



Crofton Parish during Covid19

16 July 2021

Dear Crofton Parish,



On July 19, most Covid legal restrictions will be removed. The virus hasn't gone away but the responsibility for managing the risks moves to individuals and organisations. In Crofton Parish, as elsewhere, there will be mixed feelings about the greater freedom we'll have from Monday.

In **next week's** Vicar's Letter, I'll outline in more detail how things will be changing in our churches as restrictions ease. At this point, what you need to know is:

1. Some restrictions will ease straight away, but we won't be making any changes to our service pattern until **Sunday 1 August**. This means if you are part of 'Side B' at St Edmund's or those who come to Holy Rood on 2nd & 4th Sundays, then *Sunday 25 July will carry on as usual*. An extra week to get ready helps us enormously.
2. Churches remain places of higher risk for viral transmission, especially when large numbers of people are close together, interacting and singing. To mitigate this, we will be asking you to keep up some Covid-secure practices when we gather on Sunday mornings. I'll explain more in next week's letter.



Crofton Parish has been involved with New Wine for many years, often taking nearly 100 people to the summer conference. This year, New Wine's 'United Breaks Out' conference is exclusively online and **free**. The conference runs from Thursday 29 July to Tuesday 3 August and includes content and sessions for adult and children of all ages, as well as a full Luminosity youth programme.

You can find out more details and how to sign up here:

<https://www.new-wine.org/events/united-breaks-out/>

If you've never been to a New Wine event, this is a great opportunity to try it out.

On **Sunday 1 August**, we will be showing the UBO Morning Celebration at Holy Rood after our morning gathering. For anyone who wants to stay, we'll then be having a BBQ lunch (£5 per person, children free). So that we know numbers for catering, please email bookings@croftonparish.org.uk or phone the Parish Office.



Men's Shed Relaunch + BBQ – Tuesday 20 July from 2pm
2nd Stubbington Scout Hut (Titchfield Road)

Our new Men's Shed group are holding their first in-person gathering this week on Tuesday 20 July. This important session is for anyone interested in finding out more about the Men's Shed and getting involved with launching post-Covid. There'll be the chance to hear about the vision for the Crofton Men's Shed, ask questions and find out more before enjoying a BBQ together (food and drink provided!).

To sign up or find out more, email mensshed@croftonparish.org.uk

St Edmund's Plant Sale THIS SATURDAY

St Edmund's are holding a plant sale outside the church from 10am this Saturday 17 July. You are welcome to go along and buy a plant. All proceeds go to the church.

Questionnaire about the church after COVID-19

The interdenominational Court Oak Gospel and Culture Forum has developed a survey to see what people think the church should do as it moves out of Covid - what lessons have we learned and what might we do differently? If you would like to take part (all responses will be anonymous), the link to the survey is <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Church-after-COVID-19-030621>. It closes on 31 July.

Finally

This week, the Staff Team, Wardens and PCC will be meeting to decide what steps we need to take as restrictions ease and we start to think about the future. Please pray for us as we do so. Thank you.

Yours

Richard