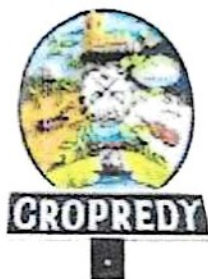


The Cropredy Crier

Village news & events for August 2026



St. Mary's Continental Café Breakfast

Join us in the parish church for a relaxed Fairport morning.

Enjoy freshly brewed Fairtrade coffee, a continental breakfast, glass of fizz or juice.

Read the paper and listen to music.

Browse the art in the Pop-up Gallery and buy a memento to take home.

Spend time together or on your own in the peace and beauty of the church.

Friday 14th., Saturday 15th. and Sunday 16th. August from 8.00 a.m.

Indoor and outdoor seating and WiFi connection.

We are keen to build up this venture and to recruit additional helpers to join our tried and tested crew. If you can spare some time over the festival weekend, and would like to join us please contact:

Jane Oliver 07796 367993

Other events in the Church over the weekend

Free Lunchtime Concert from 12 noon - 3.00 p.m. on Thursday 13th. August
with a stellar collection of musicians, licensed bar and ploughman's lunch available.

Fairport Sunday Communion Service at 9.30 a.m. - *All welcome*

Church Lane Gallery Pop-up Gallery - buy original art direct from talented local artists.

2D and 3D work including paintings, glass, textiles, stone carving, couture millinery, mixed media, ceramics and whacky, up-cycled, painted festival fun hats.

WELFARE MATTERS. Pantry in the Porch at St Marys' Church continues to be very successful and is definitely meeting a need. We are grateful for a grant from Cherwell District Council to help restock but would welcome donations from members of the community to help us fill this need. 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.

Please be in touch at: Vicar.shiresedge@outlook.com

SERVICES AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN

Sunday 2nd.	9.30 a.m..	Family Communion	Revd Canon Sarah Fenby
Sunday 9th.	10.00.a.m.	Seeker Service	Revd Canon Sarah Fenby & team
Sunday 16th.	9.30.a.m.	Fairport Eucharist	Revd Canon Sarah Fenby
Tuesdays	12 noon	Holy Communion Service	
Wednesdays	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 a.m. unless otherwise notified)

Sunday 2nd.	Hazel Stagg.
Sunday 9th.	Circuit Service in Marlboro' Rd Methodist Church, Banbury.
Sunday 16th.	Joining with Parish Church for Fairport Festival Service.
Sunday 22nd.	Marilyn Nutt.
Sunday 30th.	(Local Arrangement TBA...) and Circuit Service at Marlborough Road

FAIRPORT WEEK AT CROPREDY METHODIST CHAPEL

TEA, COFFEE AND HOMEMADE CAKE
THURSDAY 13TH. - FRIDAY 14TH. - SATURDAY 15TH. AUGUST
10.00 A.M. - 3.00 P.M.
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CROPREDY PARISH COUNCIL E-mail: clerk@cropredyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Monday 13th July 2026 at 7pm at The Sports & Social Club, Cropredy.

Present: Cllrs. Carine Varaez (Chair), Des Knight, Mick Clyne, Jacqui Smith, Clive Dunn

David Cherry, Laurie Wilson representing the Sports and Social Club, Bob Garland (Acting Clerk)

Apologies: Cllrs Hughes and Collis, Kirsty Buttle, Parish Clerk

1) Declaration of interests on items on the agenda

David Cherry and Laurie Wilson, representing the Sports and Social Club, had an interest in the item about the replacement lawn mower. Cllr Smith had an interest in item 12 (Allotments) as she is an allotment holder.

2) Cllr. Varaez suggested that the following item should be taken first:

Proposal to purchase a new mower to be used in the grounds of the Sports & Social Club at a cost of £10k + VAT

David Cherry explained that the current mower was leaking diesel and damaging the grass. The mower is 35 years old and a repair of the fuel system would not be viable. David had identified a second-hand replacement mower at a cost of £10,000 plus VAT, and had placed a £1000 deposit on it. David asked whether the PC would buy the mower and own, maintain, and insure it, as had been done previously. Another party had offered £1000 for the existing mower which could be offset against the cost. David Cherry would also be happy to gift the £1000 deposit

Cllr Varaez thanked David Cherry for the information. She explained that the PC were happy in principle to provide some support for replacing the mower, but considered that the nature of the agreement regarding the mower between the PC and the Sports and Social Club would need to be reconsidered in order to protect representatives of both parties from any legal or other issues. This should lead into further work on updating the general agreement between the parties. The last such agreement dates from 1987 and needs updating.

Laurie Wilson was concerned that this could delay the mower which may be needed urgently.

Cllr Varaez provided assurance that the PC would discuss the matter quickly and provide a decision on the mower within a few days.

David Cherry raised an additional item about **Flooding of the Williamscoth Road near the Sports and Social Club**. He considered that any expenditure on clearing the ditches by the sports and social club would not be value for money as flooding would not be alleviated. David Cherry would spray the ditches to curtail vegetation. He considered the most important action was clearing the drainage grids and rodding the drains. This task was currently undertaken by David Cherry and Steve Watts.

Cllr. Knight thanked David Cherry for this information which would be considered as part of the 'Village Maintenance'.

3) Approval the minutes of the meeting held on 08.06.2026

These were approved to be signed off.

4) Outstanding matters/actions from previous meetings

- a) Update re. bank mandate changes. Cllr. Varaez now has online access. Cllr. Knight and Kirsty Buttle, Parish Clerk, were awaiting the confirmation email.
- b) Feedback from Cllr Dunn. about speed calming measures.
Cllr Dunn had followed up with Cllr Aramini-Brant on 11/06, who replied on 15/06, to say he had forwarded the query to his county council email address and would respond in due course. A request to Oxfordshire Highways (OH) is proposed to investigate a speed limit reduction and/or traffic calming measures on the road between Williamscoth and Cropredy. The road to Williamscoth is unclassified and currently has a 60 mph limit up to the village 20 mph limits. The road has no footpath, has several side entries from properties and businesses, blind bends and is used by pedestrians. The issue of pedestrian safety in the vicinity of Cropredy Primary School during daily drop-off and collection times was raised again and Cllr Aramini-Brant advised that he would follow this up also in discussions with OH. Cllr Dunn would follow up with Cllr Aramini-Brant if there is no reply before the next Parish Council meeting.
- c) Update re. instruction of tree work
Cllr. Knight had discussed with Tim Batchelor the recent quote and had been provided with the supporting information. The quotation includes the ash trees that had been discussed. The work is due to start at the end of July.
- d) Laurie Wilson asked about the oak tree on the Cricket Club's land which may potentially damage the tennis court. This is an issue for the Cricket Club as it is on their land. The Tennis Club had asked the PC to contact the Cricket Club. Cllr. Varaez agreed to email James Coleman, the chair of the Cricket Club, to draw their attention to this matter. Cllr Varaez would circulate a draft email to councillors.
- e) Update regarding purchase of a defibrillator cabinet to be sited at the school subject to consideration of who will pay for the electrical installation of the cabinet.
Cllr Varaez had spoken with school, but they still do not have a quote. This matter will be followed up.
- f) To confirm that all records have been removed from the Chapel, and to consider whether to dispose of the cabinets in which the records were stored.
All records had been removed and it was agreed that the metal and wooden cabinets were no longer needed and could be offered for free on the Community Facebook. If there was no interest, disposal would be arranged.

5) Public Forum (Members of the public are welcome to give their views on items on the agenda before the Parish Council (PC) make decisions on those items. Other issues can be raised under this item but decisions cannot be made on any item not on the agenda, therefore items raised that require a decision will be placed on the next agenda).

No items were raised.

6) Finance

- a) Bank balances were confirmed, as at 7th July 2026: Current = £13,573.77, and Unity (Savings) = £86,954.13
- b) To appoint an Internal Controls Councillor
This was discussed but before any appointment, Cllr Varaez would check with Kirsty Buttle about further details of the role.

- c) To note and approve the following payments and receipts.
No payments had been made since last meeting.
- 7) **Reports from Working Groups**
- a) **Village Maintenance & Improvement**
- Cllr. Knight noted that the next Canal and River Trust working group would be on 27th July, and would probably focus on repairs to towpath.
Cllr Knight would ask John Taylor for an official quote for the fence posts needed between the sports field and new cricket pitch.
 - Grass cutting in the lower church yard.
Cllr. Knight had followed up with Tania Johnson who had had confirmed that Simon Bull would start work in the next week.
 - Cllrs. Knight and Clyne had agreed that the latter would help with village maintenance issues.
 - Cllr Knight had agreed with Tim Batchelor that he would water any young trees on council land during the hot weather.
- b) **Transport, Traffic, & Street Lighting**
- The Speedwatch Group will be participating in the National Speed Watch Day on Wednesday 15th July.
 - Cllr Dunin reported that street light in the Hell Hole had been repaired, and that the consultation on Part Night Lighting would take place in the Autumn.
 - Cllr. Smith noted the application for an orangery on The Manor, and recommended that we leave Cherwell District Council to consider any listed building issues.
 - Cllr. Knight noted that the decision date had been delayed for Planning Application 25/03234/OUT which relates proposed housing developments adjacent to the Claydon Road
- 8) **To consider whether working group reports should continue as a standing item on the agenda or whether they should only be included when there is something specific to report (*note – any proposals that the groups wish to raise that require a decision from the council should be submitted as a specific agenda item rather than being raised as part of the reports)**
- It was agreed to trial this approach. It would be helpful there were an online shared document. Cllr Varaez would discuss with Kirsty Buttle options for an online drive shared between councillors.
- b) **Planning applications received**
- 26/01039/F and 26/01038/LB – Dingles, Church Lane, Cropredy. RETROSPECTIVE - Replacement of an existing chimney pot and the installation of an air brick to provide combustion ventilation. No representations made.
 - 26/01304/F and 26/01329/LB – The Old Manor, 9 Station Road, Cropredy. Erection of a hardwood painted double glazed orangery to the rear with low stone walls with alterations to the opening into the existing kitchen area.
- 9) **Parish Matters**
- a) **Update re Church Wall**
- Cllr Knight had just received the report from the surveyor. Some 170 metres of wall had been visually inspected every 10 metres. An action plan would be proposed in consultation with the Church architect. The likely costs would then be considered. The expenditure is likely to be substantial and would have to be phased according to urgency.
- b) **To consider request from Cropredy Tennis Club for the Parish Council to offer support in relation to the payment for repairs of the Tennis Courts – Total cost £625 + VAT**
- This would be considered by the PC and a response sent to the Tennis Club.
- c) **Sports & Social Club**
- Request to arrange the repair of 6 fence posts and to receive quotes for the work. Laurie Wilson confirmed that the defibrillator at the Sports and Social Club was now working
- 10) **Allotments**
- a) **To consider the draft new Allotment Tenancy Agreement**
- Cllr Dunn had provided comments to the clerk.
 - The draft was considered to be much improved. It was agreed that the new draft should be adopted.
- 11) **To review the dates for Parish Council meetings and consider whether to make any changes to the current pattern of meetings**
- a) It was agreed that the current pattern should continue including the break without meetings in September.
- 12) **Date of next meeting – 10th August 2026**



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Fun evening September 5th and Charity walk September 6th
 Free entry, to a fun evening at Cropredy Village Hall
September 5th, 5.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

Games for all ages, Raffle with fantastic prizes, including a weekend in a beautiful self catering cottage. Refreshments available. There will be background photos of local residents amazing trips to the South Antarctic. All proceeds to be donated to Lymphoma Action.

September 6th, 10.00 a.m. meet, start 10.30.

Enjoy the Cropredy Circular with some added history of the area as you walk. Start at Cropredy Sports Pavillion, approx 6 miles. Donation of £20 this includes refreshments and a free Lymphoma T shirt.

Scan QR code to donate and register interest to join the walk.

Please email for more information of both events, and intention of joining walk, so T shirt can be ordered.

robtania4lymphoma@hotmail.com

September is National BLOOD CANCER awareness month, so this is the perfect time to bring awareness, but also to enjoy two events whilst raising money for such a worthy Charity.

Lymphoma ^{6th} action



Bringing Learning to Life Through Experience

One of the greatest strengths of the curriculum we have developed at Cropredy C of E Primary School is that learning does not stop at the classroom door. We believe that children learn best when knowledge is brought to life through meaningful experiences, and this year has been another fantastic example of how educational visits enrich and deepen our pupils' understanding of the world around them.

Across the school, pupils have enjoyed a wide range of curriculum-linked visits. Year 1 travelled to Bournemouth Beach to visit the UK's oldest beach hut, bringing their learning about the seaside and coastal environments to life. Year 2 explored Cotswold Wildlife Park, where they discovered how African plains support a diverse range of wildlife. Year 3 became Ancient Egyptian explorers during their visit to the Ashmolean Museum, experiencing real artefacts and uncovering the mysteries of one of history's most fascinating civilisations. Year 5 stepped back in time at Sulgrave Manor to explore Tudor life, while our Year 6 pupils enjoyed an unforgettable residential visit to Torquay, developing independence, resilience and teamwork while creating memories that will last a lifetime.

Alongside our national and international studies, local history remains a significant part of our curriculum. We are fortunate to live in a village with such a rich heritage, and we are committed to helping pupils understand the stories that have shaped the community around them. This year, we were delighted to welcome the Sealed Knot into school, who helped children discover what Cropredy was like during the English Civil War. Their engaging demonstrations brought local history vividly to life and helped pupils appreciate the importance of our village's place in England's story. As we reflect on another successful year, I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to Reverend Sarah for leading our end-of-year service at St Mary's Church and for her continued support throughout the year. She is a tremendous asset to the Cropredy community, and we are incredibly fortunate to welcome her into school each week for class

assemblies. Her warmth, wisdom and commitment to our children help strengthen the close relationship between our school, church and wider community. These experiences, partnerships and opportunities are what make education at Cropredy so special. By combining high-quality classroom teaching with memorable real-world experiences, we aim to inspire curiosity, deepen understanding and create lifelong learners.

Will Reeves (Headteacher)

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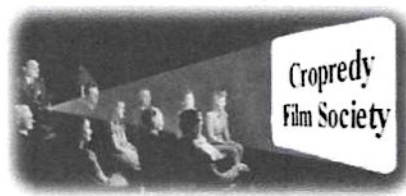
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CROPREDY FILM SOCIETY



Costs and outgoings getting higher? Bank balance getting lower? Why not raise funds for your local good cause by providing supper at one of the Film Society's screenings in the autumn?

Dates available:

September 26 / October 31 / November 28

We guarantee a minimum fee of £250, based on a payment of £6 per head. The maximum number of the audience is 60.

Interested? Guidelines, help and advice available. For more information, please contact Frances on 01295 758448 or f.61whitaker@btinternet.com.

CROPREDY

SCARECROW & CREATIVE TRAIL

10th-16th August 2026

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Be as creative as you like!
It doesn't have to be a traditional scarecrow.
Everyone is welcome – families, groups,
businesses, schools and individuals.
Let's fill Cropredy with creativity,
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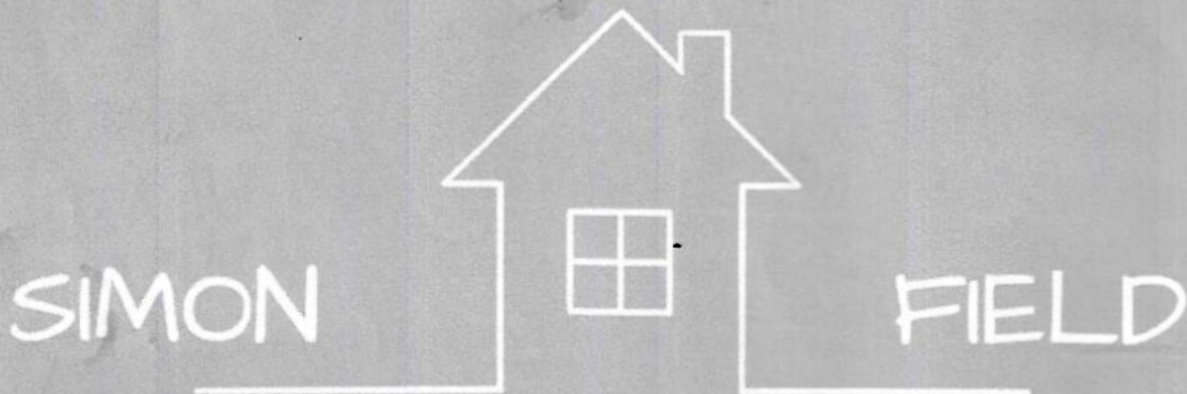
August

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Monday 3rd.	7.00 p.m.	Cropredy Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
Monday 10th.	12.30 p.m.	Cropredy Lunches	Village Hall
	7.00 p.m.	Parish Council Meeting	Sports and Social Club
Thursday 13th.	12.00	Lunchtime FREE Concert	St. Mary's Church
Thursday 14th to Saturday 16th.	Fairport's Cropredy Convention		Here, there and everywhere
Monday 20th.	7.00 p.m.	Cropredy Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
Monday 24th.	12.30 p.m.	Cropredy Lunches	Village Hall
Wednesday 26th.	2.00 p.m.	Cropredy Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
Monday 31st.	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 the thrilling sounds of Anarchy in the UK and teenage kicks all through the night drifting over the village.

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



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