more nights of propping up the bar in the future!

There are lots of events coming our way between now and the end of May, starting with the Spring Brunch on Saturday 4th April 10am to 1pm. Just like our successful brunch every September, enjoy a full English breakfast in the Village hall. Then on Friday 8th May the VE celebrations, what a spectacular event to be had. Last but not least Saturday 16th May at 7pm, back by popular demand, fish and chips race night; enjoy delicious fish and chips, then after all the excitement of horse racing shouting to win every time.

Thanks for your continued support

Village Hall Committee

Tree warden

Forty years ago one was instructed to plant up the old airfield runways with trees. With no soil and only concrete rubble it was not the best of planting sites. However woodland was established over a couple of years.

I now note that in spite of heavy rainfall this winter the village brook has got close to overflowing. (The blocked drain under the road from Apple Tree cottage is another matter.) There has been widespread publicity about tree planting helping to offset the worst of excess floodwaters and it looks as if it has been bourn out to the benefit of our village!

I have also been experimenting with sheep's wool this year to stop herbivores (deer especially) browsing on young trees. But more about this subject in later issues of the newsletter.

Richard D



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



Slipton News

The start of Spring and Daylight saving time was celebrated in Slipton with a hearty Brunch in the Barn at Jo and Peter Francolini's. It was a special treat, having an extra hour sleep and then being served a delicious breakfast. Thank you to all involved in organising such a wonderful morning.

Spring is finally here, even with the terrible recent weather the daffodils and snowdrops make Slipton church a beautiful setting for us all to enjoy. Hopefully we will get some better weather for our local farmers.

Following on from the success of our first Chat in the Church in January it has become a regular feature, with the next chat in the church being held on Sunday 19th April from 11am to 12noon. This is not a church service but simply a way for us to get together to talk about anything that concerns us as residents of Slipton and the surrounding area, or just meet and chat as friends. Everyone is welcome to come, whether for 6 or 60 minutes.

Following 'chat in the church' on Sunday 19th April we will be holding the Annual General Meeting for Slipton Parochial Church Council. We would like to extend the invitation to everyone in the village, please see the village notice-board nearer the date for further information.

Daniel and Katina have recently moved and we wish them much happiness in their new home.

Planning permission for a property in the Samuel Pepys' garden has been made. Comments can be made on the East Northamptonshire Council planning website.

Wishing you a very Happy Easter

Angela Fenton





Twywell News

We are nearing the end of Lent which began on Wednesday 26th February in mid-winter with constant rain and vicious, destructive winds, when it seemed every weekend we had a newly named storm rolling in from the West and wreaking havoc across the United Kingdom. Lent will end on Thursday 9th April, and throughout that period of 37 days we are likely to have witnessed a slow transformation from winter to full-blown spring. This brings a joyous, youthful burst of energy from nature which cannot fail to lift the spirits of all, and which is the perfect backcloth to Holy Week leading to Easter Sunday on 12th April. Easter is the most important festival & highlight of the Christian calendar, celebrated by us with a Church service in St. Nicholas at 9:15am.

Following on from St. David's Day (1st March) and St. Patrick's Day (17th March), on 23rd April it is the turn of the English to show national pride, when friendly rivalries can be once again be aired- this time for St. Georges Day.

May 17th is Rogation Sunday and precedes three additional Rogation days. (The Latin *rogare* means "to ask"). This is the day when the Church offers prayer for God's blessings on the fruits of the earth and the labours of those who produce our food. The act of 'beating the bounds' is an annual ritual to pass on the knowledge of parish boundary extents to the next generation and was a familiar sight in times past during Rogation. We hope to revive this as an annual event once again.

Rogation is also one of the four principal agricultural festivals of the Church of England, which are: Plough Sunday (January), Rogation, Lammas (August) and Harvest Thanksgiving (variable- dependant on when the harvest is completed). With these festivals providing spiritual support to the grower we should all be able to press ahead with our own productive garden plans with confidence and enthusiasm.

Thursday 21st May is Ascension Day, falling 39 days after Easter Sunday, and is the day we celebrate the ascension of Jesus Christ into heaven, as recorded in the Bible. The large East window in St. Nicholas Church depicts this event and is a glorious piece of Edwardian stained glass work well worth viewing (see front cover).

On 29th May, being keen on lost rural festivals, we acknowledge Oak Apple Day. Royalists amongst us will don an oak apple on our lapel in honour of the restoration of the monarchy in 1660. Once a public holiday, anyone who failed to wear a sprig of oak risked being thrashed with nettles!

‘Comings & Goings’

Our newest resident, Jessica Grace, arrived into this world on March 11th. We send our warmest congratulations to her parents, Rob and Charley Stanley of *Fairview*, High Street.

We welcome Richard Miller and Jill Streater to *The Lawns*, Lower Street. Richard came to the village ahead of Jill and quickly embedded himself into the community by attending the monthly dining club before he had unpacked the curtains!

Steve Bailey and Cecilia Näslund have completed their short stay at *Imassaz*, High Street and are making their new home in southern Spain. Their stay was only a few short months but firm friendships have been forged. *Adiós y Buena suerte!*

We have recently lost three long-term former residents of Twywell, who all contributed greatly to the community in Twywell during their long residency here.

In early January we learned of the passing of Brian ‘Tim’ Coleman who spent his latter years living in Thrapston. Born and raised in Twywell, latterly of *Gordon Terrace*, Brian was an energetic individual who would turn his hand to any odd-job a neighbour needed and loved his terriers, sport - especially football (he was a very competent goalkeeper and was a key member of the Twywell Football Team for many years) and horse-racing. His passion for the latter was legendary and it took him all over the country well into his later life, and if he had had a good day at the bookies his delight radiated afar!

On 11th January, Laurence ‘Pop’ Sawford passed away aged 89 years. Born at *The Green*, and later living in *Cyprus Row*, and *High Street*, he lived the first 74 years of his life in Twywell, moving to Islip in 2004. A countryman who farmed in the village with the Childs family for many years, he was a prolific grower and allotmenteer whose tenure of the same garden field plots was unbroken for 77 years, from 1943 until his death.

On 10th February, we lost the third former resident, Harold Beech, aged 83 years. Born in Lincolnshire, Harold was a long-term Parish Councillor serving some of the time as Chairman and almost single handedly driving forward the Parish Plan and Village Design Statement. He was also a member of the Parochial Church Council and was a key member of the fête team and was not adverse to a spot of flower-arranging during the Flower Festival. A keen village historian, and part time hedge-layer, having lived at *Imassaz*, 57, *High Street*, for many years, Harold had moved with his family to Bridlington last year.

Our thoughts are with the families of all three at this difficult time.

‘Other news’

In February, protection of the Church roof from metal theft was enhanced by the installation of a new alarm system which runs alongside the existing security measures. This new system was funded by benefactor donation, aided by grants from the *Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust & All Churches Trust*. We are most grateful to these individuals and organisations for their continued support and without which this important mediaeval treasure would be difficult to maintain. Instead, with continued support from the community, we are able to look positively to the future and work towards plans which will enable greater and more flexible use, thus helping to ensure its long-term future. Our focus now turns to the inside of the Church and the need for renewed lime washing.

Fast approaching (13th-14th June) is our main fund-raising event weekend, the *Twywell Festival*. With themed floral displays in the church, traditional stalls, food & drink, music, a classic car meet on the Sunday and much more, along with the Festival Service at the close of the weekend activities (6pm on the Sunday), there is something for everyone. More information about the festival will follow in the next edition of *Together* magazine. Volunteers (even for a short period), flower arrangers and contributors to the Church service are always welcome. Please contact Sean or Helena Flanagan on 01832 733569 or longmanonline@hotmail.com for further details.

Our Parish Council (PC) has a number of allotments currently available for rent. If you like the idea of enjoying fresh, home-grown vegetables and fruit but have limited space, this cost effective option is a very good consideration. For further details contact the PC clerk on 07768 206314 or by email twywellclerk@gmail.com or via the website www.twywellparishcouncil.co.uk

Local Council elections on 5th May will signal the start of a new term for our PC. Seven members make up this important tier of local government and you are invited to consider joining. For further information please get in touch with the PC using the contact details above.

At that time, Cllr Wayne Briggs will retire. Wayne has unselfishly given 30 years continuous service to the Parish Council, serving 23 of those years as chairman. It is difficult to find an example of community commitment that equals his dedication and we are greatly indebted to him. Thank you for all you have done for us Wayne- it is greatly appreciated.

On Friday 13th March (after we go to press), the Community Events Team kicks off its 2020 calendar of events with the 2nd Quiz Night at MacQueen House. After the successes of 2019 we can be sure an exciting year of events lies ahead.



On 4th April Sophie Winfield will marry Capt. Thomas Dudley. Sophie is the grand-daughter of Mary and the late Robin Coulson, with both being long-standing friends to the church and its community, Robin also served as Churchwarden from 1986 until 2001.

The monthly Twywell Dining Club continues to grow in popularity with each month's menu tailored to a seasonal or topical event. Encouraged by this success, Ben and Becca have now commenced serving breakfasts at the *Old Friar* on the first Saturday of each month between 9.00 and 11.00am.

And finally 'A Pause for Thought'

"The door of happiness opens outward." (Anon.)

Twywell PCC

st.nicholas.twywell@gmail.com



More Twywell News

At Rest

5th February Laurence Leslie 'Pop' Sawford.

21st February William Harrison



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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 Hazel Fenton (01536 722762).

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: 12th May 2020. Enquiries to Alistair Wildgoose or Sue Cook (07825 925210 or clerkgupc@gmail.com).
- Twywell** Every 2 months on third Thursday at 7.30pm. Next meeting: Wednesday 1st April (MacQueen House). Enquiries to Peter Kelly (07768 206314) or 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)

Important Notice Regarding Church Services

In light of the Government guidance around non-essential contact, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have issued advice that public worship is suspended until further notice.

Churches should be open where possible but with no public worship services taking place. Prayers can be said by clergy and ministers on behalf of everyone and churches should consider ways of sharing this with the wider community.

The following is a press release, published at 13:30am on Tuesday 17 March 2020.

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York are calling for Church of England churches to put public worship on hold and become a “different sort of church” in the coming months to face the challenge of coronavirus.

In a joint letter, Archbishops Justin Welby and John Sentamu said it was now necessary to put public services on hold until further notice. But they said that far from having to “shut up shop”, the Church of England must face the challenge by becoming a radically different kind of church rooted in prayer and serving others.

It comes after the Government announced unprecedented peacetime measures to try to control the spread of the virus, with restrictions on public gatherings, transport and working.

The Archbishops expressed the desire that church buildings may, where practical, remain open as places of prayer for the community, observing social distancing recommendations. They also invited clergy to maintain the ancient pattern of daily prayer and, where possible, the eucharist – live streaming their worship if they have the resources to do so. And they urged congregations to be in the forefront of providing practical care and support for the most poor and the most vulnerable during the crisis.

“Being a part of the Church of England is going to look very different in the days ahead,” they wrote. “Our life is going to be less characterised by attendance at church on Sunday, and more characterised by the prayer and service we offer each day. We may not be able to pray with people in the ways that we are used to, but we can certainly pray for people. And we can certainly offer practical care and support. Please do carry on supporting the local foodbank and buy extra provisions for it. Ensure the night shelters

wherever possible are kept open. There are many very encouraging schemes happening right across our country in communities to focus on caring for the most vulnerable and do continue to play your part in those. Then by our service, and by our love, Jesus Christ will be made known, and the hope of the gospel – a hope that can counter fear and isolation - will spread across our land.”

They added: “This is a defining moment for the Church of England. Are we truly are a church for all, or just the church for ourselves. We urge you sisters and brothers to become a different sort of church in these coming months: hopeful and rooted in the offering of prayer and praise and overflowing in service to the world.”

The archbishops have joined other church leaders in calling for a day of prayer and action this Sunday (Mothering Sunday) particularly remembering those who are sick or anxious and all involved in health and emergency services.

The Church will be providing a range of resources to enable people to continue to walk with God at this difficult time. This includes #LiveLent daily reflections, prayer for the day audio and text and Alexa and Google Home smart speaker apps.

In the days and weeks ahead, the Church will be significantly expanding this output with audio of a simple daytime prayer and night prayer service, more video content and some live-streaming, new mental health reflections to support people, and webinars to help churches stream sermons, events and make the most of social media. The aim will be to make as much as possible available in simple downloadable and printable formats for those who can't easily access the technology.



We are aware this is a very difficult time and one which is changing all the time. Please contact your village churchwardens for further information and updates.





More Dates for Your Diary

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.
- 4th (Sat) **Twywell**, Breakfast Morning 9.00 – 11.00am at *The Old Friar*. Please telephone Becca on 01832 732625 for further information and to book your places (Every month on the first Saturday).
- 4th (Sat) **Grafton Underwood**, Spring Brunch. 1pm in Grafton Village Hall.
- 14th (Tue) **Cranford Coffee Morning**, 10.40am in the Village Hall.
- 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).
- 15th (Wed) **Twywell Dining Club**, 7.00pm at *The Old Friar*. Please telephone Becca on 01832 732625 for further information and to book your places.
- 22nd (Wed) **Grafton Underwood**, Church AGM at 7pm in Grafton Village Hall.



MAY 2020

- 2nd (Sat) **Twywell**, Breakfast Morning 9.00 – 11.00am at *The Old Friar*. Please telephone Becca on 01832 732625 for further information and to book your places (Every month on the first Saturday).
- 3rd (Sun) **Cranford CE Primary School**, Elms Family Church Service at 9.15am.
- 5th (Tue) **Cranford Coffee Morning**, 10.40am in the Village Hall.
- 7th (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).

More Dates for Your Diary

MAY 2020 (cont.)

- 8th (Fri) **Grafton Underwood**, VE day celebrations and concert (see separate advert for more details).
- 13th (Wed) **Twywell Coffee Morning**, 10.30am to 12noon at 3, *The Lawns*, Lower Street, by kind invitation of John & Sheila Jackman. Proceeds in aid of Air Ambulance.
- 13th (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.
- 15th (Fri) **Twywell PCC meeting**, Annual General meeting at 7.30pm at St Nicholas Church, Church Lane.
- 16th (Sat) **Grafton Underwood**, Fish and Chip supper and Race Night at 7pm in Grafton Village Hall.
- 20th (Wed) **Twywell Police Surgery**, 1.10pm-1.40pm at *The Phone Box*, The Green. Meet your local PCSO to discuss safety and general community concerns.
- 26th (Tue) **Cranford Coffee Morning**, 10.40am in the Village Hall.



early JUNE 2020

- 4th (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).
- 5th (Fri) **Grafton Underwood**, Wellingborough Gospel Choir at 7.30pm in Grafton Church.
- 6th (Sat) **Twywell**, Breakfast Morning 9.00 – 11.00am at *The Old Friar*. Please telephone Becca on 01832 732625 for further information and to book your places (Every month on the first Saturday).

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

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April Events

Tues 21 ~ Inspiring Music in Worship at Moulton Church Centre, Moulton, NN3 7SW. 10am to 3:30pm. £20 per person; £15 per person for RSCM and Praxis members (includes a copy of the *IMI/W* book and a light lunch). More information from lesley-anne.marriott@peterborough-diocese.org.uk or via 01604 887048.

Sat 25 ~ Spring Festival and Six Bell Contest. Open ringing at Syresham and Whitfield from 2.30pm to 3.30pm, 3pm contest at Helmdon followed by evening ringing from 7pm to 9pm. More information from Helen Allton on 01832 735266 or pdgsecretary@allton.org.uk

Sat 25 ~ Music in Lyddington (St Andrew, LE15 9LR) presents Jamal Aliyev *cello* & Jams Coleman *piano*. Concert begins at 7.30pm. Visit www.musicinlyddington.co.uk for more information, pricing and ways to book.

Easter services at Peterborough Cathedral. Go to <https://www.peterborough-cathedral.org.uk/events.aspx> for more information.

Launde Abbey has a series of retreats happening throughout the year. For more information or to book a place, visit www.laundeabbey.org.uk, phone 01572 717254 or email info@launde.org.uk

Visit www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/events to find events happening near you.

For **Safeguarding training** at all levels: www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/news-and-events/events?tags=safeguarding

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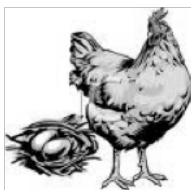
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