



**Crofton Parish
during Covid19**

Dear Crofton Parish,

This week's Vicar's Letter is all about....



Yes, it's nearly Advent & Christmas. Usually, this season is both exhausting and exhilarating, as we welcome thousands of people through the doors of our churches. 2020, however, will be a unique Christmas. Here are some of the details, with more to come.

Christmas at Home

We have an opportunity this Christmas to remember how much of the Christmas story takes place at home. Gabriel visited Mary at home. Mary & Joseph travelled to Bethlehem because it was Joseph's ancestral home. The world-changing events of the first Christmas occurred far away from temples and palaces, but in the domestic realities of ordinary life.

In 2020, we have the chance to rediscover this important aspect of the Christmas story. Most of our services and events will be online, though we do hope there will be some services you can attend in-person. We will let you know as soon as we know!

Attached to this letter are flyers with more details of this year's Christmas services.

How you can join in

There are lots of ways we can make this a special Advent & Christmas season and we want everyone to join in from home as much as possible. I made a

short video explaining how you can join in and what you might need. It's on our YouTube channel and you can find it here <https://youtu.be/H5wJIZfYrfM>.

For our Sunday services, Richard would like to make a short video using photos of previous Christmases from your home. They can be from a recent Christmas or from years ago. You can submit your photos via our Facebook page or email office@croftonparish.org.uk and they need to be in by this weekend. They will not be used for any other purpose!

Virtual Prayer Weekend – 'Before, During & After'



Members of our PCC have felt led to call us to prayer. I am delighted that they have put together a Virtual Weekend of Prayer that we can join in with from wherever we are. The theme of the Virtual Prayer Weekend is 'Before, During & After', reflecting on how Crofton Parish has changed through the Covid19 pandemic and what the Lord might be calling us to as we enter a post-Covid world.

Important: Next week, you will receive an email from prayer@croftonparish.org.uk, explaining how you can be involved in the Virtual Prayer Weekend and inviting you to sign up. Please check your junk/spam folder in case you don't see it.

Men's Shed



Everyone is welcome to our next Men's Shed meeting which will be held on Zoom at 2pm on Friday 27 November. Mark Johnson will be talking about Concorde and will be drawing on his experiences working for British Airways.

Zoom Meeting ID: **768 5073 0006**

Password: **CONCORDE**

Christmas Card Delivery

A huge thank you to all those members of Crofton Parish who have kindly offered to deliver the Churches Together in Stubbington Christmas Card to those homes that do not receive a copy of the Big Voice. We still have Marchesi Court, Melvyn Jones House & Stubbington Green that require delivery. If you're able to help, please contact the Parish Office.

For prayer

Please pray for continued healing for Will Wainwright, who has now been moved to Gosport War Memorial Hospital. He's receiving physio and his mobility is slowly improving. Karen is happy to report that he is in much better spirits.

Please also pray for Val Channing, for strength at this time.

As things can change quite quickly, we will try to do our best to let you know what's happening as soon as we know! For now, however, we remain closed for services and Streams but open on Thursdays for private prayer:

Thurs 10am-12noon - Holy Rood

Thurs 3-4pm - St Edmund's

Thurs 7-8pm - Holy Rood

You don't need to book in advance for any of these slots. We will, of course, still be operating in a Covid-secure manner. There will always be someone to talk to or pray with at these times, just ask.

The **Parish Office** is open Mon - Fri 9am - 12noon. Either phone 01329 661154 or email office@croftonparish.org.uk to get in touch. In an emergency, call 07856 016032.

If you need help or are able to offer help please email help@croftonparish.org.uk or if you would like to receive prayer please email prayer@croftonparish.org.uk.

Yours

Richard



Services and Events

Sun Nov 29	10am	Advent Sunday
Thu Dec 3	6.30pm	Christingle at Home
Sat 5/Sun 6 Dec		Virtual Prayer Weekend
Sun Dec 13	7.30pm	Carols at Home
Sun Dec 20	10am	Zoom Nativity
	4pm	FOCOC Nine Lessons & Carols
Wed Dec 23	tbc	Live Nativity*
Thu Dec 24	11.30pm	Midnight Communion at Home
Fri Dec 25	8am	St Edmund's BCP Communion*
	10am	Holy Rood Christmas Celebration*

We hope that events marked * will be in-person events. Otherwise all our Services & Events will be online via the Crofton Parish website and Holy Rood Facebook page. Please look out for more details nearer the time.



Christmas Family Events

CHRISTINGLE AT HOME

Thurs 3 Dec, 6.30pm, Holy Rood Facebook Page

Join our live-streamed Christingle service and make your own Christingle, symbolising Jesus, Light of our World.

Christingle packs are available from Holy Rood Church office on request, or gather your own resources: orange, red ribbon or tape, 4 cocktail sticks, dolly mixtures or raisins, candle, silver foil.



SCRATCH NATIVITY

Sun 20 Dec, 10am,

Zoom to participate, Facebook Live to watch

Dress up as your favourite Nativity character at home and join in the live-streamed Scratch Nativity.

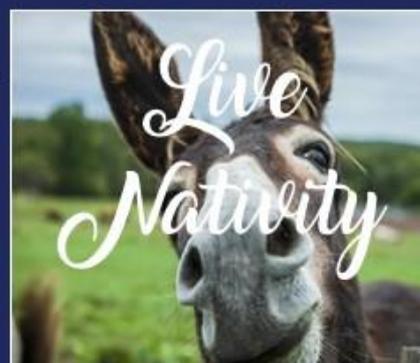
To participate on Zoom, please contact the Parish Office for details.

LIVE NATIVITY

Wed 23 Dec, 10am-1pm, Holy Rood Church grounds

Meet the Nativity characters and hear the Christmas story retold at our Live Nativity which we hope to run as an in person event.

Tickets will be pre-booked – please see our website for details.



Parish Office: (01329) 661154 office@croftonparish.org.uk

www.croftonparish.org.uk

facebook.com/holyroodchurch