

The Cropredy Crier

Village news & events for November 2025



November Community Matters:

The seasons change with beauty and sometimes also with challenges. I commend the following offers of gathering, worship and generosity to you as we all hunker down for November:

Sunday November 2nd, 4.00 p.m., The Annual In Memory Service: An opportunity in quiet reflection and with simple prayers and readings, to light a candle for those we love but see no longer. Refreshments to follow for those who wish.

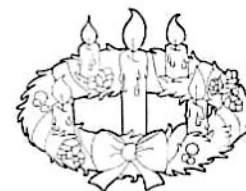


Sunday November 9th. 10.50 a.m. , Remembrance Sunday: At the Village Cenotaph in St Mary's Church Yard, and afterwards for our service in Church. Everyone is welcome. Once again we gather with others in the United Kingdom to commemorate the contribution of British and Commonwealth military and civilian servicemen and women in the two World Wars and later conflicts. We gather to remember, lest we forget, and it is always so meaningful to name the fallen from our own village community, to lay poppy wreaths, mark with bugle, silence and familiar words our gratitude to those who paid that ultimate sacrifice. We gather to continue to pray for, and commit to work for peace.



Lest We
Forget

Sunday November 30th, 10.00 a.m., Advent Sunday Worship for all the family. Amongst the beauty of the trees of the Parish Christmas Tree Festival , a time to enjoy Advent Worship for all the family, to prepare our hearts and lives for the countdown to the joy of Christmas celebrations. An opportunity also to stay for the joys of our Christmas Tree Festival after the service.



Cropredy Church Christmas Tree Festival 2025

Saturday, 29th and Sunday, 30th November



Come and join us for this wonderful event on the first weekend of Advent!



Our beautiful Church will be open from 11.00 a.m until 4.00 p.m. on both days.

Admission is only £1 per adult (children under 12 are free), which entitles you to vote for your favourite tree. As well as the beautiful array of trees to see, you can enjoy tea, coffee or mulled wine, and delicious cakes and mince pies while you decide on the tree that will get your vote.

You will also have the chance to shop for some new Christmas decorations at the Christmas Stall, and buy a raffle ticket to win a great prize!

We look forward to welcoming everyone to this joyous event

More Dates for your Diary

Friday December 5th., 5.00 p.m. : Parish and School Christingle Service

Sunday December 21st. 6.00 p.m.: The Annual Parish Carol Service

Wednesday December 24th., Christmas Eve, 3.00 p.m.: Parish Crib Service, 11.15 p.m.: Midnight Service

St Marys Church Porch Food Support

Following a bumper Harvest, and generous community, we are able to extend to anyone who needs it a little extra food support. Please come down and browse a range of tins, packets, staples, a few treats, etc, should you need to. And please do spread the word! We are open in daylight hours.

With my best wishes for your month of November.

Please do be in contact if ever I can be of assistance or you'd like to have a conversation in confidence.

Revd Sarah: Vicar.shiresedge@outlook.com 07747181868 01295750486

SERVICES AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN

Sunday 2nd.	9.30 a.m.	Family Communion	Revd. Canon Sarah Fenby
	4.00 p.m.	In Memory	Revd. Canon Sarah Fenby and ministry team
Sunday 9th.	10.50 a.m..	Remembrance Sunday	Revd. Canon Sarah Fenby
Sunday 16th.	10.00 a.m.	Seeker Service	Siobhan and Rebecca Croft
Sunday 23rd.		Benefice Family Communion Services:	
	9.30 a.m.	Wardington	
	11.00 a.m.	Claydon	
	6.00 p.m.	Mollington	
Sunday 30th.	10.00 a.m.	Advent Sunday	
		All Age Communion Service	Revd. Canon Sarah Fenby
Tuesdays	12 noon	Holy Communion Service	
Wednesdays	9.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer	
Churchwardens:	Verna Wass	verna.wass@btinternet.com	01295 758222,
	Graham Oliver	nb.Alnwick@gmail.com	01295 750956

All enquiries for baptism, wedding or funeral services,

Revd Canon Sarah Fenby I Vicar of Shires Edge Benefice

The Vicarage, High Street, Cropredy

Tel: 01295 750486 Mob: 07747181868 Email: vicar.shiresedge@outlook.com

Bell-ringing, practices every Monday. Tower secretary: Grace Wilson, 07765 465 994

SERVICES AT THE METHODIST CHAPEL (all services 10.30 p.m. unless otherwise notified)

Sunday 2nd.	Marilyn Nutt
Sunday 9th.	Remembrance Service at Parish Church
Sunday 16th.	Local Arrangement Service
Sunday 23rd.	Cate Vokes
Sunday 30th.	Hazel Stagg

COFFEE MORNING and CHRISTMAS MARKET STALL

Homemade cakes, Christmas decorations
and a selection of festive lights in bottles
FRIDAY 14th. 10.30 a.m. – 12.00 noon.
METHODIST CHAPEL SCHOOL ROOM



Bring friends and family or come on your own to meet and make new friends.



Saving the last Curlews of the Upper Thames

Monday November 17th.,
Croprey Village Hall, 7.00 p.m.
a meeting arranged/hosted by
Banbury Ornithological Society



Croprey Welfare Trust

Croprey Welfare Trust is a group of Croprey Charities dating back to the Sixteenth Century. The objective of the Trust is to grant financial support to Croprey residents who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress.

Applications are invited from Croprey residents who believe they may satisfy the above criteria.

Applications to: Revd. Sarah Fenby the Vicarage, High Street, Croprey Rachel Dean 3 Creampot Close, Croprey. Or Peter Croft 23 Station Road Croprey

The Trust meets annually to review administration needs and is bound by strict Charitable Trust Status rules.

Croprey Lunches

At 11.30 a.m. on Monday November 10th. Val will be talking about her recent trip to Zambia meeting street children and visiting orphanages before lunch is served at 12.30.

Croprey Lunches is open to anybody who would like to have a delicious home cooked lunch twice a month. We usually have about twenty guests, but there is room for a few more. If you would like to join us on the second and fourth Monday of the month at 12.30 p.m., just get in touch with:

Valerie Peachey at valerie.peachey@gmail.com Phone 01295 750739 or 07818 414046

Croprey Gardening Club

Talk by Duncan Coombs

'The Shaded Garden'

Wednesday November 12th. at 7.30 p.m.
Croprey Village Hall

Struggling to know what to plant in a shady garden? Duncan Coombs, former Pershore College lecturer and Horticultural Advisor for the RHS, will be returning to give an illustrated talk, where he will be sharing his knowledge and giving advice on plant selection for shady areas of the garden.

All welcome, free to members, non-members £5



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CROPREDY FILM SOCIETY

AUTUMN SEASON 2025

Film Suppers at 7:00 pm. Doors open 6:30 pm



Saturday November 29th.

A Complete Unknown

With Timothée Chalamet as Bob Dylan

It Ain't Me Babe

Mr Tambourine Man

Like A Rolling Stone

Subterranean Homesick Blues

A Hard Rain's Gonna Fall

The Times They Are A-changin'

A biographical film about the early career of the American singer-songwriter . It begins with his 1961 debut as a folk singer and ends with his controversial use of electric instruments at the 1965 Newport Jazz Festival. Director James Mangold also co-wrote the screenplay, loosely based on the 2015 book *Dylan Goes Electric* by Elijah Wald. Timothée Chalamet plays Dylan, and spent 5 years learning to play the guitar and harmonica. He was nominated as Best Actor in this role for BAFTA, Golden Globes and the Academy Awards. You may remember him as Wonka in our 2024 Christmas special, or have seen him in *Dune* and *Dune Part Two*.

Running time: 141 minutes

Booking through f.61whitaker@btinternet.com.

rules.

No tickets on the door in order to comply with film licensing

rules. New members always welcome.



CROPREDY WI



AND FINALLY THE LAST OF THE WI CENTENARY YEAR SERIES

Our centenary year is nearly done and it has been a busy one. If you wonder what you would have done, seen or heard if you had been a member then here are a few examples.

We started with a fascinating, horrific at times revolting, talk on childbearing and rearing from the 16th century onwards. Be thankful you live now and have the NHS. Then we heard from the Chairman of SERV, Service Emergency Rider Volunteers who cover Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Northants, an area of 1,700 square miles. Centred on the JR they deliver urgent medical supplies, such as blood and baby milk, serving 28 hospitals. Last year they responded to 3,800 calls. Then we had a very informative talk on the making of Ravensburger jigsaw puzzles – it's not just a case of pasting a pretty picture on some card board and stamping it out - to find out you should have come and heard. That is just a snapshot of three very varied talks.

Our activities started with planting a liquid amber tree on the Chapel Green in the spring and it appears to be doing well; a time capsule will be placed under a plinth made from Gt Tew ironstone and a sandstone plaque carved by local sculptor Louise Regan will be installed and unveiled later this month. You have already heard about our trip in a 1950s bus to Ettington Hall. We joined forces with the Harlequins in the summer to hold a village Treasure Hunt, this was an annual WI event until the second world war. It was a hugely successful and fun day where we got very wet (the first and only storm of the summer) and learnt a lot about the village. We finished with buffalo burgers and water buffalo ice cream at the Sports Pavilion. If you didn't come then you missed a good day. On a more serious note we hired a conference room at Banbury Rugby Club (a special deal as they are also celebrating their centenary) to hold a meeting with many other WIs to discuss and exchange ideas about climate change and our individual efforts to do our bit. This venue was also used for a screening of our General Meeting from London attended by many members from other local groups. Last month a group we went to the V & A to marvel at the incredible workmanship and beauty of a Cartier exhibition. Next month we are having a fused glass workshop in the Village Hall – already booked up. And finally the finishing touches are being put to a Year Book; what will members think of that in 2125?

Jerusalem was sung at all the meetings but jam was never mentioned! Come and join us; we welcome members from 16 years to 90+. Men can come to any meeting as a visitor – and they do come.

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Monday November 17th. 6.00 - 7.00 p.m. Mulberry Cafe.
 Drop in for informal chat, with some Parish Councillors. Everyone welcome

CROPREDY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 19th. at 7.30
 p.m. in the Village Hall**

**EMPRESS MATILDA, THE
 ANARCHY AND CIVIL WAR**

An illustrated talk by Marie-Louise Kerr

Daughter and heir to King Henry I, granddaughter of William the Conqueror, Matilda's claim to the English throne was challenged by her cousin, Stephen of Blois. Civil war – the Anarchy - raged up and down the country for years. Noblemen changed their allegiances several times. Matilda was besieged at Oxford Castle, but escaped dramatically at night across the frozen River Thames.

Refreshments
 Visitors welcome £5



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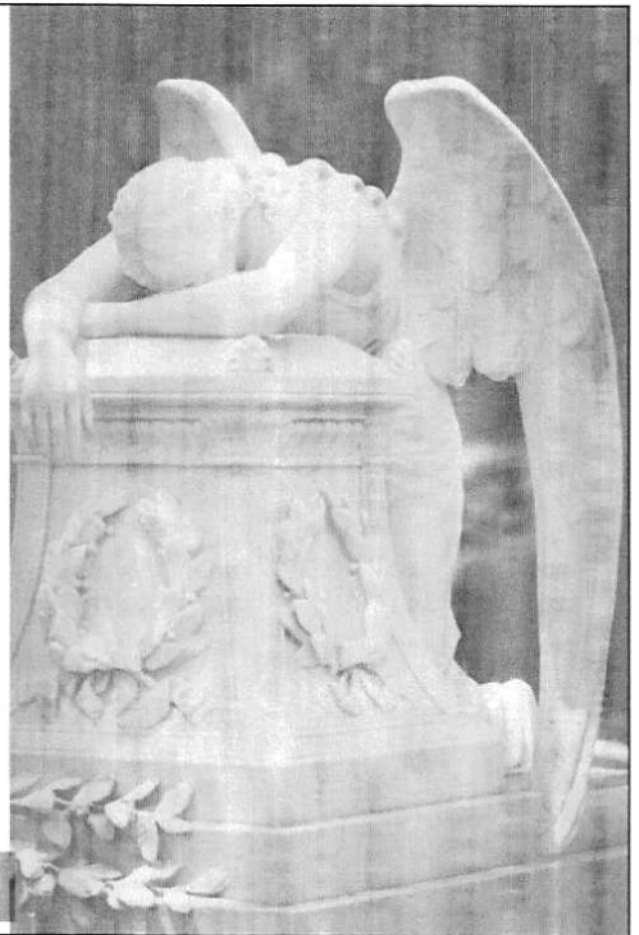
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Cropredy Church Christmas Tree Festival 2025

Saturday, 29th and Sunday, 30th November

11.00 am to 4.00 pm

We know you're going to love the fabulous display of trees.

**We hope you'll enjoy the refreshments, the raffle,
and the decorations stall.**

We want you to know that **all the money raised
from the Festival will go towards the maintenance of
our beautiful Church in Cropredy.**

We look forward to welcoming you!



CROPREDY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Cropredy Parish Council held in the Methodist Chapel on Monday 13th October 2025 at 7pm

Present: Councillors Tania Johnson, Des Knight, Clive Dunn, Carine Varaez, Carl Twynham, Jacqui Smith, and David Best (Clerk). No members of the public attended the meeting.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllrs Rachel Hughes, District Cllr Phil Chapman, County Councillor & District Councillor Chris Brant
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None.
3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** – The minutes of the meeting of 11th August were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. **MATTERS ARISING:** None

5. **VILLAGE MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT**

Canals and Rivers Trust – The next Towpath Taskforce is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 22nd October from 10.00am to 02.00pm.

Upper Churchyard Mowing – The last cut has been completed

Deteriorating footbridge on footpath behind surgery – This will be reported to OCC who will repair it.

6. **TRANSPORT, TRAFFIC & STREET LIGHTING**

Community Speedwatch – A couple of weeks ago, 175 vehicles were monitored and 40% were exceeding the speed limit. A new schedule will start in November.

Street Lighting – The Village has 46 street lanterns, 24 of which are energy-efficient LED. The remaining 22 lanterns are scheduled for conversion to LED by end 2025. Part-night lighting (switching off street lanterns between 11.30 pm and 5.30 am). An application would only be considered if proposed by the Parish Council, supported by Local Councillors and all safety criteria are satisfied. The cost of implementation, which would be met by the Parish Council, is estimated to be £2300.

Bus service in the village – Responses to the survey on bus service requirements carried out by the parish council are being consolidated. The Ability Community bus service which runs on Tuesdays and Thursdays to Banbury and back. Details of the membership options are available at: www.abilityclc.org.uk

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7. **VILLAGE EMERGENCY PLAN, CRIME PREVENTION & ENVIRONMENT**

Emergency Plan – Paul Mann from OCC has provided some leaflets which will be handed out at the Police Event at the village hall in November

Defibrillator Training – This is being organised by the Village Hall and the Sport and Social Club and will take place in the Village Hall on 30th October from 7pm to 9pm. Residents wishing to attend should contact Andy Baxter.

8. **PARISH COUNCIL USE OF INTERNET & SOCIAL MEDIA:**

The parish council is using its Facebook page more and training on how to upload documents to the website will be organised.

9. **PLANNING:**

New Planning Applications and Appeals: 25/01979/F – Brickfield House – relocation of agricultural building – The PC expressed concerns to CDC that the

proposed location is in an open area.

New Planning Decisions: None since the last meeting.

10. COUNTY COUNCIL AND DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: None

11. SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB:

Works to help reduce flooding of the tennis courts – This is expected to be carried out imminently

12. PARISH MATTERS:

- i. **Churchyard Wall repairs** – Quotes will be obtained for the five sections that need to be rebuilt and reinforcing earth anchors. The clerk will meet with the structural surveyor to mark the sections of the wall and obtain a priority for the work as it is likely to be carried out in stages. The OCC Highways Structures Team, Agreements Team and Network Co-ordination Team have been contacted to obtain the necessary advice and permissions.
- ii. **Allotment rents and vacant allotments** – Two allotments have become free but one has been allocated to a resident on the waiting list. The annual rent for an allotment is £10. Residents interested in an allotment should contact David Best, the clerk, at clerk@croredyparishcouncil.gov.uk. Rents have been collected from 7 of the 11 allotment holders.
- iii. **Replacement street litter bins** – It was agreed to order new bins for the ones that need replacing with like for like wooden bins.
- iv. **Police event on 25th October** – This drop in event will take place between 15:00-16:30 in the Village Hall. The Police will give advice on crime prevention advice.
- v. **Williamscot road entrance to the village** – Thames Valley Police has been consulted on how to reduce the level of speed of cars entering the village. They advised that whatever measures are taken only reduce speeding for about 2 months.
- vi. **Christmas tree event at the Church in November** – It was agreed that the parish council would participate with a tree.
- vii. **Playground report** – Infinity Playgrounds, who carried out the recent refurbishment has been asked to quote for any work recommended in the annual inspection. Mr Steve Watts has cleared the brambles that were encroaching onto the skateboard park.
- viii. **Pay increase for clerk** – It was agreed to implement the local government pay agreement and increase the pay by 51p per hour.

13. FINANCE.

Accounts to 30th September 2025 – These will be circulated prior to the meeting.

External Audit Report on 2024-25 Accounts – The recommendations were advised to counsellors and the report will be uploaded to the website

14. CORRESPONDENCE:

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS NOT OF A CONFIDENTIAL NATURE: None

16. ANY MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: None

17. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – Monday 10th November 2025.



The PTFA will be out in Croppedy on the weekends of November 15th. and 22nd. collecting bottle, chocolate and raffle donations. If you have anything you'd be happy to give we would be very grateful!

Travel, Troubles and Transgression, Notes on the Cropredy Burial Register Part II

Last month we considered what seemed to be an extraordinarily high number of burials of vagrants, some of them anonymous, in Cropredy Churchyard during the latter half of the sixteenth century. Unfortunately the situation in the opening decades of the seventeenth century showed little improvement. The following century began with something of a lull until a double tragedy:

1613 December 8th. Joane and Katerin a wandering woman, the child aged 10 years

A decade later, again in December:

1623 December 8th. William Price a poor wayfaring man

...which presaged further deaths through into the 1630s:

1623/24 February 13th. A poor wayfaring man born in Lincolnshire c. 21 years of age

1629 December 7th. Margaret Rice-Davie, wife of Edward a wayfaring person

1630/31 March 19th. William Brasse a wayfaring person from county Durram.

The turmoil of the Civil War years was, as we shall see, well reflected in the burial register with soldiers both as casualties and vagrants featuring in the record. Civilian travellers make a reappearance with a lengthy list of deceased wayfarers:

1656 April 8th. John Taylor a wayfaring child

1658/59 March 21st. John Bodington a wayfaring person

1662/63 March 22nd. Edwarde Yardly a wayfaring person

1667 November 5th. John Sheldon a wayfaring person

1682/83 March 13th. Francis Bobberdy a wayfaring person

1694/95 January 17th. Mary Jones a wayfaring person

1698/99 January 29th. John Fisher a wayfaring man

... and on into the opening decade of the eighteenth century;

1702 October 14th. Henry Sherrif a wayfaring man

1702 November 1st. Mary Martin widow a wayfaring person

1705 June 24th. Anne wife of Thomas a wayfaring person

1705/06 March 19th. Mary Berry a wayfaring woman

The term 'wayfaring man', and by extension wayfaring woman, child and person, was used throughout the seventeenth and on into the opening decade of the eighteenth century, not surprisingly so, as it was sanctioned by scripture:

The highways lie waste, the wayfaring man ceaseth: he hath broken the covenant, he hath despised the cities, he regardeth no man. (Isaiah 33:7-8)

As the eighteenth century wore on such occurrences became a little rarer and a variety of expressions were used:

1732 May 9th. Thomas Laurence a stranger

1734 July 30th. Priscilla Austin a traveller

1742 October 8th. Sarah Griffiths daughter of Charles a poor traveller

1742 November 3rd. Ralph Pigeon a poor traveller

1748 saw perhaps the most dramatic entry of all:

1748 August 24th. A stranger found dead in an inclosure belonging to Great Bourton was by the Coroner's direction buried in Cropredy.

... and finally returning to the established formula:

1751 October 20th. Mary Anderson a poor wayfaring person.

After 1751 there are no further entries of this type.

During a period of 200 years 38 burials of those gadding about, travellers or wayfarers are recorded. Is this total really an unusually high one? Next time we will see how Banbury fared over a comparable period.

Stephen Wass



Date	Time	Event	Venue
Wednesday 5th.	2.00 p.m.	Cropredy Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
Monday 10th.	12.30 p.m.	Cropredy Lunches	Village Hall
	7.00 p.m.	Cropredy Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
	7.00 p.m.	Parish Council Meeting	Methodist Chapel
Wednesday 12th.	7.30 p.m.	Cropredy Gardening Club <i>The Shaded Garden</i>	Village Hall
Monday 17th.	6.00 p.m.	Parish Council 'Drop In'	Mulberry Cafe
	7.00 p.m.,.	Save the Curlew	Village Hall
Wednesday 19th.	2.00 p.m.	Cropredy Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
	7.30 p.m,	Cropredy Historical Society <i>Empress Matilda</i>	Village Hall
Monday 24th.	12.30 p.m.	Cropredy Lunches	Village Hall
	7.00 p.m.	Cropredy Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
Saturday 29th.	11.00 a.m.	Christmas Tree Festival	St. Mary's Church
	6.30 p.m.	Cropredy Film Society <i>A Complete Unknown</i>	Village Hall
Sunday 30th.	11.00 a.m.	Christmas Tree Festival	St. Mary's Church

The Crier is published by The Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Cropredy.

Whilst every care is taken the editor accepts no responsibility for any errors, omissions, consequences or the closure of local lanes for resurfacing. deck chairs on the Titanic if you ask me....

Deadline for the next edition will be Tuesday November 18th.

Stephen Wass: editor@church-of-st-mary-the-virgin-cropredy.org

Village organisations have generally been allocated half a page each month. We can sometimes accommodate more, depending on the volume of notices coming in, and we will always do our best if you have a special event coming up. Please talk to us if you think you might need more space, and bear in mind when drawing up notices that they may need to fit on half a page and that we can only print in black and white.

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Quarter page £8 per calendar month

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