



Thank you for your interest in the Cranmer Connection project following our house-to-house mailing a few weeks ago.

Cranmer's story in 150 words

Thomas Cranmer was born in Aslockton in 1489. By the age of 40 he had risen so far in the church and academic worlds that he served king Henry VIII and helped to mastermind the plan to annul Henry's first marriage, which was one of the causes of the separation of the English Church from Rome and the Pope.

Cranmer has been described as the "intellectual infrastructure" of the break from Rome and the reforms of the church, and as such he can be seen as the "father of the Church of England". As Archbishop of Canterbury he wrote and compiled the first two editions of the Book of Common Prayer; the liturgy that gave the new church its structure. But when the Catholic Queen Mary came to the throne just a few months later, Cranmer's Protestant beliefs made him her enemy and she had him burnt at the stake in 1556.



Where we are now

There are already a number of projects across Nottinghamshire that look at similar key figures: The Pilgrim Fathers' origins in the north of the county; George Fox and the Quakers in Mansfield; William Booth the founder of the Salvation Army who was born in Sneinton; and just over our borders in Epworth, Lincolnshire, is the birthplace of John and Charles Wesley the fathers of Methodism.

Experience Nottinghamshire, the official tourism organisation for our county, calls Nottinghamshire "the county of rebellion and freedom" and is keen to promote a religious heritage trail linking all of these projects... and the Cranmer Connection.

We have discussed some ideas with Aslockton and Whatton Parish Councils, with the churchwardens, the local schools and other people who have come forward expressing an interest. Here are some possibilities of what we could do to celebrate Cranmer's legacy:

A talk / lecture

We have been fortunate to secure an international figure to give a talk at a launch event / fundraiser for this project on the 13th of November this year. More details will be released in due course.

Heritage trail

We hope to develop a trail looking at 8 key places connected with Cranmer in Aslockton and Whatton. The trail could be published either as a leaflet, an app, or on display boards. Some of the 8 points are obvious, such as Cranmer's mound and Whatton Church; others need to be researched and developed.

Next step

The parish council, church and school representatives are having another meeting on the 22nd of September and the following week, on the 29th of September, we would like to invite all interested parties to come to a meeting and help put some flesh on the bones of the above ideas. This meeting will be at 7:30pm in the Thomas Cranmer Centre.

Cranmer festival

We would like to organise a festival to celebrate Cranmer's life and legacy in spring/summer of 2016. The festival could include a variety of elements over a week or weekend ranging from a church service using Cranmer's 1552 liturgy to a Tudor feast, costumes, music and children's games.

Education projects

The Head of the Archbishop Cranmer C of E Primary Academy is aware of and very supportive of this project. We are going to explore further how much engagement this project could have with the Archbishop Cranmer Primary and other local schools.