The Cropredy Crier

Village news & events for November 2026

Harvest was wonderful! The school service was a joy, the village service- joint with Methodist friends and celebrating the completion of our East Window works- was equally so. A ploughman's afterwards in church amongst the beauty of the flowers and produce was a nice finish to a truly shared celebration. The Pantry in the Porch is now replenished, THANK YOU. (Please check overleaf for my thanks to the Red Lion Pub for their Fairport contribution, and also for details on Food Vouchers, which are so easy to access, if you need that extra support at the moment please don't hesitate).

As the seasons change and nights draw in and many suffer from lack of light, warmth, and companionship, and others of us enjoy a bracing walk with friends, finding our warm jumpers, and hunkering down in the warm of our homes, I do hope we can sustain that sharing and joy in our hearts and community.

What's coming up in **November**?

Remembrance Sunday when we gather at the village cenotaph 'lest we forget' is **Sunday 8th 10.50 a.m.,** if any children or young people Primary 2 and up would like to lay a wreath and be involved, please do let me know. It's very good to have younger voices involved in this important service.

All-Age Worship: Sunday 15th, 10.00 a.m. Short, fun and informal, with craft and refreshments. It's ideal for children and genuine intergenerational fun.

Of help to many also in November is the offer of our **In Memory Service, Sunday 15th 4.00 p.m.** This is a quiet and reflective service with an opportunity to light a candle and speak the name of those we love but see no longer.

Advent Sunday 29th the Benefice United Service 10.00 a.m. will be in **Mollington** amongst the trees of the Christmas Festival there. Messy Advent craft, fun and storytelling for preschoolers and primary aged children follows the service at **11.15 a.m.**

With my best wishes and prayers on-going for the community of Cropredy village,

I do hope to see you at some point during the month. God bless. Revd. Sarah

A preview of what's on at St Mary's Cropredy

Friday December 4th., Parish and School Christingle Service, 5.00 p.m.

Sunday December 6th. Advent Carols Family Communion 9.30 a.m.

Sunday December 13th. Advent All-Age Service, 10.30 a.m.

Sunday December 20th .Parish Candlelit Carol Service, 6.00 p.m.

Thursday December 24th. Christmas Eve Crib Service fun, 3.00 p.m.

Thursday December 24th. Christmas Eve Midnight Service, 11.15 p.m.

THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

A Children's Tree and In Memory Tree will be in church from early December, please come and add your 'gift of Christmas' prayer or picture and hearts to the trees (all materials found in church), taking a moment to pray for joy and peace in the world this Christmas.

Welfare Matters

A HUGE thank you to the community for the Harvest gifts which have replenished our Pantry in the Porch for those who need it this winter.

A HUGE thank you also to the Red Lion Pub for a gift of £252.60 in support of the Pantry in the Porch, raised from the Red Lion Fairport Concert

Cherwell Council Food Vouchers of £50 (individual), £75 (couple) £100 (family) can be applied for through Revd Sarah. This is easy, totally confidential and I can come out to you if that makes things easier. Please don't hesitate if you could be helped in this way. The vouchers are there for you!

SERVICES AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN

Sunday 1st.	9.30 a.m..	Family Communion	Archdeacon David Tyler
Sunday 8th.	10.50.a.m.	Remembrance Sunday	Revd Canon Sarah Fenby
Sunday 15th.	4.00 p.m.	In Memory Service	Revd Canon Sarah Fenby and Pastoral Care Team
Sunday 29th.	10.00 a.m.	Advent Sunday United Service All Saints Mollington Amid the Trees of the Christmas Tree Festival (Revd Sarah)	
	11.15am	Followed by Messy Advent for Primary and Preschoolers and their grownups	

Wednesdays **12 noon** **Holy Communion Service**

NB.: this new timing started in October and is ongoing.

All enquiries for baptisms, weddings and funerals or a private conversation, please don't hesitate to be in touch.

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 1st, Local Arrangement

Sunday 8th. 10.45 , At the Parish Church - Remembrance.

Sunday 15th. Local "Cluster service" at Hinton Chapel

Sunday 22nd. Steve Haley

Sunday 29th. Circuit service - Marlboro' Rd, Banbury

COFFEE MORNING
with homemade cakes and other things to buy
FRIDAY 13th. 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

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CROPREDY HARLEQUINS

Hot on the heels of their super successful saucy little comedy Cropredy Harlequins are getting ready for more theatrical action in the new year..As we head into Winter mode maybe it's time for a Panto? Oh no it isn't....Oh yes it is.

So this season the Panto is making a comeback in the Harlequins repertoire in a family friendly form..

"All's Well That Ends Well, if That's How You Like It", is an intriguing take on the traditional tale of Dick Whittington set in Shakespeare's London with a host of colourful theatrical characters, live music and dance with added rats...oh and a cat of course.

So don't be shy, there are many ways to get involved whether you seek the limelight by treading the boards, or have your eye on a job behind the scenes...we are an inclusive team and it certainly takes a village to raise a panto!. **Please contact verna.wass@btinternet.com or call for a chat on 07831 632206** and look out for updates on Facebook for more information

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A Letter from Cropredy Church of England Primary School...

Another memorable summer has come and gone at Cropredy C of E Primary School, and what a wonderful way it was to end the academic year. One of the highlights was seeing our Year 4 and Year 6 pupils perform at Fairport's Cropredy Convention. Watching the children take to such an iconic stage with confidence, enthusiasm and pride was a genuine delight and a moment that will stay with many of us for years to come. We are incredibly grateful to Gareth for his continued support and for providing such a special opportunity for our children to showcase their talents in front of the wider community.

Since returning in September, we have enjoyed a fantastic start to the new academic year. During our first few days back, children and staff focused on our school vision and values, "Building Bridges to a Brighter Future", spending time getting to know new teachers, strengthening relationships and reflecting on how we can work together to create a positive and successful year ahead. It has been wonderful to see our school community come together once again, full of optimism and enthusiasm.
We were also delighted to welcome families and members of the community to our Harvest Festival at St Mary's Church. Our Worship Team led a thoughtful and uplifting service, giving pupils the opportunity to reflect on gratitude, service and community. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Reverend Sarah for her support and guidance in helping the children prepare and lead such a beautiful celebration.
At Cropredy, we firmly believe that learning extends far beyond the classroom. Educational visits, practical experiences and outdoor learning play a central role in bringing our curriculum to life. This term promises to be an exciting one, with visits planned to a range of inspiring destinations including the Imperial War Museum, the Tower of London, Chedworth Roman Villa and Tooley's Boatyard. These experiences help children develop a deeper understanding of their learning while creating memories that last a lifetime.
Alongside our trips, we continue to make the most of our wonderful school grounds and thriving Forest School provision. There is always great excitement when children head outdoors to explore, build, investigate and work collaboratively. Forest School provides valuable opportunities for pupils to develop resilience, teamwork, problem-solving skills and independence, all while enjoying the natural environment that we are fortunate to have on our doorstep.
As the autumn term progresses, we look forward to many more opportunities for learning, growth and celebration. We are incredibly proud of our pupils and grateful for the continued support of our families and the wider Cropredy community as we continue Building Bridges to a Brighter Future together.

Kind Regards, *Will Reeves* (Headteacher)

Cropredy Handbell Ringers:

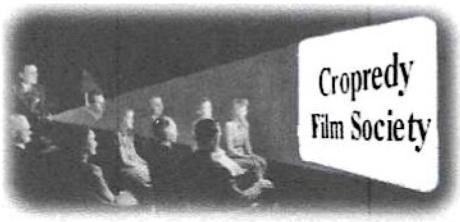
Do you want a new hobby. If so how about trying handbell ringing? We currently have some spaces and would welcome some new ringers. Why not come and give it a try. You only need to be able to count up to sixteen!

We meet fortnightly on a Monday morning currently but could be flexible.

If you are interested please email **Valerie Peachey at** valerie.peachey@gmail.com **or phone 07818 414046.** We would love to hear from you.

CROPREDY FILM SOCIETY

Doors Open: 6.30 p.m. Film supper at 7.00 p.m.
Cropredy Village Hall
Saturday November 28th.



THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 2

119 minutes

"A warm and affectionate revamp of the original with **Anne Hathaway** returning as the serious writer Andy Sachs – this time an investigative journalist – who is unexpectedly forced again to slum it in the offices of *Runway* magazine. Andy re-encounters the alpha boss Miranda Priestley, grappling with a changing media landscape as she nears retirement, played by **Meryl Streep** at her most imperious. Streep provides an emotional anchor for an occasionally flimsy film that's filled with glam cameos, and benefits enormously from a fabulously waspish **Emily Blunt** as Andy's frenemy Emily." **Stanley Tucci** returns as art director Nigel. *Review The Times 2.5.26*Also starring Justin Theroux, and Kenneth Branagh Cameo appearances as themselves from Lady Gaga, Donatella Versace, Naomi Campbell and many others

Bookings to f.61whitaker@btinternet.com Membership required to comply with film licensing terms

CROPREDY GARDENING CLUB

Russell Attwood on 'Weeds, how to manage and love them'

Wednesday November 11th . at 7.30 p.m., Cropredy Village Hall

Russell has over 10 years of experience as a popular speaker to Gardening Clubs with a reputation as an entertaining and engaging speaker. He has tended a large allotment for over 30 years. He has now retired from teaching Biology for 39 years and his degree is in Crop Science. He was invited to be on the panel of experts on BBC Radio 4's Money Box Live programme 4th May 2022.

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

CROPREDY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*The River At War, An illustrated talk by **Bill King***

Wednesday November 18th. Cropredy Village Hall 7.30 p.m.

This talk explores why the River Thames was such an important strategic feature in World War II and its role in the defence of the country. Bill describes how the river would have served as a major defensive feature, and the way the industry along the Thames was adapted to serve the country in its hour of need, including airfields, aircraft production and boatbuilding.

Visitors always welcome £5

Free refreshments after the talk

Interest in a Community Larder? I'm exploring whether this would be of interest to villagers and am keen to hear from you. For £4.50 a week you can purchase as much fresh fruit and vegetables and 10 (and often more) cupboard or fridge/freezer items of surplus supermarket food from a Community Larder. Cheese, steak, fish, chicken, tins, packets, fresh fruit and vegetables - all for £4.50- on a weekly basis, by registration as a member and direct debit. Its definitely excellent value for money.
If this is of interest to you, please do be in touch. I'm keen to know: what day might work best for you and at what time (a same 2hr slot on same day)?
Would you be willing to support by volunteering (level 2 hygiene certificate would be needed, which could be easily acquired).
Best wishes, Revd Sarah.

Cropredy Welfare Trust

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

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

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

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

Cropredy WI's November meeting - all welcome
Tuesday 10th November 7.20 for 7.30 with an illustrated talk entitled:
Brummana High School- Keeping Hope Alive in Lebanon

We welcome Cropredy resident **John Crosfield** for an inspiring account of the work of Brummana High School which was founded by Swiss Missionary Theodophilus Waldmeier under the auspices of the Friends Foreign Mission Association in 1875. The School integrated its boys and girls teaching in 1902, one of the earliest institutions in the Middle East to champion co-education. It has survived two world wars, the 1975-1990 civil war and multiple Israeli invasions of the south of Lebanon. The School celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2025 and has 1250 students between 3 and 18 years old. John will talk about the recent history of the School, and how it continues to be a beacon of hope in a very troubled country. He was a Trustee of the Quaker International Education Trust (QuIET) which owns Brummana High School between 2018-2026, Chair 2023-2026.

This meeting is open to members and guests (including men). Non members £5 (deductible from subscription should you decide to become a member). Cropredy WI is a friendly and active group for women aged 18 and over. We offer a variety of activities including excursions, guest speakers, craftivism, demonstrations and craft workshops.

The WI and friends want your redundant spectacles for recycling and reuse in developing countries. So, turn out your drawers and look in all dark corners. Collection Points 2 The Plantation. 21 Station Road or 11 Creampot Close. Collection until end of November. In support of the Banbury Lions Club

Come and learn the art of bookbinding with tutor Jane Abbot courtesy of: CROPREDY WI

We will be hosting another of our popular hands on workshops for members and guests on
SATURDAY 28TH NOVEMBER , VILLAGE HALL (OX17 1PA)
START – 10.00 A.M. WITH COFFEE
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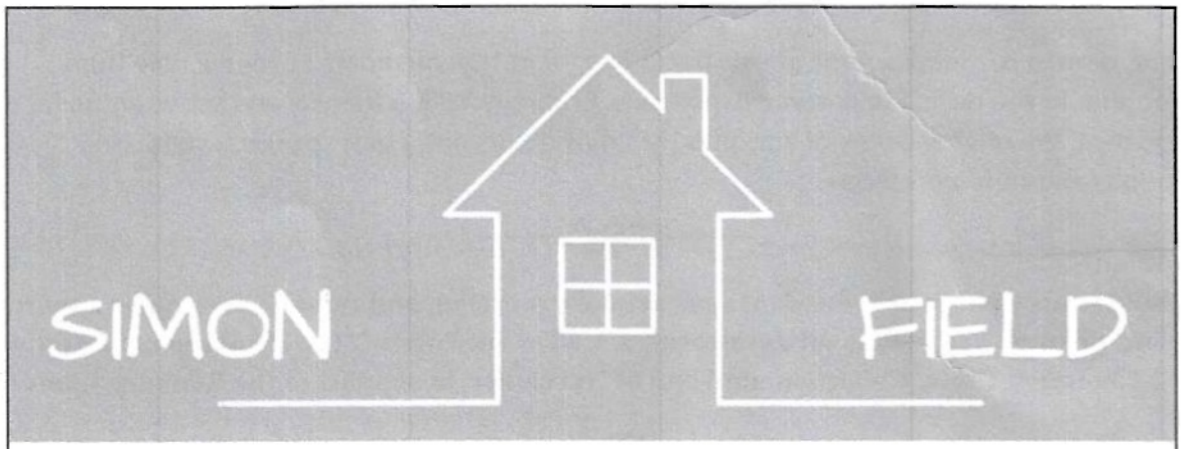
November

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Wednesday 4th.	2.00 p.m.	Cropredy Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
Monday 9th.	12.30 p.m.	Cropredy Lunches	Village Hall
	7.00 p.m.	Cropredy Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
Tuesday 10th.	7.20 p.m.	Cropredy WI *Keeping Hope Alive in Lebanon*	Village Hall
Wednesday 11th.	11.00 a.m.	Cropredy Gardening Club *Weeds, how to manage and love them*	Village Green
Wednesday18th..	2.00 p.m.	Cropredy Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
	7.30 p.m.	Cropredy Historical Society *The River at War*	Village Hall
Monday 23rd..	12.30 p.m.	Cropredy Lunches	Village Hall
	7.00 p.m.	Cropredy Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
Saturday 28th..	10.00 a.m.	Cropredy WI *Book-binding Workshop*	Village Hall
Saturday 28th..	6.30 p,m.	Cropredy Film Society *Devil Wears Prada II*	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 mix up over church dates, the computer made me do it . Deadline for the next edition Wednesday November 18th. editor@church-of-st-mary-the-virgin-cropredy.org

Please note this mailbox is not monitored until the deadline each month has arrived



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CROPREDY PARISH COUNCIL

Due to the length of the minutes and limited space in The Crier, the Parish Council (PC) will provide information about the points from the meetings that they believe will be of most interest to community. If you would like to read the full minutes they can be viewed on the PC website (https://cropredyparishcouncil.gov.uk/meetings/?view=all), or on the noticeboard.

Outstanding matters/actions from previous meetings

Update re request for Cherwell District Council (CDC) to support the PC in ensuring the Victorian Post Box on Station Road is retained – CDC have advised that whilst they would support the rebuilding of the wall on a like for like basis including the retention of the post box, they cannot influence Royal Mail with regards to the use of the post box. Concerns were raised that their responses suggests some items that the PC had submitted a number of years back may not be on the heritage assets register. **Clerk to ask CDC for a copy of the list** to check if all of the items submitted from Cropredy are on the list. It was agreed that if the post box isn't already on the register the **Clerk should complete the form to request that it be added.**

Update re contact with Three regarding the direction of their mobile phone mast – Despite trying numerous forms of communication, Three are not understanding the request and have just sent back a standard 'contact us on chat' response. It was agreed to wait for feedback from Cllr Hughes as to how much of an issue she believes the reception problem is as other Cllrs advised they get a good connection.

Allotments

New allotment tenancy agreements were approved, including the provision of individual allotment holder insurance. The PC will pay this for the first year and the plot fees will be increased by £5 per plot from Sep 2027 to cover the additional cost.

The allotment holders have requested PC help to make water easier to access. The options were considered and it was noted that getting a water connection is likely to be expensive, but is the best long term option. It was agreed that the **Clerk should try to find out what the cost of installing a new connection would be and look into possible grants to fund it.**

The allotment holders asked if the Oak tree between plots 9 and 10 could be removed. The PC is happy for the tree to be removed but previously had been quoted £1k to remove it. An allotment holder present advised it is not that big and he is happy to remove it himself at no cost. The PC would be very grateful for the allotment holder to remove the tree.

Planning applications received

26/02090/TCA – The Stonehouse, Station Road, Cropredy. T1 Hawthorn - Crown reduction by approximately 2 metres in height, reducing the sides to suit. Crown lifting to approximately 2.5 metres above ground level. No representation. APPROVED.

26/02223/DISC – OS Parcel 9195 North of Claydon Road, Cropredy. Discharge of Condition 6 (Contamination Report) of 23/00977/OUT. No representation.

26/02362/TCA – Willowbank, Roundbottom, Cropredy. T1 Willow - pollard, remove 5-8 metres. No representation.

26/02421/TCA – 2 Kyetts Corner, Cropredy. T1 Silver Birch – Fell to ground level. No representation.

26/02099/F – Oxhay Farm, Oxhey Hill, Cropredy. Single-storey front and rear extensions to farmhouse, conversion and alterations to barns, demolition of existing garage/store and erection of replacement garage, home office and utility accommodation, formation of glazed and oak framed links, first floor extension to create ad en-suite, alterations to fenestration and roof, and associated access and landscaping works. No objection.

Planning decisions 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. Approved.

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. Approved.

Finance

Proposal to make a donation of £100 to the Volunteer Driver Service – It was noted that this service is the only service that takes people who don't have transport in our parish to hospital appointments, and it is not funded by local authorities, so the service has to find its own funding. Proposed and agreed.

Sports and Social Club (SSC)

Update re actions taken re funding the SSC mower – The supplier was not willing to issue a split invoice so it was agreed that the best option to ensure the PC was acting lawfully was to make a donation of £4k directly to the SSC.

Communication received from the SSC regarding questions they have about the future agreements – The SSC has sent a letter to the PC with a number of questions about the PC's intentions for the future agreement. A response was agreed which should include confirmation that the PC's aim is to get this sorted by the end of March in preparation for the natural renewal deadline for the agreement, and that if a new agreement isn't progressing by the end of January that a meeting between the PC and SSC should be arranged to discuss the options.

Church Wall

Proposal to instruct an architect to put together a written detailed specification, and a detailed Schedule of Works at a cost of up £4,800 – Proposed and agreed. **Cllr Knight to instruct the architect.**

Parish Matters

Request from resident for the PC to support their request to Cllr Aramini-Brant for Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) to consider implementing a 30mph speed limit on Oxhey Hill due to the dangerous speeds of road users coming over the railway bridge on a road that is regularly used by pedestrians accessing the cemetery and allotments, and horse riders – It was agreed that the PC support this initiative but would not want a reduced speed limit to be extended too much further past the railway bridge, as this could mean that the gap between villages becomes smaller which could encourage a developer to consider it a suitable location for new houses. **Cllr Dunn to add this to the areas he is discussing with Cllr Aramini-Brant.**

OxBus2040 Consultation

The PC believe there are conflicting views, in that some residents would like a better bus service in the parish, but others are concerned about the impact an improved bus service will have on the proposed village categorisation in the Cherwell Local Plan 2042. Given this conflict it was agreed that the PC won't submit a response to the consultation, but will make residents aware of the consultation, and the potential implications of an improved bus service in order to allow them to make a decision regarding responding individually.

Consultation link – https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxbus-2040-plan-for-bus

In Cherwell District Council's evaluations, the lack of sustainable public transport is frequently cited as the primary reason a well-equipped village remains trapped in Category C. Cropredy is currently designated as a Category A village, but it is proposed to be reclassified as a Category C village in the Cherwell Emerging Local Plan Review 2042.

Cherwell evaluates villages based on a combination of factors: population size, local facilities (schools, shops, pubs), and accessibility/public transport.

• The "Catch-22" for Category C Villages: Many Category C villages actually have a decent number of physical amenities but are kept in Category C because residents have no choice but to rely entirely on private cars.

• The Upgrade Catalyst: Adding a regular bus service removes the "poor accessibility" barrier. If the village already has other basic amenities, a bus service could allow it to be reclassified as a Category B (Satellite) Village or even a Category A (Service Centre) Village during the council's periodic Local Plan Reviews.

Even before the council formally updates its Local Plan, a new, regular bus service gives private developers a massive advantage in planning appeals.

If a developer submits a planning application for a housing estate on the edge of a Category C village, they can use the new bus service as evidence to argue that the site is environmentally sustainable. If Cherwell District Council cannot prove a 5-year housing land supply, planning inspectors are much more likely to approve these "windfall" developments because the new bus route reduces car dependency.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Monday 9th November** and residents are welcome to attend to hear the discussions and give their input during the public forum section of the meeting.