



Crofton Parish during Covid19

Dear Crofton Parish,

Happy New Year! Well, kind of...

This Vicar's Letter – the first of 2021 – is coming out a little earlier in the week than usual to update you on what's happening in Crofton Parish as we go into Lockdown 3.0.

Services & Streams

Places of Worship in England are allowed to remain open for services during Lockdown 3.0, which is a change from the two previous lockdowns. However, rates of transmission in the South-East, including our area, are quite high. So, we need to be cautious and have decided to suspend most services and events.

Streams will **not** be meeting in-person while we are in lockdown. Please do look out for further information from your Stream hosts about any online gatherings that might be happening.

Likewise, St Edmund's will **not** be holding in-person services during lockdown.

In addition, groups like Crofton United will be online-only.

Thursday Mornings at Holy Rood

The Thursday morning service at 10am at Holy Rood **will** continue for now, with strict adherence to government guidelines on social distancing, hand sanitising, etc. This service is for anyone over 18, with a particular focus on those who can't access Church Online or who are at risk of isolation or loneliness.

If you have been asked to **shield**, please give careful thought to whether attending the service is right for you.

We will be asking everyone who comes to this service to keep to government guidelines to ensure the service remains as Covid-secure as possible. Please respect this, otherwise we may need to review whether we can run. Thank you.

Private Prayer at Holy Rood

Holy Rood Church will be open for Private Prayer on Thursday evenings from 7-8pm.



Vision Sunday – 10 January

Church Online resumes this week on the Holy Rood Facebook page and the Crofton Parish website. This Sunday is Vision Sunday. In spite of the strange start, we will be thinking about the year ahead and how the Lord might lead us through 2021. This will be an important Sunday, so please join in. I am looking forward to us gathering online again.

Church Online with Zoom for Families – 17 January

The Zoom Nativity was one of the highlights of Christmas. Since then, we've been wondering whether we might be able to do something similar, allowing families to join in with Church Online via Zoom.

So, I am delighted that on Sunday 17 January, we will be having Church Online with Zoom participation for families! We are putting together a fun, engaging way for families to join in with Church Online via Zoom, which will enhance worship, prayer and learning together for everyone.

A separate email with sign-up details for families will go out next week. Do look out for it.

The Parish Office

The Holy Rood site, including the Parish Office, will be closed to the public from Wednesday, apart from services and private prayer. However, we are all still around and available!

If you need practical help, especially if you are shielding again, please get in touch via phone (01329) 661154 or email help@croftonparish.org.uk. If you need to be prayed for, or know someone who does, please get in touch via phone (as above) or email prayer@croftonparish.org.uk. We have people willing to help with practical needs or prayer support. Do get in touch if you are struggling.

Most of us will have mixed feelings about going into another, longer lockdown. While it's the right thing to do, I doubt many of us are looking forward to it. Please continue to pray for the many teachers in our community, who will be trying to juggle rapid changes with many now having children at home, too. Do, also pray for our health workers, as rates continue to rise, especially in our immediate area.

You may be wondering what the Lord might be saying to us at this time. I will do my best to answer that on Sunday morning as part of 'Vision 2021'. Do join in with Church Online to find out more – this Sunday will be an important one for us as a Parish.

With love,

Richard