



Friday 30 July 2021

Dear Crofton Parish,



Now that Covid restrictions have been relaxed, from **this Sunday**, you are welcome to come to either St Edmund's or Holy Rood on any Sunday. Our previous pattern of 'Side A' and 'Side B' at St Edmund's and 1st/3rd Sundays and 2nd/4th Sundays at Holy Rood has now ended.

As well as this, as I explained in last week's letter:

- 1) Singing indoors is allowed.
- 2) Social distancing is no longer required, instead it will be at your own discretion.
- 3) Test & Trace is no longer legally required. However, as churches are strongly encouraged to support the NHS, the QR code and Test & Trace forms will still be available to use.
- 4) Mask wearing is no longer mandatory in indoors settings. However, the government has encouraged us to keep wearing masks indoors. With this in mind, I would be grateful if you would wear a mask when **standing** or **singing** when inside either of our churches. You can take your mask off when you're sitting down. (NB This only applies to our Sunday morning services, as we can space out more easily at our other gatherings.)
- 5) Finally, while social distancing is no longer required indoors, many people will still want to sit at some distance from others. At Holy Rood, there will be some areas specially demarcated for those who still wish to social distance. But, regardless of where people are sitting, please be sensitive to others' needs and check they are comfortable with you sitting down next to them.
- 6) St Edmund's regular pattern of 1st/3rd Sunday BCP Communion will resume from this Sunday.

The next few weeks will feel like the most 'normal' we have been since March 2020, which is wonderful. However, the virus hasn't gone away! When attending any service or event at Crofton Parish, please continue to be cautious and sensitive to others. Thank you.

New Wine: United Breaks Out – THIS WEEKEND



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 Thurs 29 July to Tues 3 Aug 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 by 6pm Friday. If you require a vegetarian option, please let us know when booking.

Crofton Men's Shed – Next Meeting Tuesday 3rd August

Following their relaunch, the Crofton Men's Shed will be holding their next meeting on Tuesday 3rd August. It will take place in the 2nd Stubbington Scout Hut, Titchfield Road from 2pm to 4pm. They plan to discuss and develop a programme of activities going forward and would like to invite any men in the parish who are interested in finding out a bit more.

If you need any further information, please contact them via messhed@croftonparish.org.uk.

Young at Heart Drop-in Coffee Afternoon Wednesday 4 August

Our next Young at Heart event is a Drop-in Coffee Afternoon on Wednesday 4 August in the Parish Centre at Holy Rood. You are welcome to come along any time between 2-4pm for coffee, tea, cake, and a chat. There's no need to book.

Come with a friend or make a new friend.

Finally... Sunday Mornings at Holy Rood from September

Like many people, I'm hopeful that over the summer weeks we'll see a drop in cases and feel a sense of normal life resuming. However, the autumn and winter months will present another challenge, especially on Sunday mornings at Holy Rood.

So, this Sunday, I'll be sharing what we're planning to do to help us manage the ongoing risks of the pandemic at Holy Rood from September. This will be through a pre-recorded video (as I will be at St Edmund's). If you'd like to watch the video, it's available on our YouTube channel at the link below:

<https://youtu.be/R8Ab5EjX9sI>

As you'll see, this will be another significant step forward in our life together as we navigate Covid. Your support and prayer up to this point have been so vital – please keep praying as we get ready for the next chapter.

Thank you,

Richard