

## ▼ Intro

### ▼ Its the vibe.

- *castle video clip.*
- *I think we all know the importance of a constitution, or bill of rights or something, to direct laws and practice.*
- *Well, what about the church?*
- *Look around, and there's so many different types of churches, but only one Bible and one God — what's the difference and what's all the fuss about?*
- *A lot of that goes back to the time of the reformation. As different nations started to set up churches independently of the Roman Catholic Church.*
- *Key to the beginning of our own denomination, Anglican or Church of England, was the work of Thomas Cranmer*
- *who put together three key constitution like documents or formularies to establish the theology and spirituality of this church as it seeks to obey God in his Bible.*

### ▼ Justification by Faith Only

#### ▼ *Key to them all and central is the Key Reformation teaching of ...*

- the sufficiency and perfection of The Bible as God's Word
- the sufficiency and perfection of Jesus death on the cross as the one sacrifice for sins
- that our salvation and justification is by faith only.

### ▼ Not Earn Love; Given

- *In every generation and in every church, not least the medieval catholic church,*
- *we have a tendency to ignore God's grace and think that*
- ▼ *we need to earn God's love*

- and that seems sound from our own experiences in relationships; where we feel the need to show our worth and prove to those we love that we are worth loving

▼ have you felt like that?

- what can I do to convince her to love me?
- if he only knew ... then he would love me.

- *the message of the Bible that was rediscovered at the time of the reformation and taught by Cranmer and others*

- *message of Cranmer's constitution documents as they sought to explain and live out Scripture,*

- *is that we do not need to earn God's love, but that he has generously loved us and saved us in sending Jesus*

- *its a message we need to keep hearing*

## ▼ Headway under Henry

### ▼ Cranmer came to prominence. Made Archbishop.

- *you may have heard that the English Reformation started because King Henry wanted to divorce his wife.*

- *That's partly true.*

▼ *Henry wanted a male heir, and his wife, Catherine of Aragon, had only given him Mary and had some miscarriages.*

- So he started to think that the marriage was cursed by God because Catherine had been the wife of his older brother.

- *Cranmer came to Henry's attention because he suggested a way by which the legality of the divorce might be considered.*

### ▼ Researched Lutheranism. Married.

- *Sent to argue case at Rome.*

- *Spent time in Europe. Researched Lutheranism. Married. Secret!*

## ▼ Made Archbishop

- *Henry was made archbishop, and in that role oversaw the annulment of Catherine and Marriage to Anne.*
- *Genuine and faithful friendship with Henry, who protected him politically.*

## ▼ Became Protestant

- *During this time Cranmer became more convinced of the Lutheran and Reformation teaching.*
- *Started to persuade Henry, but only very little. Things like an English set of prayers and Bible in Churches.*

## ▼ Henry/England remains RC but removes R and Pope.

- *Under Henry the Church of England is established independent of Rome. This is mainly a political decision.*
- *Henry himself remains Catholic in theology and spirituality.*

## ▼ Top Down. Dissolution of Monasteries - \$\$\$; English Bible.

- *Different to the reformation in Europe, this is top down, through Parliament Legislation.*
- *Lay people and Clergy continue as they are, but major decisions are being made for them at the top.*
- *Ultimately reformation was successful in theology and spirituality, but under Henry it was about the King replacing the Pope as head of the church and about church taxes and law finding their way to the English Crown not to Rome.*

## ▼ Effective under Edward

### ▼ Council. Protestant.

- *Edward was only 9 when he became king in 1547, and only reigned for six years.*
- *A council was appointed as regent, led by protestants. Edward himself was convinced by the new teaching.*

### ▼ Homilies. (1547)

- *FIRST major change was to introduce sermons into the church services that were preached in English.*
- *but if clergy basically trained in the old catholicism, how to guarantee new teaching is learnt?*
- *Cranmer produced a book of 12 sermons, called Homilies. These were to be read out in church. (actually, still supposed to be, I think!)*
- *Cranmer is FAMOUS for the prayer book and reforming worship, but first was to teach the truth.*
- *Word precedes Prayer*
- *Faith before Repentance*
- *Conversion before Worship.*
- *reform the mind;*
- *Rom 12:1-2 vs Rom 1:21-23.*
- *These homilies focussed on the importance of Scripture, on Grace and Faith, and virtuous obedience in response to God's love.*
- *Eg 1 Homily 1*

**A FRUITFUL EXHORTATION TO  
the reading and knowledge of holy Scripture.**

**To a Christian man there can be nothing either more necessarie or**

profitable, then the knowledge of holy Scripture, forasmuch as in it is conteyned GODS true word, setting foorth his glory, and also mans duety.

... Therefore as many as bee desirous to enter into the right and perfect way vnto GOD, must applie their mindes to know holy Scripture, without the which, they can neither sufficiently know GOD and his will, neither their office and duty.

... And as drinke is pleasant to them that bee drie, and meate to them that be hungrie: so is the reading, hearing, searching, and studying of holy Scripture, to them that bee desirous to know GOD or themselues, and to doe his will.

...

let vs reuerently heare and read holy Scriptures, which is the foode of the soule (Matthew 4.4). Let vs diligently search for the Well of Life in the bookes of the New and Old Testament, and not runne to the stinking puddles of mens traditions (deuised by mens imagination) for our iustification and saluation.

• *Eg. 2 Homily 3*

▼ *word at centre*

- From the beginning of Anglicanism, the preached word has been the centre of church.
- It is where we meet Jesus, and how he rules over us and feeds us.
- Faith comes from hearing the promises of God,
- and so central to our meeting together must be the hearing and preaching of God's word—so that
- those who don't yet know him would come to know him, and those who do might continue to meet him and hear his promises.

- Being an Anglican isn't important, but if you need to find a (new) church, please find a church that puts the preaching of God's word and the hearing of it by faith as central to everything. Col 3:17.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

- True worship begins with the knowledge of God and so the renewing of our minds—by the word of God.

## ▼ Book of Common Prayer

- *In 1552 Cranmer produced a prayer book which became the basis of the liturgy, or ordered worship, for the church of England/Anglican church until 1978 in Australia (UK 1980). That version was revised in 1662 but without any major changes.*

### ▼ *The idea behind the prayer book was*

- to bring unity to faith and practice across the church of England
- to reform theology and spirituality in churches and lives of Christians
- take reformation biblical teaching to the minds and hearts of people and to their lips as they respond in prayer and praise.

### ▼ *big ideas*

- justification by faith; Jesus once for all sacrifice and the centrality of scripture

### ▼ hearty repentance.

- two big complaints about prayer book these days. First is its out of date, and second is that it has no meaning because people just say the words but don't mean them.
- Cranmer would hate both those things. Always reforming to keep edifying the congregation.
- Designed to create heart-felt repentance by imitating the movement of the gospel - Grace - acknowledgement of sin - forgiveness - thanksgiving.
- word Heart used very regularly - don't have time to show it to you now.

- 
- ▼ purpose is to serve the reading and preaching of Scripture. In English. For edification.

- read the whole bible so that the ministers ...

**should (by often readyng and meditacion of Godde's woorde) be stirred up to godlynesse themselves, and be more able also to exhorte other by whole some doctrine, and [...] that the people (by dayly hearynge of holye scripture read in the Church) should continuallye profyte more and more in the knowledge of God, and be the more inflamed with the love of hys true religion.**

- *communion service prayers*

- ▼ *if you want to listen out for the language of 'heart' for real transformation and repentance, and the way he speaks of the communion not being a sacrifice, because Jesus has already died once - otherwise just listen to the beauty of the language...*

- humble access

WE doe not presume to come to this thy table (O mercyfull Lorde) trustinge in our owne righteousnesse, but in thy manifolde and greate mercies: we bee not worthe, so much as to gather up the crommes under thy table: but thou art the same Lorde whose propertie is alwayes to have mercye: graunt us therefore (gracious lord) so to eate the fleshe of thy dere sonne Jesus Christe, and to drinke his bloud, that our synfulle bodyes maye be made cleane by his body, and our soules wasched through his most precious bloud, and that we may evermore dwel in him, and he in us. Amen.

- consecration

ALMIGHTY God oure heavenly father, whiche of thy tender mercye dyddest geve thine onely sonne Jesus Christ, to suffre death upon the crosse for our redempcion, who made there (by hys one oblacion of hymselfe once offered) a full, perfecte and sufficient sacrifice, oblacion, and satisfaccion, for the synnes of the whole worlde, and dyd institute, and in hys holye

Gospell commaund us to continue, a perpetuall memorye of that his precious death, untyll hys comynge agayne: Heare us O mercyefull father wee beeseche thee; and graunt that wee, receyving these thy creatures of bread and wyne, accordinge to thy sonne our Savioure Jesus Christ's holy institucion, in remembraunce of his death and passion, maye be partakers of his most blessed body and bloud: who, in the same night that he was betrayed, tooke bread, and when he had geven thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his Disciples, sayinge: Take, eate, this is my bodye which is geven for you. Doe this in remembraunce of me. Lykewyse after supper he tooke the cup, and when he had geven thankes, he gave it to them, sayinge: Drink ye all of this, for this is my bloud of the new Testament, whiche is shed for you and for many, for remission of synnes: do this as oft as ye shah drinke it in remembraunce of me.

[note: not 'the body ...' or 'the blood'...]

Take and eate this, in remembraunce that Christ dyed for thee, and feede on him in thy hearte by faythe, with thankesgeving.

Drinke this in remembraunce that Christ's bloude was shed for thee, and be thankfull.

- *black rubric*
- *brings reformation theology to the common man via his worship.*
- *one sacrifice, already made. Response is love. Rom 12:2 - meaning is vv 3ff.*
- ▼ *guide to hear and obey word, respond in repentance and love.*

- how do our church meetings go at illustrating as well as speaking the gospel
- at encouraging people to respond to GOD's word
- at helping people to love God and their neighbours

## ▼ 39 Articles.

- *foundational statement of theology.*
- ▼ *read with homilies and PB.*

- established with Elizabeth.

## ▼ Martyred under Mary

### ▼ catholic reform. not all the way because of \$\$ and spanish king.

- *When Edward died, Mary a convinced Roman catholic became queen*
- *repealed all the changes made under Edward, and moved the church back to a catholic theology and spirituality.*
- *Mary didn't muck around, and executed the protestant leaders*
- *Latimer And Ridley amongst others burnt at stake for heresy or treason.*

### ▼ Message JbF only; Grace; Seen in Cranmer's death.

#### ▼ *martyred; but recants. Fails at the great hurdle. Not a hero like L&R. Dies anyway.*

- like Frodo in Lord of Rings; Can't throw the ring in.
- *I'm so disappointed by him. But it speaks grace.*

#### ▼ *saved not because we are successful; or heroes; but by God's kindness.*

- I don't know where you are today. Maybe you have followed Jesus for many years, but you're not sure about him.
- I hope that wherever you are, though, that you can see that being a Christian is about grace. What God has done for us in love.
- WE don't have to earn God's love. He gives it to us in mercy and compassion. We are certain about that because we believe Jesus died and rose again.
- So—it's not about being a hero, and getting everything right, standing with integrity even in face of execution, but about God's gracious kindness.
- Maybe Cranmer's failure to be a hero can be inspirational—as it speaks to you of God's kindness in overlooking your own failure to be a hero, or perfect, or

kind, or merciful, or generous, or loving, .... as indeed he overlooks my own many failings.

▼ *a word on martyrdom while we are here.*

- Christians never seek death. And christian martyrs, and many continue to die each year for being Jesus' people, do so in love, peace and submission to law and authority—and obedience to God. It is never done in violence or to ensure one's place in the afterlife.
- Please remember the many being oppressed for their faith around the world.

## ▼ Afterword

### ▼ Cranmer and Reformed Worship

- *in his kindness God used Cranmer to set the church of England on solid ground*
- *Homilies, BCP, Articles pointing people to the truth of God's true word and showing them how to live in faith and praise*
- *Shaped substantially the way that churches have been run since 16cent. and around the world today.*
- *Liturgy or Service itself is not so important*
- *but a renewed mind; transformed heart, true repentance*
- *result of hearing God's word and trusting in him.*

▼ *What would Cranmer say today?*

- would he be cranky that we weren't preaching his sermons or using the PB?
- I don't think so?

▼ I think he'd ask us ...

- is the bible central?
- are you encouraging people to meet God in the truth of his word?
- are you responding in repentance, love, and praise

- are you trusting God's love in Jesus' one sacrifice, or trying to earn God's love?

- Are we doing that?

▼ *If we are serious about reformed worship*

- read again Romans 12 - renew our minds and hearts
- love our neighbours
- love God
- confess his name — evangelism, song, edification and prayer.

▼ *Every generation is tempted to try and earn God's love or to ignore him - we see it in the Bible, as well as the 16cent.*

- lets be grateful for those who've gone before
- but not take it for granted
- work at hearing the message, and to make sure our society can hear it as well.