

Cranmer Group Newsletter

We're Back in Our Church Buildings!

Dear Cranmer Group Friends,

I hope you're all doing well - it's been wonderful to see many of you in person at our Easter Day services at Whatton and Aslockton, and then at Orston the Sunday after. Even as we give thanks to God for the extraordinary downward impact of the vaccination programme on the number of Covid cases, patients and deaths, we know we still need to act wisely and cautiously. However, it's a great joy to be able to gather in person once more, and worship our Risen Lord Jesus together in our church buildings.

Many thanks indeed to all those who were involved in the preparations for these services, and for making them (and the Easter Egg Hunt afterwards!) run so smoothly.

Given the continuing Coronavirus restrictions on worshipping together, until at least June 22nd we'll continue to gather together in our three largest church buildings for a single Sunday service, at 10AM. I know that this will be a source of sadness to many of us in Thoroton, Hawksworth and Scarrington, but I hope you understand that we wish to welcome as many people as possible to our services, and the smaller buildings in those villages preclude us from doing that. We will, however, resume a pattern of regular Sunday services throughout our whole Benefice when restrictions on us are lifted. So, over the coming weeks, our Cranmer Group Services (all 10AM) are:

- 18th April - St. Thomas, Aslockton
- 25th April - St. John of Beverley, Whatton
- 2nd May - St. Mary, Orston
- 9th May - St. Thomas, Aslockton
- 16th May - St. John of Beverley, Whatton
- 23rd May - St. Mary, Orston
- 30th May - St. Thomas, Aslockton

...and the great news is that we're now able to serve refreshments afterwards - as long as it's outdoors! Watch this space for what Whatton and Orston may be able to do, but this Sunday at least, join us in Aslockton for tea, coffee & chocolate biscuits in the lovely green space behind the Thomas Cranmer Centre, after the service.



Easter Celebrations:

Aslockton's crosses & Orston's decorations!

Honouring the Duke of Edinburgh



I'm grateful to the bellringers in our various villages who've rung over this last week in honour of the Duke of Edinburgh, and his life of service to our nation, the Commonwealth & the global community. We give thanks for him and, at this difficult and painful time for her, pray especially for Her Majesty The Queen, just as we pray for all who have lost loved ones over this last pandemic year.

Annual Meetings

It only seems a moment ago since our Annual Parish Meetings looking back to our 2019 year - that's probably because they all had to take place in late October, as opposed to their normal April/May timing, thanks to lockdown restrictions!

We're well underway with them this year, for 2020, having already held those for Hawksworth and Thoroton. Those for Aslockton, Whatton and Orston will be held in their respective church buildings as follows (with contacts, for details of the meetings):

Aslockton - 7pm, Tuesday 20th April (Katie Senior - katieesenior@hotmail.com);

Whatton - 2.30pm, Wednesday 21st April (Janet Greasley - janet1404@yahoo.co.uk);

Orston - 2pm, Sunday 25th April (Jules Humpheson - juleshum@gmail.com);

Scarrington's meeting will be confirmed soon (Phil Morris - phil@beverleyhouse.com). Do contact me or the meeting organisers if you feel called to be more engaged in the life of our Cranmer group churches, through standing for our PCCs.

Future Thoughts...

At our Annual Meetings, there's also a chance to hear a bit from me about what we've been doing in a number of meetings of our Benefice Council and Ministry Team since the start of 2021. We've been praying and thinking creatively about the shape of our ministries in the Cranmer Group; how we're called to be as a family of followers of Christ; and where God is leading us to serve our communities, share the Good News of Jesus, and grow as his disciples. We've yet to conclude on specifics, although we've sensed a general direction of travel, and I'm sharing some of this at our Annual Meetings. So do please join us at them, not only to review the past year and appoint our church officers but also to hear something of our ideas for our future together.



But, in the immediate term - as many of you know - Clare's due to have our second little one at the start of May. So, I'll be away from parish ministry, with her, Esther and our impending arrival (and walking Ella too, of course), for the whole of that month. In my absence, you'll be looked after well by a mixture of familiar and newer clergy faces from around the Diocese!

You all continue to be in my prayers, as together we journey - God willing - out of lockdown once and for all, and into exciting new times for our Cranmer Group. Many blessings,