



Crofton Parish during Covid19

Dear Crofton Parish,

This week, new guidelines come into force regarding how we can meet others at home or outside – the new 'Rule of Six'. Churches and other Places of Worship, however, aren't affected by these new guidelines. So, we can continue to gather in services and Streams as long as we follow the rules regarding social distancing, facemasks, etc. (The only change for us is that participating in the NHS Track & Trace programme is now compulsory.)

It's been such a joy to see you, either for a service at St Edmunds or a Stream at Holy Rood. I've appreciated how understanding and supportive you have been – and how keen to gather again to pray, learn and support each other. With services at St Edmunds and Streams at Holy Rood, a 'new normal' (that over-used phrase!) is coming together that I hope will get us through the next 6-12 months.

Crofton United and Youth Work



However, the children and young people that are part of Crofton Parish need something for them; Zoom and Church Online can only do so much. So, I am delighted that over the next few weeks, Crofton United (for children in Y1-Y6 initially and Reception children joining later in the term) and our Youth work (for young people in Y7-Y9 and Y10-Y13) will be restarting under Covid-secure conditions.

These groups will be important as part of our 'Generation to Generation' vision, so do pray for the children and young people involved and for those leading and helping with the new groups.

If you have children in any of these age groups at home, you should have received more information! If not, please get in touch with the Parish Office.

October

With this letter, you will find a flyer with details about events in October. Here are the headlines:

- The REBUILD Gift Day is on Sunday October 4. A brief 'How to Give' video can be found on our Crofton Parish youtube page <https://youtu.be/XMNWZeO0K8s> This will be an important moment as we try to address the £40,000 gap we face this year due to the virus.
- Our first ever Crofton Community Harvest Festival is on Sunday October 11! This is a fun, engaging opportunity for families and households across our community to be involved in harvest this year. Local schools, traders and other churches will be involved too!
- There won't be a Memorial Service this year for those who have been bereaved. Instead, Holy Rood will be open from 2-4pm on Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 October for anyone to come in, sit quietly and light a candle in remembrance of a loved one.

APCM

Finally, our Annual Parochial Church Meeting, postponed from April, will be on Sunday 25 October at 7.00pm via Zoom (or at Holy Rood for those who can't participate online).

One of the purpose of this meeting is to update our Electoral Roll. If you would like to join the Electoral Roll, you can do so up to October 25. More details about the day can be found at www.croftonparish.org.uk/apcm.

For Prayer

Sadly, Margaret Mason died late last week. Please pray for Mel and their family at this difficult time.

Please also pray for Jill Instrall, as she prepares for the funeral next week of her late husband Bryan.

Finally, please remember the Fairall family in your prayers as they support Sophie, aged 9.

As we begin our autumn teaching series, 'Born to Run', it's worth reminding ourselves that the race of life is never smooth all the way along. Suffering, trial and difficulty are something we will all experience to a greater or lesser degree. Yet, it's often in these moments – when we walk through the 'valley of the shadow' as Psalm 23 puts it – that we discover that God is with us, therefore we don't need to be afraid.

I hope, this week, you keep walking with Him.

Richard