

Friday 8 October 2021

Dear Crofton Parish,



Monday was a singular day in our community as we said goodbye to Sophie Fairall. Even as I'm writing this, I'm not sure I can put into words all that the day held. The response of the community in decorating the village and standing outside to clap as the horse and carriage went past. The service in church in which there was profound sadness but also a celebration of Sophie's remarkable life. Watching her sisters Lucy and Amelia and mum Charlotte speak – a testimony to the whole family's courage in facing Sophie's diagnosis and campaigning for change in the treatment and care of those with childhood cancer. The sheer numbers of people joining in – 250 in person and well over 3,000 online on the day with over 48,000 views on Facebook as of today.

I will be reflecting on Monday's experience for some time, but there are a couple of things I'd like to mention in this week's letter.

Firstly, the team at Holy Rood were exceptional (as they always are!). Everything ran so smoothly which wouldn't have been possible without the hard work and diligence of Gill Nolan, Simon Swindells and Jim Nolan, among others. The day required organisation and technical expertise and they rose to the challenge magnificently. Please do say thank you to them when you next see them.

Secondly, it's difficult to think of a better expression of being 'The Heart of God at the Heart of our Community' than Monday. The following day, someone said to me how important they felt it was to have a church that people wanted to go to at the best and worst moments of their lives. The good reputation that we have at both Holy Rood and St Edmund's is due to decades of loving service of our community in Jesus' name. I thank God for that today.



Crofton
HARVEST Festival



It was also Harvest Sunday at Holy Rood last Sunday. Thank you so much to everyone who donated to the Basics Bank. As you can see, we filled up the Greens' car!

St Edmund's have the Harvest Sunday **this Sunday** (10 October) and you can donate to the Basics Bank at that service too.

Of course, we don't just support the Basics Bank at Harvest. Both churches can take donations all year round, so why not think about incorporating regular support of the Basics Bank into your weekly shop?



This Sunday we continue our autumn teaching series at Holy Rood and St Mary's. This week, we'll be thinking about Jesus' wonderful vision for his people from Matthew 5 where he describes us as 'Salt and Light'. Children's groups are back on at Holy Rood.

It may well be that, after Monday, we have a number of new faces at our churches. Please offer them your warmest welcome, as I know you will.



On Sunday evening at Holy Rood, **Crofton Youth** for those in Y7+ will be meeting in the Hall and we will be having an **Evening Service with Communion**. Both events start at 7pm.

Finally – SILLY HAT SUNDAY 24 OCTOBER at Holy Rood

On Sunday 24 October at both Morning Services at Holy Rood, we will be having our first (and only) **SILLY HAT SUNDAY**. It's been a year since John Guest died, who was such a significant figure in our church and community. While John was a lawyer and trustee of many local organisations, he did love a silly hat. So, this year, as a way to remember John and all those we lost during the pandemic and weren't able to say goodbye to as we might have wanted, may I invite you to dig out the silliest hat you own and wear it to church that morning.

I can't wait to see what ridiculous headwear you have buried in a wardrobe somewhere!

With love,

Richard

Two-Week Diary Dates

Sun 10 Oct	St Edmund's Holy Rood	9.30am 10.00am 11.30am 7.00pm 7.00pm	Harvest Festival Service Mid-Morning Service with Children's Groups Late-Morning Service Evening Service with Holy Communion Crofton Youth (years 7-13)
Wed 13 Oct	Hall	9.30am	First Steps
Thu 14 Oct	Holy Rood	10.00am	Thursday Morning Service
Sat 16 Oct	Hall	9.30am	Home Group Leaders Meeting
Sun 17 Oct	St Edmund's Holy Rood	9.30am 10.00am 11.30am 7.00pm	BCP Holy Communion Mid-Morning Service with Children's Groups Late-Morning Service Evening Service with Prayer Ministry
Wed 20 Oct	Hall	9.30am	First Steps
Thu 21 Oct	Holy Rood	10.00am	Thursday Morning Service
Sat 23 Oct & Sun 24 Oct	Holy Rood	2.00pm- 4.00pm	'A Time to Remember' – church open for anyone who has been bereaved to come in, remember their loved one and light a candle.