



Crofton Parish during Covid19

12 February 2021

Dear Crofton Parish,

It's half-term, so this Vicar's letter covers both this and next week, but please look out for other emails from the Parish Office regarding upcoming events.



The two Sundays around half-term will be 'Network Sundays', where people from all of our churches in Crofton and North Gosport will be joining in for Church Online together. If you see someone new in the Facebook comments, do say hi and let's help each other feel welcome.

We are still in the early days of this new partnership, so please keep praying for the churches of North Gosport – St Mary's in Rowner, St Thomas' in Elson and St Matthew's in Bridgemary.

On Tuesday 16 February, we will be interviewing for the two Team Vicar posts within the new parish. Please do pray for that important process. We have two excellent candidates offering themselves, one of whom, obviously, is Jude Greenfield.

FAREHAM DEANERY SYNOD

On the evening of Thursday 18 February, representatives from all the churches in Fareham Deanery are meeting for Deanery Synod. Normally, the Deanery Synod meeting is a fairly tame affair, but this time we are considering big picture questions about the future of the parishes and churches in our area. It will be an important meeting and we have some tough decisions to make. As the largest church in the Deanery, we want to be supportive of this process and encourage the changes necessary to promote mission and ministry in our communities.

Please do pray for this meeting on Thursday evening and for the clergy and people of all the churches in our Deanery.



The next Woman's Hour Zoom meeting is **this Saturday 13 February** from **8-9pm**.

Woman's Hour is a monthly Zoom meeting for women organised by Kathryn England that launched in the autumn. I know from those that have been attending how encouraging and supportive they have found the group since its launch. Woman's Hour is for an hour on Saturday evenings and combines the chance to talk and share together with

input from Cathy Madavan's talks on resilience. You can join in with this month's meeting, even if you've never been involved before.

The login details are as follows:

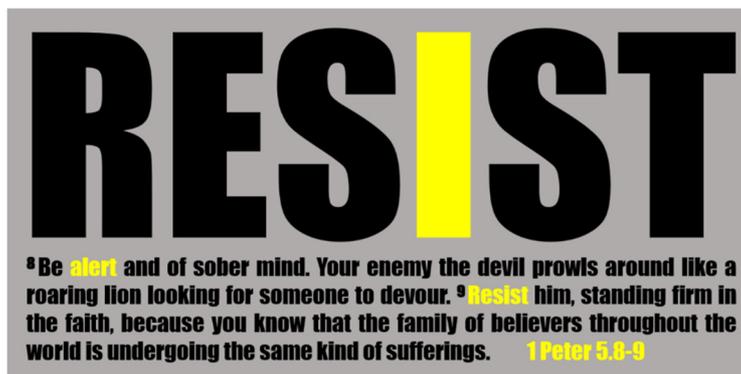
Zoom Meeting ID: **203 672 5144**

Password: **croftoncat**



The next Zoom meeting of the Crofton Men's Shed will be Friday 26 February at 2pm. Morton Du Preez will be speaking about his life in South Africa and the challenges faced by his native country. It will be a wonderful opportunity to find out more about that great country.

The Zoom login details will follow next week in a separate email. Do look out for it.



Next Sunday 21 February is the first Sunday of Lent 2021. This year our theme for Lent is 'Resist'. We will be looking at some of the cultural trends of our age that erode Christian discipleship and which we need to 'Resist'. Our key passage will be the account of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness (a familiar Lent passage), which you can find in Matthew, Mark and Luke. Reading that account again, I hope we'll see how the challenges we face are not unique to our age and that, in Jesus, we find the help and courage we need to 'Resist'.

It's my hope that this short series will be important for anyone trying to understanding why following Jesus seems so difficult in the modern world, offering insight and practical tools to encourage our discipleship. I do hope you'll join in on this journey through Lent.

With love,

Richard