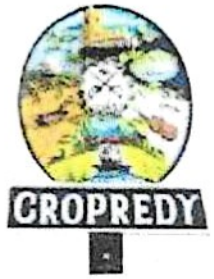
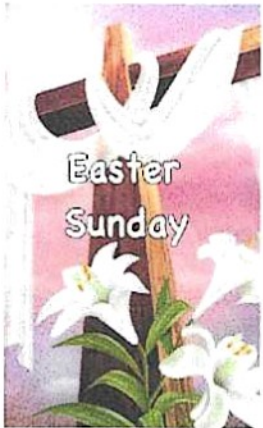


The Cropredy Crier

Village news & events for April 2026



Easter Worship in the Shires Edge Benefice.. *Everyone welcome!*



Palm Sunday: March 29th. 11.00 a.m., St Mary the Virgin, Cropredy

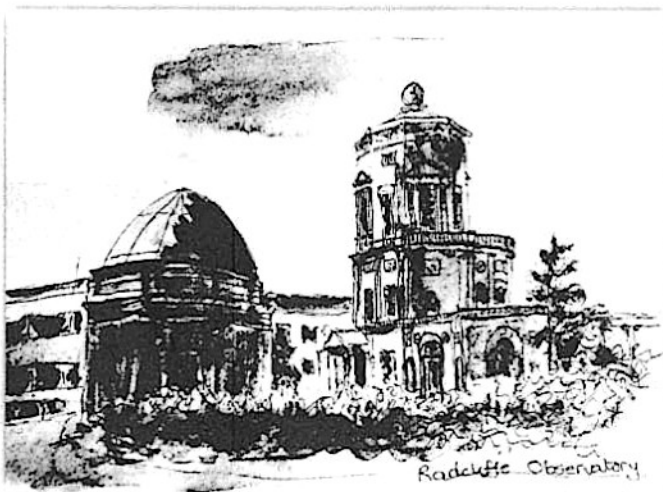
Messy Easter: Wednesday April 1st., 11.00 a.m.-12.30 p.m., St Mary Magdalene, Wardington, Crafts, treasure hunt, sandwiches, popcorn and the Easter story.. lots of fun for pre-schooler, primary aged children and their grown-ups.

Maundy Thursday: April 2nd., 7.00 p.m., All Saints, Mollington

Good Friday: April 3rd., 12 Noon, prayers at Chestnut Tree,
12.15 p.m., Reflective Service at St Mary the Virgin Cropredy

Cropredy Painting Group Spring Exhibition

Sunday 26th April 2026



Cropredy Village Hall 11 am – 4 pm

Framed and unframed original paintings for sale.
Refreshments, Raffle Prizes.

ADMISSION FREE

Picture by Christine Garland

Easter Sunday: April 5th., 9.30 a.m.

St Mary the Virgin Cropredy, All-Age

Family Communion with Egg Hunt 😊



SAVE THE DATE

CROPREDY CHURCH FETE

Saturday June 20th .

St. Mary's Church and Churchyard

HELPERS ALWAYS WELCOME

Please contact verna.wass@btinternet.com

01295 758222

Cropredy Fairport Festival

It's not quite that time of year yet, but...

concessionary tickets for the Fairport weekend will be on sale to village residents in Cropredy Village Hall on **Saturday June 27th.** and **Saturday July 4th.**

between 10.00 a.m.- 12.00 and 2.00 - 4.00 p.m.

Payment by card or cheque is preferred please.

Residents in the marina are also eligible to buy tickets by showing a current council tax invoice.

Please bring identification with you and proof of address. As last year tickets will cost £48 and £24 for children aged 12 to 17

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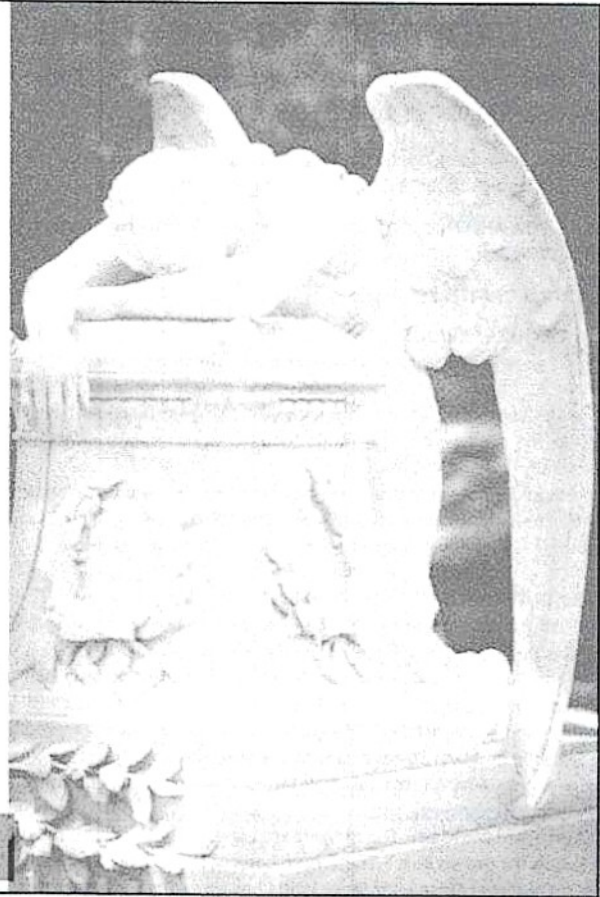
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chris@tickingalong.co.uk

**The Annual General Meeting of the Village Hall
will be held in the Village Hall on
Wednesday April 8th. at 7.00 p.m.**

CROPREDY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Cropredy Parish Council meeting held in the Methodist Chapel on Monday 16th March 2026 at 7pm

Present: Councillors Tania Johnson, Jacqui Smith, Des Knight, Clive Dunn, Carine Varaz and David Best (Clerk). Four members of the public attended the meeting.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllrs Carl Twynham, Rachel Hughes, District Cllr Phil Chapman & County Cllr Chris Brant
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None.
3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** – The minutes of the meeting of 9th February were approved as a correct record and will be signed by the vice Chairman at the next meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING:

Oak Tree In the Allotments – Cllr Tania Johnson will contact Mr Tim Batchelor to obtain his recommendation.

Dog Poo Bin for Upper Prestcote – This has been installed and CDC notified to empty it.

Cabinet for the defibrillator at the school – The school asked if the PC would fund an external cabinet but has not advised the cost. The clerk will follow up on this.

5. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT

Loose Kerbstone at the Village Hall – This was reported on Fix my Street. Mr Laurie Wilson has followed this up and OCC Highways has confirmed that it will investigate it urgently.

Cracks in the Tennis Court – Mr Tim Batchelor has provided the soil analysis report and recommends digging exploratory trenches to determine if roots are causing the damage and if a root barrier should be installed. The quote for the trenches was agreed.

Surface water in Red Lion Street opposite the bungalows – This was reported on Fix my street. OCC Highways has advised that this may take some time to fix and for more information visit www.oxfordshirefloodtoolkit.com

Upper Churchyard Mowing – The mowers are currently being serviced by Mr Geoff Wheeler.

Licence Labels for Brown Bins – These have been obtained from CDC and will be attached

Mowing in Creampot Close – Mr Steve Watts has agreed to mow the grass.

Playground – The grant application to fund repairs has been turned down. Other smaller grants will be investigated including the OCC Councillors Priority Fund for which the application form will be competed. Repairs will be prioritised. A resident who attended the meeting will ask if there are any volunteers who could carry out any of the work via the Cropredy School WhatsApp group.

Wreaths being put into the brown bin at the Cemetery – The wreaths have wire and oasis so must be put into the green bin as they cannot be recycled. A notice will be displayed by the bins

6. TRANSPORT, TRAFFIC & STREET LIGHTING

Speedwatch – This continues.

Street Lighting – The light at Kyetts corner has been fixed. Conversion to LED lighting has been delayed as adaptors are required.

Blocked gulleys on Williamscoth Road – These have been cleared but debris in the ditch is impeding water flow and needs to be cleared. OCC Highways has advised that this is CDC responsibility and Mr Laurie Wilson has asked them to clear the ditch. A quote will be obtained by the PC if CDC does not do the work.

Pot Holes – Resurfacing of Williamscoth Road is scheduled for April.

7.VILLAGE EMERGENCY PLAN, CRIME PREVENTION & ENVIRONMENT : No update

8.PARISH COUNCIL USE OF INTERNET & SOCIAL MEDIA: The May and June PC meetings will be held in the Sports and Social Club. It is hoped that the meetings can be broadcast over the internet. The technology for this will be investigated.

9.SOCIAL & ENTERTAINMENT: No update

10.PLANNING:

23/0977/OUT (60 houses on Land East of Claydon Rd) – There were rumours that Obsidian were giving different information to Cropredy Surgery than to the PC. This has been checked and it is confirmed that the information given to both is the same. An archaeological investigation has commenced on the site.

25/03234/OUT (74 houses on Land East of Claydon Rd) The planning consultant giving advice on this application will complete his report when CDC Planning has determined whether an Environmental Impact Assessment is required.

New Planning Applications and Appeals:

26/00166/F – Thickthorn Farm – Alterations to extension of outbuilding – PC supports.

23/00976/F – Land between Railway track and School Lane – 71 Houses & public car park – It is believed that the notification of this planning application was sent to the PC in error by CDC (the original application was withdrawn). Two emails have been sent CD requesting confirmation and the PC is awaiting a response.

New Planning Decisions: None since last meeting.

26/00040/MA56 – The Straw Barn – Change from workshop to single dwelling – CDC granted 3/03/2026

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Classes aim to gently improve muscle strength, flexibility and alignment, release tension from body and mind, increasing wellbeing.

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Beginners Welcome.

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Donna Duncombe (Real Yoga Qualified)

01295 722652 duncombe.donna@gmail.com

11. COUNTY COUNCIL AND DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: None

12. 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 before the S&SC AGM in May.

13. PARISH MATTERS:

i Churchyard Wall repairs – The structural engineer has contacted 3 local builders to ask if they are prepared to quote for the wall rebuilding however, the Diocese of Oxford has advised that it considers that the specification for rebuilding the wall is very invasive and has advised that an engineer who is registered with the Conservation Accreditation of Engineers (CARE) must be consulted to determine if a less invasive and less future proofed solution can be specified. The current structural engineer is not a CARE

accredited and has advised that he will not obtain CARE accreditation as he is close to retirement. A quote of £3,305.70 has been received from a CARE engineer. It was agreed to accept this and proceed. The Diocese of Oxford has also stipulated that Mr Bryan Martin, the Church Architect, must also be consulted. Mr Martin has advised that he will provide a quote when he has seen the report from the CARE engineer. Cllr Tania Johnson has written to the Bishop of Dorchester to complain at the time it has taken to reach this stage. This is being investigated by the Archdeacon. The Archdeacon has been advised that the PC is disappointed that the Diocese of Oxford did not specify at the beginning that a CARE Engineer would be required and the Church Architect would have to be consulted. He was also advised that the PC is concerned that a less future proofed repair is being advocated as the cost will be met by Cropredy residents via Council Tax and a permanent solution would be preferred.

ii Lack of Primary School and Secondary School places for children in Cropredy – A resident attended the meeting to make the PC aware of the concerns with Cropredy School being at capacity even before any new houses are built. The other concern is the lack of capacity at Secondary Schools and pupils are being allocated places in Bicester and out of the area. The matter has been raised with County Councillor Chris Brant who has raised the issue with the Cabinet Member responsible. The PC has no powers over education but pledged to support in any way that it could. Additional information will be gathered from the school and the issue will be raised with CDC Planning.

iii Fairport Cropredy Convention ticket sales – The tickets will be sold in the Village Hall on Saturday 27th June and Saturday 4th July. The price is held at £48 for adults and £24 for children.

14. FINANCE.

Accounts to 28th February – These were circulated prior to the meeting and there were no requests for clarification. The year end accounts will be completed in April and submitted for the Internal Audit. The fourth quarter VAT Return will be submitted

15. CORRESPONDENCE: None outstanding

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS NOT OF A CONFIDENTIAL NATURE:

- i. Local Heritage Assets – It was agreed to investigate registering The Red Lion, The Brasenose, and the village shop with CDC after the owners have been contacted. Previous attempts to contact the owners of the village shop have failed.
- ii. Post box at Springfield House – This is leaning over and it was agreed to contact the owners to see if it has been reported to Royal Mail.
- iii. Resignation of Cllr Tania Johnson – Cllr Tania Johnson has advised that she is stepping down as a councillor after the May meeting.

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

18. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – Monday 13th April 2026.

Cropredy Parish Council - Vacancy for Clerk Interested in contributing to the Cropredy community in a part-time paid role?

A vacancy will be arising for the post of Clerk to the Parish Council. The Clerk manages the administration and finance of the Parish Council. It is an important and interesting role requiring about 8 hours per week including attendance at 10 meetings per year. It would suit someone with skills in administration, finance and business IT. If you are interested please email clerk@cropredyparishcouncil.gov.uk for further details.

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Cropredy Gardening Club

Wednesday April 15th. Leaving Cropredy Village Green at 1.30 p.m.

Visit to 'From Garden to Vase', Culworth

'Since 2016, From Garden to Vase has been dedicated to growing some of the finest cut flowers in the local area using organic methods avoiding peat-based composts, and employing propagation techniques that minimise single-use plastics.' We will be going to Culworth to visit this cut flower business and to watch a demonstration of seed sowing using seed blockers.

Tea or coffee and cake will be provided.

All welcome, members £8, non-members £12

Please contact Sue Fairbrother on 750523 or by email, by Wednesday April 8th. if you would like to come

Cropredy Historical Society

Wednesday April 15th. Cropredy Village Hall 7.30 p.m.

Leading the Charge - from Waterloo to Pegasus Bridge

An illustrated talk on Oxfordshire's Military History

This meeting traces the history of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry and Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars at the forefront of campaigns across more than a century, from the Napoleonic Wars to the Second World War. Objects have been selected from the 14,500 items preserved in the collection of the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock for an exhibition displaying the county's military heritage as well as items giving an insight into wartime life in the county

Visitors always welcome £5 Free refreshments after the talk

Cropredy Film Society

St George's Day : Thursday April 23rd., Cropredy Village Hall 7.00 p.m.

THE CHORAL

Another collaboration between writer Alan Bennett and director Nicholas Hytner, starring Ralph Fiennes, Simon Russell Beale, Mark Addy, Alun Armstrong and Roger Allam. Released: November 2025

Running time: 113 minutes. Set in Yorkshire during World War I, it follows the attempts of the members of a choral society to recruit teenage boys and girls for a performance of *The Dream of Gerontius*, by Edward Elgar, a work chosen by the committee because it was not written by a German. Booking in advance and menu choice through f.61whitaker@btinternet.com. No tickets on the door to comply with film licensing regulations



Cropredy Harlequins

AGM - Monday April 20th. 7.30 p.m. at the Methodist Chapel Schoolrooms

All welcome to attend our annual meeting and find out more about future productions (with no pressure to take on committee roles!). After a brief AGM, we will be reading our proposed Autumn play, the adult comedy "Pin Money". Our Summer production is to be an open air soiree on the theme of Weather featuring songs, poems, sketches and more. If you would like to be involved in any capacity, please come and meet us or contact carolinewatsham@btinternet.com

Cropredy WI

Cropredy WI's 2026-7 season of fascinating meetings, creative workshops, life skills demonstrations (whip cracking anybody?), craftivism, outings and social events begins in May. For information contact carolinewatsham@btinternet.com or 07802 722923.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

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

From the third decade of the eighteenth century the local church authorities in Cropredy chose to make an issue out of illegitimacy adding condemnation to tragedy:

1727 January 24th. Jane, a bastard child begotten on the body of Hannah Richardson of Great Bourton James Gardener of the same

1729 April 7th. John Prew bastard child of Sarah Prew, Little Bourton

1729 November 29th. Ann Stonier the bastard child of Mr John. Cropredy

1738 Martha daughter of John Blencowe of Great Bourton begotten and born in Adultery on the body of Mary Kimbel of Little Bourton

1738/9 March 9th. John Hancock bastard child of John Hancock, Great Bourton

1745 July 21st. Elizabeth bastard child of Elizabeth Johnson

1748 November 29th. Elizabeth Crockall also Howe an infant supposed to be begotten by Richard Howe of Little Bourton on the body of Susanna Crockall in the absence of her husband James Crockall

1748/9 April 7th. Thomas the reputed son of John Coleman of Shotteswell by Mary Cleridge of Great Bourton was buried

1750/1 January 11th. Hannah Coleman a bastard begotten and born in fornication of the body of Mary Coleman of Little Bourton

1759 February 27th. William Claridge the natural son of Mary

1786 May 25th. Sarah daughter of Sarah King (Illegitimate)

1787 March 27th. Thomas Vigers (Illegitimate)

1791 April 13th. William Pratt son of Alice Jeacock (Illegitimate)

Rounding the century off the fortunes of the Claridge family had hardly improved:

1796 February 6th. George Claridge died excommunicate, burial service not read Great Bourton.

Excommunication, a penalty sometimes imposed by the Peculiar Court, was most commonly awarded for 'incontinence'. Curiously another George Claridge, dwelling in Little Bourton was excommunicated for this very offence over 150 years earlier after the case had been, 'warned to Cropredy Court'.

From a first appearance in 1727 through to 1751, a period of just 24 years, there are 9 entries for burial of illegitimate children and a couple of points are immediately striking. First of all the tone seems rather vituperative, apart from the bold statements about bastardy we have 'begotten on the body', 'born in adultery', 'supposed begotten by' and 'born in fornication'. There appears to be both a desire to condemn and a need, where possible, to record the facts in an official manner. It is probably significant that this period coincided with the incumbency of John Bosse vicar from 1726 to 1758. After his death remarks appear to be toned down a little, when the second half of the century sees just four burials of such infants with the record simply stating in parenthesis 'illegitimate'. This change may reflect better health care or possibly new social mores. The second point is raised by the incidence of illegitimacy associated with the Bourtons. During the mini-epidemic of recorded bastardy from the first half of the century seven of the nine births are linked to the the two villages and there are further contributions from the Peculiar Court:

1732 August 29th. We present Nathaniel Kimbell of Little Bourton [....] for being the reputed father of a Bastard Child begotten on the body of Anne Holloway of Great Bourton Singlewoman

Also the above said Anne Holloway Singlewoman for being lately delivered of a Bastard Child

We present Mary Enock of Great Bourton for being lately delivered of a Bastard Child. The Famed father is John Rowley of Claydon

. There are a number of possible factors at play here. It could be argued that being some distance removed from the mother church clerical supervision of morals was somewhat lacking. Poverty and illegitimacy frequently went hand in hand and the Bourtons were considered to be significantly less affluent than Cropredy itself. Finally their location on a main road with all the attendant comings and goings may be relevant.

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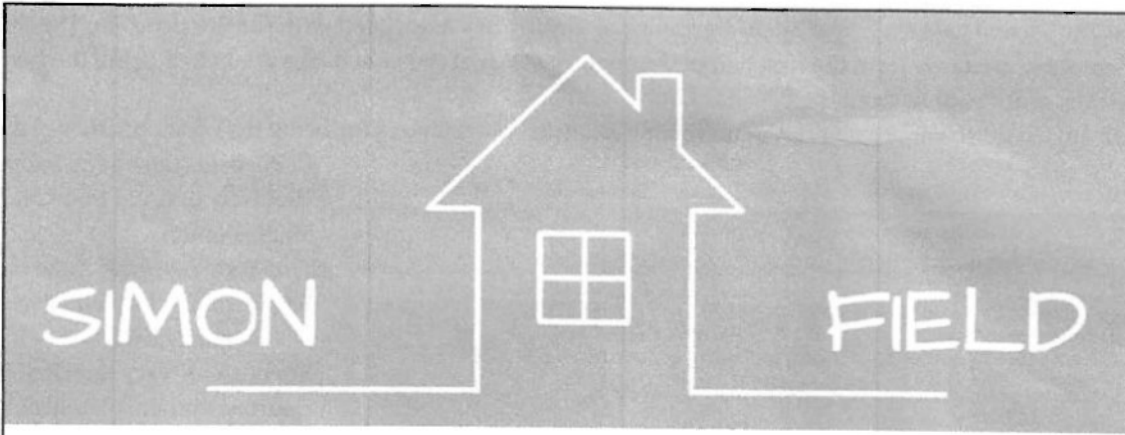
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April

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Wednesday 8th.	2.00 p.m.	Cropredy Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
	7.00 p.m.	Village Hall AGM	Village Hall
Monday 13th.	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 15th.	1.30 p.m.	Cropredy Gardening Club <i>Garden visit Culworth</i>	Village Green
	7.30 p.m.;	Cropredy Historical Society <i>Oxfordshire's Military Heritage</i>	Village Hall
Monday 20th	7.30 p.m.	Cropredy Harlequins AGM	Methodist Chapel
Wednesday 22nd.	2.00 p.m.	Cropredy Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
Thursday 23rd.	7.00 p.,n,	Cropredy Film Society <i>The Choral.</i>	Village Hall
Sunday 26th.	11.00 a.m..	Cropredy Painting Group Spring Exhibition	Village Hall
Monday 27th	12.30 p.m.	Cropredy Lunches	Village Hall
Monday 30th.	7.00 p.m.	Cropredy Short Mat Bowls	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 any archaeological trenches popping up, not me... this time....

Deadline for the next edition Thursday April 18th. editor@church-of-st-mary-the-virgin-cropredy.org



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WELFARE MATTERS. Pantry in the Porch at St Marys' Church is grateful for a grant from Cherwell District Council who identify food support needs in Cropredy along with other villages in North Oxfordshire. It is now topped up again with food, but if villagers would also like to add to it, please do feel welcome to. Literature on cooking on a budget also available in the porch. One-off Food Vouchers for those who need extra support from time to time can be accessed through Revd Sarah Tel: 01295 750486/ Mob: 07747181868 or Mr Reeves at the School. An individual, couple or family may apply.

Baptism & Confirmation The Bishop of Dorchester Bishop Gavin Reid will be baptising and confirming on Sunday May 3rd at 9.30 a.m., at St Mary's Cropredy, if anyone is interested in knowing more about what baptism and confirmation mean, or making these next steps of faith in Christ for themselves, please do not hesitate to be in touch. I'm always happy to talk about such things!

Please be in touch at: Vicar.shiresedge@outlook.com 01295 750486, 07747181868

SERVICES AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN

Friday 3rd.	12.00. 12.15	Walk of Witness from village green Reflective Service	Revd Sarah
Sunday 5th.	9.30 a.m.	Easter Sunday, family communion	Revd Sarah
Sunday 12th.		Visiting Sunday	
Sunday 19th.	10.00 a.m.	Seeker Service	Siobhan and Rebecca Croft
Tuesdays	12 noon	Holy Communion Service	
from Wednesday April 15th.	9.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer	

All enquiries for baptism, confirmation, wedding or funeral services to:

Revd Canon Sarah Fenby Vicar of Shires Edge Benefice

The Vicarage, High Street, Cropredy

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

Churchwardens: Verna Wass verna.wass@btinternet.com 01295 758222,

Graham Oliver nb.Alnwick@gmail.com 01295 750956

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)

Friday 3rd.	GOOD FRIDAY, Rev Phil Robinson PLEASE NOTE 6.00 p.m. start
Sunday 5th.	EASTER SUNDAY, Rev Chris Eddy, including Holy Communion.
Sunday 12th.	Local Arrangement Service
Sunday 19th.	Steven Haley.
Sunday 26th.	Marilyn Nutt

COFFEE MORNING

with homemade cakes and other things to buy

FRIDAY 10th. 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.

'Warm Space' cafe closed now until next winter

