

The Cropredy Crier

Village news & events for December 2025



Christmas at St. Mary the Virgin Cropredy

Friday 5th December at 5.00 p.m.

Parish and School Christingle

Everyone is welcome to this special service!
It would be really helpful to know if you are coming
(if you are additional to the school class involved)
so that we can prepare the necessary orange!
Vicar.shiresedge@outlook.com; or dm on face book,
Rev Sarah Fenby; text 07747181868 / Tel: 01295 750486



Sunday 21st December at 6.00 p.m.
Parish and Family Carol Service



Christmas Eve

3.00 p.m. Crib Service Fun

and Midnight Service from 11.15 p.m.

*... because Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without
them!*

SAVE THE DATE:

Church Quiz on Saturday February 7th, 7.30 p.m.

Village Hall Bar Raffle £9 p.p.

Contact Gill Parratt.....750429

Pip Dealtry.....758255 pipdealtry@hotmail.com

Ukraine Shoe Box Appeal

We will again support the Hare and Hounds Wardington delivery to Ukrainian orphanages. Both sexes, needed. Any shoebox you have will be fine. Sweets, toys, warm hats and gloves and pens etc. Please bring to church to put around the Christmas tree, to be delivered after Christmas.



SERVICES AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN

Friday 5th.	5.00 p.m.	Parish and School Christingle Service	
Sunday 7th.	9.30 a.m.	Family Communion	Revd. Canon Sarah Fenby
Sunday 14th.	11.00 a.m.	Advent Worship	Revd. Canon Sarah Fenby
Sunday 21st..	6.00 p.m.	The Annual Parish Carol Service	Revd. Canon Sarah Fenby
Wednesday 24th	Christmas Eve, 3.00 p.m.	Parish Crib Service	Siobhan and Rebecca Croft
	11.15 p.m.	Midnight Service	Bishop Jonathan
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 7th.	Rev David Alderman. (inc Holy Communion)
Sunday 14th.	Rev Phil Robinson. Carols Service
Sunday 21st.	Local Arrangement Service
Thursday 25th.	Short Christmas Day service
Sunday 28th.	No service in Cropredy, - Circuit Service in Banbury



COFFEE MORNING and CHRISTMAS MARKET STALL

Homemade cakes, Christmas decorations
and a selection of festive lights in bottles
FRIDAY 12th 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.





Cropredy Lunches

CHRISTMAS DINNER



MONDAY DECEMBER 15th. at 12.30

Please join us for this fabulous festive extravaganza of food and friendship. Details from Valerie Peachev at valerie.peachev@gmail.com Phone 01295 750739 or 07818 414046

· THANK YOU · THANK YOU · THANK YOU · THANK YOU ·

Zambia talk: I would like to thank all those who came to listen to my talk about my recent trip to Zambia on Monday 10th November 2025. I am pleased to say it raised £150 which I am planning to send to Ennis' school which teaches children from the compound (slum area). She intends to buy plastic plates, so that the children do not have to wait for others to finish their lunch before they can eat. Many thanks, Valerie Peachev

* * * * *

May I pass on my sincere thanks to the residents of Cropredy for their wonderful contribution to the 2024 Poppy Appeal which raised £919.94. Thank you especially to Carol Bateman, Joy Bradshaw, Sue Wheeler and Elaine and Russell Twynham who braved the cold and wet weather to make door to door collections. Also the Brasenose, the Red Lion, the Mulberry Café and the school. We are still awaiting confirmation of the Cropredy church collection which will be added to the total. The total amount raised for the Cropredy & District will be in excess of £2,100 when the Collection from the Cropredy church service has been added. Many thanks, David Upton (Cropredy & District RBL Co-ordinator)

ELSIE SMITH will not be sending Xmas cards this year but wishes everyone a very happy Xmas and a healthy new year, a donation has been sent to Thames Valley Air Ambulance.

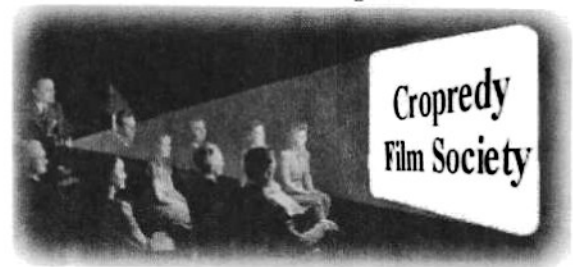
Cropredy Film Society

Cropredy Village Hall

Doors open 6.30 p.m.

Saturday December 27th.

Paddington in Peru



A letter from the Home for Retired Bears tells the lovable bear in London that his Aunt Lucy is missing him deeply.

Paddington and the Brown family decide to visit her; but on arrival in darkest Peru they learn that she is missing. They set off to search for her in the jungle.

Starring: Hugh Bonneville, Emily Mortimer, Julie Walters, Olivia Colman, Jim Broadbent. Antonio Banderas and with Ben Wishaw as the voice of Paddington.

A live-action animated adventure comedy . Released 2024. Running time 106 minutes

This is a picnic performance. Please bring your own festive food, nibbles and drinks. Complimentary mulled wine or soft drink on arrival.

Bookings to f.61whitaker@btinternet.com or 01295 758448

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01295 722652 duncombe.donna@gmail.com

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VILLAGE CAROL SINGING

Come and lend your voices to this long standing village event. All welcome to join us as we tour the village singing traditional carols and raising funds for Action for Children.

DATES AND DETAILS

Monday 15th and Tuesday 16th December. Gather at Church Rooms at 5.15pm for a 5.30pm departure. We will be finished by 8pm in order to enjoy refreshments and hospitality in a warm, indoor location.

Monday: Village Green, Cup and Saucer, Backside, Orchard Close, Kyetts Corner, Chapel Row, Creampot, Red Lion Street, New Place, Chapel Lane

Tuesday: High Street, Church Lane, Roundbottom, Vicarage Gardens, Plantation, Brasenose, Station Road and offshoots.



Detailed maps and approximate timings will be published on the village facebook page.

Carol sheets provided. Please bring a torch and ensure that you are dressed and equipped for the weather.

Musicians welcome. Add your musical talents to the amazing "bellissima" and ukulele group (chord sheets can be provided on request)

As in previous years, we will be collecting door-to-door for Action for Children (formerly National Children's Homes).

ADULT VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED TO HELP WITH THIS ASPECT OF THE TOURS

Please note that, due to time constraints, we are unable to sing on every doorstep but aim to sing within sight and sound of every household. However, we are happy to include the odd "command performance" for those who might not be able to venture outside. Please contact Caroline to arrange this.

Further information from Caroline Watsham 07802 722923 or carolinefwatsham@gmail.com



Cropredy Harlequins present

A Ding Dong Verily

*Friday 16th and Saturday 17th January
at 7.30pm*

Cropredy Village Hall

Tickets £8.00

available from

01295 758224

or Ticket Source (see QR code)



(Licensed bar)



Hot Food
Local Deli
Local Crafts
Carols
Games

**Cropredy Primary
School's**

**Christmas
CROPFEST**

**Bigger and better
for 2025!**



Afternoon Tea
Santa grotto
Husky dogs
Raffle
Games

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday
6th
December
12-4pm

Minutes of a meeting of Cropredy Parish Council held in the Methodist Chapel on Monday 10th November 2025 at 7pm

Is HR on your To Do List?

Banbury based HR Consultancy trusted by many local businesses just like yours.

Present: Councillors Des Knight, Clive Dunn, Jacqui Smith, and David Best (Clerk). One member of the public attended the meeting.

- Ⓞ getting the HR essentials in place
- Ⓞ ensuring legal compliance
- Ⓞ streamlining HR admin
- Ⓞ being approachable & responsive

Professional CV writing service too

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllrs Rachel Hughes, Carine Varaez, Tania Johnson, Carl Twynham, District Cllr Phil Chapman, County Councillor & District Councillor Chris Brant

We care for your business just like you do.

We'd love to support you too.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None.

www.cinnamonhr.co.uk ☎ Tel: 07456538677 ☎ hello@cinnamonhr.co.uk

3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** – The minutes of the meeting of 13th October were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. **MATTERS ARISING:** None

5. **VILLAGE MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT**

Canals and Rivers Trust – In October the task force painted and cut back vegetation. The next Towpath Taskforce is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 26th November from 10.00am to 02.00pm.

Footbridge – This had been reported to OCC and the report has been acknowledged.

Pothole on Oxhey Hill – Some have been repaired, and the road is being closed in two weeks to complete the repairs.

Playground maintenance – A quote has been received for repairs identified in the last playground inspection report and the availability of grants towards the cost of the repairs will be investigated.

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

Community Speedwatch – A new 3-month schedule has been published. This has now been in operation for 4 years.

Street Lighting – There is no news on the date for the completion of the conversion of lights to LED.

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


Police Crime Prevention Drop in event – There was a disappointing turnout for this with only 10 residents but the attendees found the information useful.

Defibrillator Training – This was well attended with over 40 residents.

8. **PARISH COUNCIL USE OF INTERNET & SOCIAL MEDIA:** No update.

9. **PLANNING:**

Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils training – Cllrs Tania

 www.bourtondrainservices.co.uk



Johnson and Jacqui Smith attended this. The general direction of travel for District and County Councils is to permit all applications. Material concerns that can be used to object to applications were discussed.

New Planning Applications and Appeals:

25/02754/F – The Straw Barn – Addition of 1st floor windows – PC to decide response.

25/02800/TCA – The Old Manor – Tree works – PC has no objections.

New Planning Decisions:

25/0207/F – The Straw Barn – removal of condition 8 of 10/01087/F – CDC permitted 13/10/2025.

10. COUNTY COUNCIL AND DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: None

11. SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB:

Parish Councillors representation on the Management Committee – The constitution provides for 2 councillors to be represented on the committee but there are currently none. Representation on the committee will be decided at the next meeting.

Copy of the Parish Council Insurance Policy – The Sports and Social Committee has requested a copy of the PC Insurance Policy so that it can check the S&SC is covered on this. It was agreed to provide a copy.

12. PARISH MATTERS:

- i. **Churchyard Wall repairs** – The clerk is meeting the surveyor next week to obtain detailed specifications that are required to obtain quotes. Cherwell Listed Buildings has advised that planning permission may be required and this is being investigated. The clerk is obtaining permission for the work from OCC Highways.
- ii. **Oak tree on an allotment** – An oak tree is growing on Plot 9 and Mr Tim Batchellor will be asked for advice on removal or transplanting. A tree on plot 5 will also be investigated. All allotments are let now.
- iii. **Installation of additional dog poo bin at Upper Prescote** – The PC will seek clarification from the Prescote Parish Meeting on the location of the bin as CDC may not agree to empty it if it is not close to a road.
- iv. **Request from the school to fund a defibrillator cabinet** – This is so the defibrillator could be used by members of the public. The school will be asked to provide the cost for consideration at the next meeting.
- v. **Surveying residents on turning off streetlights earlier** – It was agreed that Cllr Clive Dunn will draft a questionnaire that could be distributed after all the streetlights have been converted to LED.

13. FINANCE.

Accounts to 31st October – These were circulated prior to the meeting and there were no requests for clarification.

14. CORRESPONDENCE: None outstanding

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 8th December 2025.

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

As we have seen over a period of roughly two centuries 38 burials of individuals who could be described as vagrant occurred in Cropredy. Apart from a case late in the 1740s anonymity was only really an issue in the years prior to the Civil War when nearly half of the people recorded were sent to their graves without the benefit of a name. Were such individuals found dead under a hedge or as in 1748 'in an inclosure' or were they simply unwilling or too unwell to give an account of themselves before expiring? One cannot but help wonder if some of these fatally ill wayfarers had been driven out of Banbury to lie down and die in the countryside. The Banbury Burial register records for July 19th. 1597 the burial of someone with just a surname recorded: Wright, who was, 'a stranger carried from constable to constable towards Coventrie'. The impetus to move people on, especially if sick or pregnant, is illustrated by a case from Oxford:

When a wandering woman fell ill of the smallpox in Oxford, she was promptly carried o'er the boundary by St. Clement's parish, where she died quickly from the disease and this disruption. The parishes began a long dispute over the costs of her funeral, which St. Peter's had been forced to provide in the interests of civic hygiene. J. A. Redwood, 'Pauper Fortunes in Oxfordshire, 1660-1760', *Oxoniensia*, vol 37 (1972), p. 209

Certainly Banbury at the time was not welcoming to vagabonds indeed there was an order from 1564 that: 'Neither innkeeper, victualler or any other man dwelling within the precincts of this town shall receive or lodge in their houses either beggar or vagrant person without the licence of the officers upon pain for every 3s, 4d. and to have two days of imprisonment.'¹

¹ J.S.W. Gibson and E.R.C. Brinkworth (Eds.) *Banbury Corporation Records Tudor and Stuart* (Banbury Historical Society, 1977) vol. 15 Orders and Pains, 1564 p. 40.

During the final decades of the sixteenth century Banbury recorded just one burial of a vagrant, in 1570 and a 'wanderer' in 1593. The others, 11 in all, are termed 'strangers' and an entry December 9th. 1584 is typical. It lists one William Ostreet, 'a stranger and a petite chapman of small wares, being a Shropshire man'. Similar entries give full names and list trades and places of origin and were likely to be quite legitimately occupied in their journeying. Nor were any of them buried without names except for a certain, 'Dorothie a straunge mayd was buried out of widdowe Comptons House' on February 4th. 1589, surname presumably unknown and what reads as a sorry occurrence: 'A poore man, black bearded of the age of 50 yeeres or thereabout died at the south Church porch and was buried the 7 days' January 7th. 1598. Helen Forde noted of Banbury that:

Harbouring beggars or vagrants, who were frequently suspected of carrying and spreading infectious diseases, especially those who had come from larger towns or cities, was prohibited. Penalties were fixed for those who did not comply though how effective they were as a deterrent it is not possible to tell.²

Given the low number of vagrant burials recorded for the town the policy appears to have succeeded but how big a problem was it? In his introduction to his book social historian A.L. Beier comments on the difficulty of 'gauging the extent of vagabondage' but quotes Elizabethan estimates of between 10,000 and 200,000 individuals on the road.³ Burials apart other evidence for numbers comes in records of relief given out by parish authorities. F.D. Price in the introduction to the Wigginton Constables' Book notes that of, 'pauper "travellers" who sought relief as they passed through the parish in the 1690s the figure sometimes rose to as many as three hundred in a single year, a total which is the more surprising when one recalls the fact that the village did not lie on a main road'.⁴ These individuals are recorded as being in possession of a pass, a paper which conferred a degree of legality on their wanderings. In South Newington in the 1580s monies were disbursed to 'a poore man having a testimonial for the Quenes Benche', 'a poore man that had a licence' and 'a pore man that had more poore company', although the numbers come nowhere near the figure for Wigginton a century later.⁵ As far as Cropredy was concerned the term appeared to be, 'gave to a letter of request'. In the churchwardens' accounts book for the parish, that run from 1694 to 1746 we find entries listing amounts given ranging from two pennies to one shilling sometimes with additional information attached.⁶ For example in the accounts for 1695 amongst 31 requests we read of, '2 families that came out of Ireland and which had a letter of request 6d'. Sometimes a place of origin is noted and occasionally as in 1696 the cause of displacement is given, 'Gave to a letter of request that had loss by fire 6d'. Also listed in subsequent years are losses due to water, sea and lightening. 1696 must have been a bad year for there is a high of 35 requests after which numbers diminish: 1697 - 26 requests, 1698 - 25 requests, 1699 - 28 requests, 1700- 4 requests after which these items do not appear in the accounts presumably because of some change in the system for administering such grants. Of course some of these may not have been travellers and some travellers will have passed through the parish without asking for charity. Next time we will consider the profile of travellers who came to the end of their journeys here in Cropredy.

Stephen Wass

² Helen Forde, 'Banbury's Answer to Sixteenth Century Plagues and Infections', *C&CH* (2021) vol 23, p. 27.

³ A. L. Beier, *Masterless Men, The Vagrancy Problem in England 1560 - 1640* (Methuen, 1985) p. ix.

⁴ F. D. Price, *The Wigginton Constables' Book 1691-1836* (Banbury Historical Society, 1971) vol 11, p. xx.

⁵ E.R.C. Brinkworth, *South Newington Churchwardens' Accounts*, (Banbury Historical Society, 1963) vol 61, pp. 14-7.

⁶ Cropredy Historical Society Archive, Church Rooms, Cropredy. Pam Keegan, *Churchwardens' Accounts Book 1694-1746*, Mss. (1974).



Date	Time	Event	Venue
Wednesday 3rd.	2.00 p.m.	Cropredy Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
Friday 5th.	5.00 p.m.	Christingle Service	St. Mary's Church
Saturday 6th.	12.00	Christmas Cropfest	Cropredy Primary School
Monday 8th.	7.00 p.m.	Cropredy Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
	7.00 p.m.	Parish Council Meeting	Methodist Chapel
Monday 15th.	12.30 p.m.	Cropredy Lunches Christmas Dinner	Village Hall
	5.15 p.m.	CAROL SINGING	Church Rooms
Tuesday 16th.	5.15 p.m.	CAROL SINGING	Church Rooms
Wednesday 17th.	2.00 p.m.	Cropredy Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
Sunday 21st.	6.00 p.m.	Candlelit Carol Service	St. Mary's Church
Saturday 27th.	6.30 p.m.	Cropredy Film Society <i>Paddington in Peru</i>	Village Hall

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 actions of any driver who is incapable of making a right hand turn without demolishing half the signs in the village.

Deadline for the next edition will be Thursday December 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.

Advertising rates for 2025 are as follows:

Quarter page £8 per calendar month

Half page £15 per calendar month

Full page £25 per calendar month

Advertisers who book and pay for the year ahead attract a discounted rate of 12 months for the price of 10 (or pro rata for alternate months or other prepaid block bookings)

A Merry Christmas to all our readers.