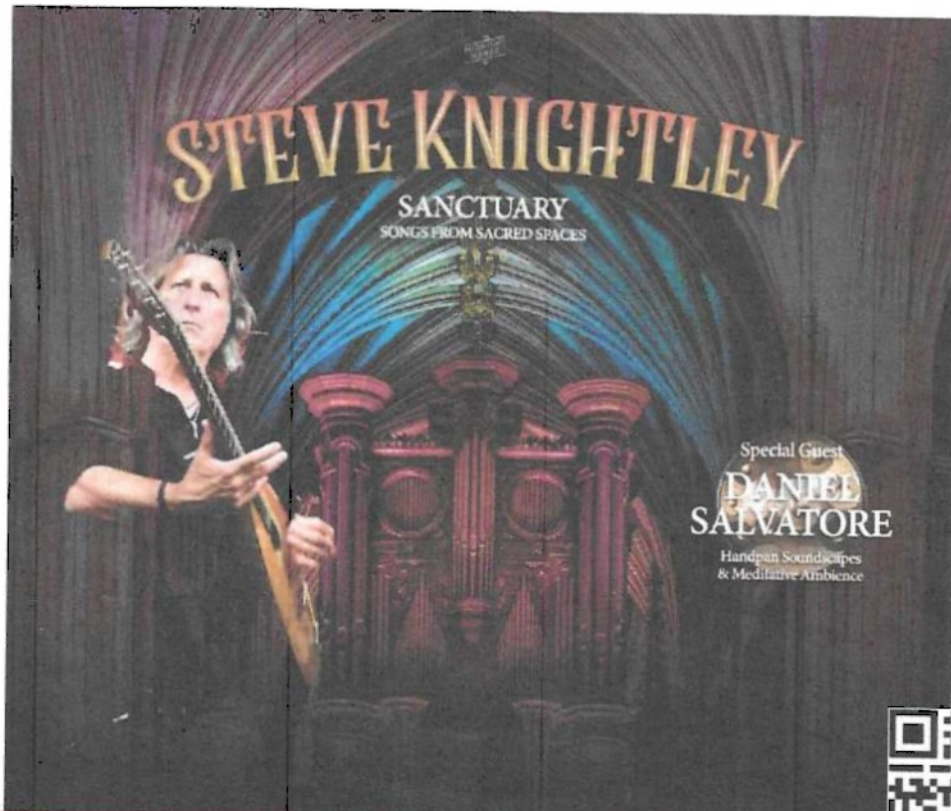
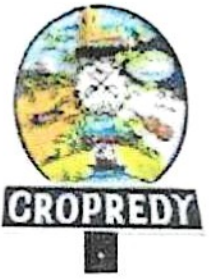


The Cropredy Crier

Village news & events for February 2026



St. Mary's Church March 28th.
Tickets from Eventbrite



CROPREDY SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB NEW CHAIRPERSON REQUIRED



We are looking for a new Chairperson to work alongside the current Chairman, David Cherry up to the AGM in May 2026, and then take on responsibility from May 2026 for a period of 3 years. The main responsibilities are to chair 4 or 5 Committee Meetings a year, represent the club at the Parish Council and to ensure the club stays focussed on its goals of providing sports and social amenity for the local area.

If you are interested in this position please contact me, Laurie Wilson, Secretary CS&SC
lauriejwilson@hotmail.co.uk

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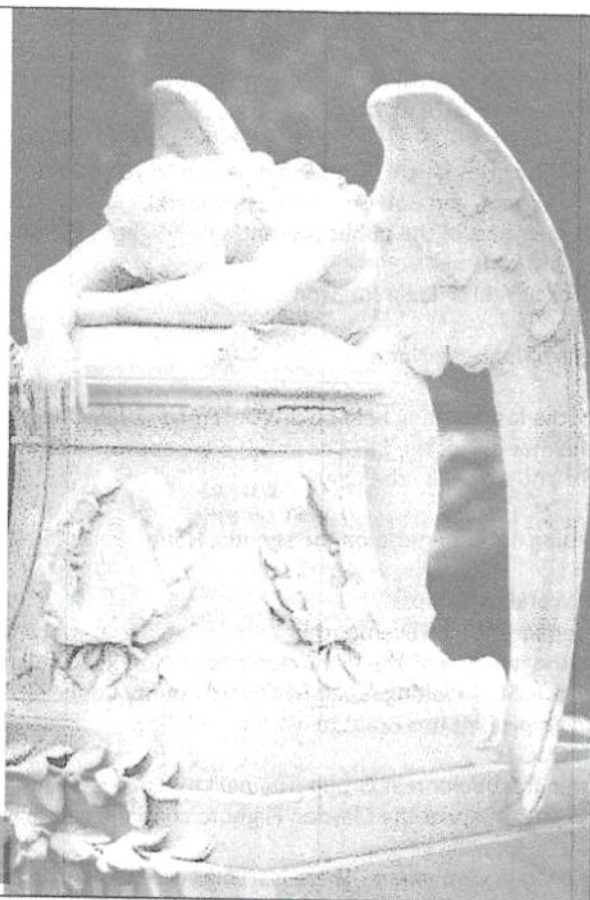
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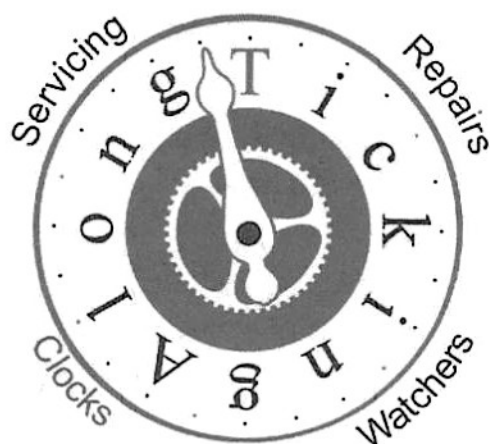
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Many thanks to all the brave carol singers who went around the village on Monday 15th and Tuesday 16th December. The total raised was £650.27. The Christmas day collection at the Methodist Chapel was £101.50p. Making a total of £751.77p to send to Action for Children.



CROPREDY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting at the Methodist Chapel on Monday 12th January 2026 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors Des Knight, Clive Dunn, Jacqui Smith, Carine Varaez, Carl Twynham, and Bob Garland (acting clerk).
There were 9 members of the public present. Cllr. Knight in the Chair

1. Apologies for absence: Tania Johnson
2. Declarations of Interest: None.
3. Minutes of the last meeting held on 8th December 2025. The minutes of the meeting of the 8th December were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4. Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda. None

5. Reports of Working Groups:

Village Maintenance & Improvement

Sign posts on the junction of The Plantation and Station Road, adjacent to The Brasenose. Still awaiting repair by Oxford County Council (OCC). Cllr. Varaez to email Cllr Chris Brant to ask him to follow up at his meeting with OCC.

Canal and River Trust Volunteer Group .The next meeting is on

Wednesday 28th January at the Claydon Flight to continue refurbishment of a brick building to provide a refuge for lock keepers.

Tennis Courts – cracks in surface.. There is a small area of cracking on the courts that is being investigated to establish the cause. Playground. Quotations have been received for repairs including the zip wire. Cllr Smith to action the quotes, and also check available lottery grants.

Kerbstone adjacent to Village Hall Car Park A member of the public reported that a kerbstone was dislodged and above the surface level constituting a significant trip hazard. Laurie Wilson would report (as a super-user) on FixMyStreet.

Surface Water opposite bungalows at the top of Red Lion Street. Another member of public reported a problem with surface water which was particularly hazardous when frozen. Cllr. Knight would investigate with Bob Garland.

6. Transport, Traffic & Street Lighting

Speedwatch. Monitoring continues and a new schedule will be prepared for the next three months.

Streetlighting. Cllr Dunn reported that the conversion of village lights to LED was expected to be completed soon. He would then distribute a questionnaire to residents to gather views on 'Part night lighting', to inform a PC decision on whether or not to adopt this. Cllr Knight had reported a faulty lamp at Kyetts Corner on FixMyStreet and it had been repaired within days.

Blocked Gulleys on Williamscot Road. Cllr Dunn had submitted a report and it appeared some action had been taken, but surface water was noticed again indicating that further action was needed to deal with water flowing down the hill from Willaimscot. Cllr Dunn has followed up and reported on FixMyStreet.

7. Village Emergency Plan, Crime Prevention and Environment. Cllr Twynham was updating the contact list on the Snow Clearance section. Cllr Knight had checked all the grit/salt bins and topped them up as required. There was ample salt in the reserve.

8. Parish Council use of Internet & social media. Nothing to report

9. Planning & Climate Change. Decisions since last meeting: None

Planning Application 25/03234/OUT – Land east of Claydon Rd – Outline permission for 74 houses. Cllr Knight provided an update. This planning application had been submitted on 12/12/2025, with comments from the public due by 29/01/26, and a target decision date



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of 13/03/2026. Over 40 comments from the public had been posted on Cherwell's Planning Register. There was concern that time for consideration had been very limited, particularly as comments from neighbouring properties were asked for by 11/01, and from the PC by the 17/01. A meeting (not public) between the PC, representatives of Keep Cropredy Rural, and Obsidian (the applicant) had been arranged for 20/01, with the purpose of obtaining more information about the proposed application. The PC had arranged a separate meeting on 13/01 for all villagers to provide guidance on responding to a planning application, in particular the importance of focussing on 'material matters'.

Clr Dunn had asked for an extension of the deadline for comments and Cherwell had confirmed responses from neighbouring properties could now be received by 29/01. Nevertheless, there was still concern about the shortness of the deadline, and Clr Dunn would ask Cherwell for a further extension of 21 days from 29/01.

The PC had decided it would fund Stage 1 of an independent Planning Consultant's study of the application. A representative of Keep Cropredy Rural would lead and ask the consultant what could be delivered in time for the consultation deadlines.

Clr Knight explained that, as is normal and without prejudice to the PC's response and the application's outcome, Cherwell had informed the PC of the S.106 financial contributions should the application be granted. It was agreed that the payment for Outdoor Sport appeared disproportionate, so Clr Knight would ask Cherwell if there could any redistribution to reflect the village's needs. The PC is also working on an 'Infrastructure Plan' to prioritise capital projects.

There was a considered and informed discussion of the proposal with contributions from members of the public. The concerns included: sewage disposal capacity, the relevance of the latest updated Cherwell Plan (due for examination in public), the flood risk, road traffic, the relative size and location of the proposal, and ecology.

10. County Council Report – County Councillor Chris Brant, No report on this occasion

11. District Council Report – District Councillor Phil Chapman. No report on this occasion

12. Sports and Social Club:

Clr Knight would follow up with the Clerk the provision of insurance documents to the Sports and Social Committee. Parish Councillors representation on the Management Committee. Representation will be decided at the February PC meeting.

13. Parish Matters

Church Wall. David Best (clerk) had reported that Robin Calver, Head of Structural Engineering at OCC Highways, declined to meet Andrew Baxter (structural engineer acting for the PC) due to needing to be neutral before considering AB's specification for approval. Cherwell D.C. has confirmed

planning permission will be required for the works. DB is following up so we can proceed to tender as soon as possible.

Oak Tree in Allotments. Tim Batchelor to prepare a report

Dog poo bin for Upper Prescote. PC to check progress

Cabinet for Defibrillator at the School.

Clr Vraez would follow up with the School the estimate of cost so the PC can consider payment for provision.

14. Finance: Clerk's Report. No update on this occasion.

15. Correspondence. Nothing arising

16. Any other business not of a confidential nature. Nothing

17. Any matters raised by members of the public attending the meeting. None

18 Next meeting – 9th February

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CROPREDY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Cropredy Village Hall 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday February 18th.

Mary, Queen of Scots

An illustrated talk by Dr. Gill White -

Mary became a monarch at six days old, and by the age of twenty-five she had lost three kingdoms, three husbands, and would never see her only child again. Whether she is to be seen as a murderous adulterer or the innocent victim of all that befell her, Mary's life is undoubtedly wrapped in tragedy. Gill White explores her remarkable story and looks at the causes of the failure that led to her execution.



Visitors welcome £5, Free refreshments. Why not join and become a member? Enjoy up to ten meetings in 2026

CROPREDY FILM SOCIETY

Saturday February 28th.

Doors open 6.30 p.m., AGM 6.45 p.m, Supper at 7.00 p.m.

'I Swear'

Based on a true biographical story about a boy with Tourette's, so some may find the language and behaviour upsetting. With Shirley Henderson, Maxine Peake, Peter Mullan and award-winning Robert Aramayo as John..Written, directed and produced by Kirk Jones.

John Davidson is a Scottish man with severe Tourette's syndrome, and features his life before and after a 1989 television documentary, *John's Not Mad*, at a time when the condition was barely identifiable. We catch up with him aged 25, living at home .and then follow the way his life changes.

Booking for tickets through f.61whitaker@btinternet.com or at screenings. Remarkably, a seat still costs only £8 - to include a hot meal and an ice cream. Membership is required in order to comply with film licensing regulations.

Change of dates: **September 5** is now scheduled for a film supper on Saturday March 21, a week earlier than originally advertised *The Choral* will be the film on St George's Day, Thursday April 23.

A letter from the Headteacher of Cropredy School

As we begin a new term, I am delighted to share the successes of our school community over the past term and our exciting plans moving forward. Last term was a time of growth and achievement, underpinned by our new vision: "Building Bridges to a Brighter Future." This vision reflects our commitment to fostering strong connections—between pupils, staff, families, and our wider village community.

Our school values remain at the heart of everything we do. Last term, we focused on Respect and Community, and as we return, our emphasis shifts to Kindness—a value that we believe strengthens relationships and creates a positive learning environment for all.

We are proud to share that our pupils' hard work and dedication have placed us 6th in Oxfordshire for attainment at the end of KS2 SATs—a fantastic achievement that reflects the commitment of our staff, families, and children.

We have continued to enrich learning through memorable experiences beyond the classroom. Highlights included visits to the Tower of London, the Imperial War Museum, and Tooley's Boatyard, giving pupils opportunities to deepen their understanding of history—both national and local.

Another exciting development is the introduction of Forest School sessions every day. These outdoor learning experiences have brought countless benefits: building resilience, encouraging teamwork, and nurturing a love for nature. Alongside this, we remain committed to delivering a broad and balanced curriculum, ensuring every child has the chance to thrive academically, creatively, and personally.

Thank you to everyone in our village who continues to support our school. Together, we are truly building bridges to a brighter future.

Warm regards,

Will Reeves (Headteacher, Cropredy Church of England Primary School)

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

The register also records something of the aftermath of the various campaigns that racked this part of the country during the English Civil War. There was an earlier 1595 entry for June 22nd. regarding 'a poor wandering man in ... of a soldier'. Presumably the missing words were ...the clothes (or habit) The most likely context would be that of a casualty from the Irish Wars, part of the long running Tudor conquest of Ireland, that had flared up in 1593. Once the English Civil War was underway there are several relevant entries:

1642 October 30th. Two Soldiers was buried, Morrow Captan
1642 November 5th. Oen a welshman

These are presumably fatalities following on from the Battle of Edgehill on October 23rd and may well have received care in the village before expiring from their wounds.

1643 July 20th. A soaldier - a Shropshire man

The number of fatalities from the battle of Cropredy Bridge remains uncertain but was probably in the order of 100. No doubt some would have been buries on the battlefield, the reputed location of one mass grave being known in the nineteenth century. It would be fascinating to track this location down. The day after the battle, June 29th. we read:

1644 June 30th. Five soldiers buried and a little later...
1644 July 6th. Edward Webb Maijor of the King's Horse

Major Edward Webb is recorded in Parliamentarian Thomas Ellis's *An Exact and Full Relation of the Last Fight, Between the Kings Forces and Sir William Waller*, published on July 5. 1644, with the prescient note: 'Wee have taken a Major of the Kings owne Regiment, his name is Webbe, he is mortally wounded, not likely to recover'
We also have an entry with no context for a burial nearly a year later:

1645 July 18th. Robert Webb a soldier

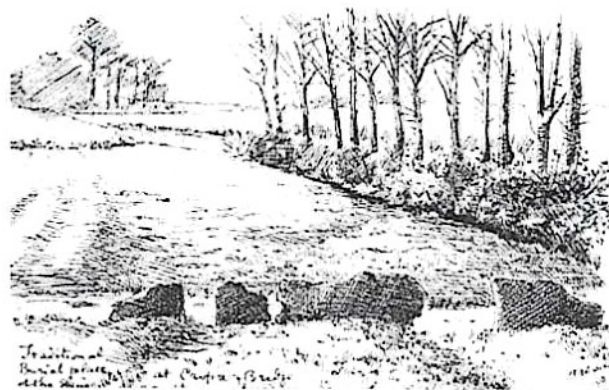
The well known gravestone in the churchyard commemorating a former soldier is listed as an entry in the register without any military reference:

1658/9 March 9th. Samuel King

Fortunately the inscription tells a fuller story whilst on the reverse of the stone was an additional script, now eroded away but recorded in the nineteenth century, of what appears to be an original composition, possibly King's own:

Here is interr'd	Nor Mars doe but Mercury their parts
the body of Lieutenant	Challeng'd in him famous for Armes and
SAMUEL KING a loyal	Artes
subject and soldier	Fewe knew his worth they doe that well did
faithfull to his	know it
late Majesty King	Proclaiam him souldier and a gallant poet
CHARLES the First	
Objt. March 7 1658	
Aetatis Su Anno 44	

Given that he was 44 years old at the time of his death it may be that injuries or hardships accrued during the late war had hastened his end, unfortunately we know no more at present about his military career except to note the brave statement of loyalty given that the Restoration was still a year away. This record of course begs the question as to how many other entries for the Civil War years were for those who perished as a result of the conflict but received no accompanying comment in the register. The Victoria County History (VCH) notes one further son of the parish who died during the Civil War, the royalist, Edward Mansell, D.D., who became chaplain to Charles I and who was taken prisoner during the siege of Oxford whilst out for a walk. He died in parliamentary custody at Abingdon.



Location of 'non-church' burials in Cropredy? Drawing by C.R.B. Barrett 'Battles and Battlefields in England', Innes & Co.London, 1896



February

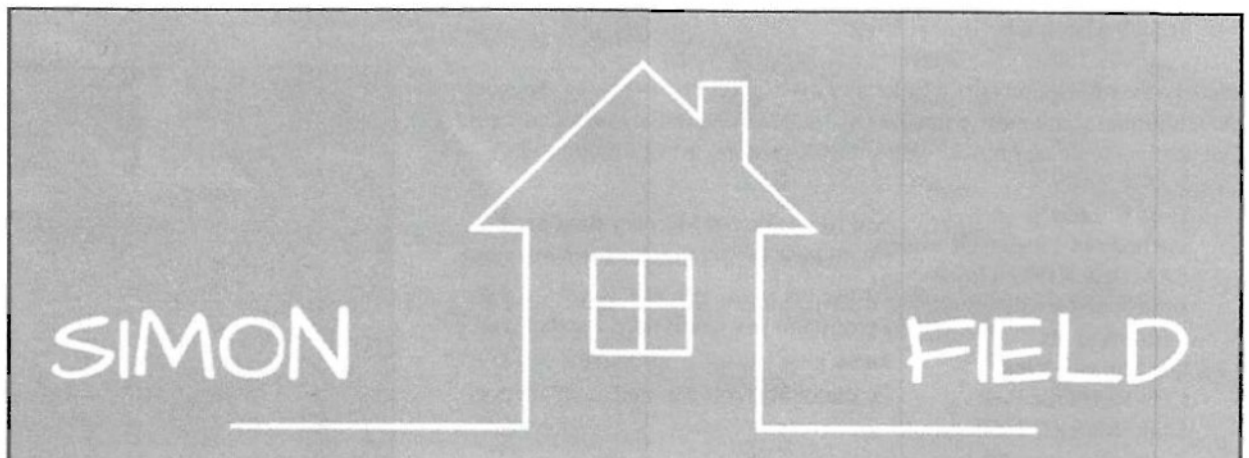
Date	Time	Event	Venue
Monday 2nd.	7.00 p.m.	Cropredy Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
Saturday 7th.	7.00 p.m.	Church Quiz	Village Hall
Monday 9th.	12.30 p.m.	Cropredy Lunches	Village Hall
	7.00 p.m.	Parish Council Meeting	Methodist Chapel
Wednesday 11th.	2.00 p.m.	Cropredy Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
Monday 16th.	7.00 p.m.	Cropredy Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
Wednesday 18th.	7.30 p.m.	Cropredy Historical Society <i>Mary Queen of Scots</i>	Village Hall
Monday 23rd..	6.00 p.m.	Cropredy Lunches	Village Hall
Wednesday 25th.	2.00 p.m.	Cropredy Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
Saturday 28th.	6.30 p.m.	Cropredy Film Society AGM <i>I Swear</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,
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Deadline for the next edition will be Wednesday February 18th.

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

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