



CROUGHTON NEWS

April 2026

All Saints Church Fete 2026

– Volunteers & Donations Needed!

Plans are well underway for the All Saints Church Fete on **Saturday 20th June 2026** in the church grounds, and we'd still love a few more helping hands. If you can spare an hour (or two) on the day, or help with collections beforehand, please get in touch — it really does make all the difference.

We'll shortly be collecting for the Tombola and children's bric-a-brac (children's items only), and we'd be very grateful for any suitable donations. More details on drop-off points and collection dates will follow soon.

And a reminder to pot up some extra seedlings, splits from plants etc. for the Plant Stall!

Confirmed for this year

- Tombola
- Cake Stall
- Ice-Cream
- Children's Choir
- Teas & Coffee Tent
- Raffle
- Face Painting
- Children's Games

To volunteer or donate, please email kateg6789@gmail.com.

Faulty Footpath Lighting:

Please report any faulty footpath lamps to the Clerk. You will need the number of the light, located on the lamppost, and the street name.

To contact the Clerk: clerk@croughtonparishcouncil.gov.uk or 07863 356095.

Other issues:

If you are aware of any other issues around the village (blocked footpaths, overhanging vegetation, flooding, potholes etc.) please report them through the website: www.fixmystreet.co.uk

Croughton School PTFA 100 Club

Results March 2026

1 Mr Morris

2 Louise Waters

3 Diane Shepherd

Congratulations to the winners!



Could you spare some time to help us tidy up at Croughton Cemetery, on Brackley Road?

Saturday, 11th April 10am - 12pm

We need help with:

- Weeding
- Pruning small shrubs
- Spreading mole hills
- Levelling the soil

Anyone with some spare time and willingness to help is very welcome to turn up. Please bring your own gardening tools, if possible, but there will be some spare available if you don't have any of your own.

Thanks – Croughton Parish Council

The Croughton Wine Appreciation Group



April 17th sees the beginning of our 19th season and our AGM which will give our members and those interested a chance to hear how we are doing and to join the committee if interested.

The event will also be an opportunity to revisit some of our highest scoring wines of the last five years.

All events are held in the Village Hall at 7.45pm.

We would ask that if you are new to the group that you contact us on the following email. And please let us know of any dietary requirements as we serve cheese and bread midway through the evening. Contact Martin on 01869 810721 or croughtonwags@gmail.com

Sewing/Craft Drop In - 2nd & 4th Wednesday in the Village Hall

We have an informal get together twice a month where you can share ideas, join in with projects we have or simply do your own thing and chat. Bring along yourself and a craft/ knitting, hand sewing or your machine and latest project for 2 hours on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays each month.

No commitment and come along whenever you want – even if it is once a month or just occasionally. £3 per session just to cover the cost of the hall.

Either come along or message the village hall email - croughtonvillagehall@gmail.com or drop Sally a message on 07949 074106.

Croughton Village Website

For all information on events, parish council meetings and general information etc.

www.croughtonparishcouncil.gov.uk



Croughton Parish Council – March 2026 meeting

CPC meetings are held on the second Monday in the month, at 7:30pm in Croughton Village Hall.

The minutes of all Croughton Parish Council meetings are published on the website: www.croughtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

The meeting began with an item to co-opt a new Councillor, Graham Judd. Graham was warmly welcomed to the Council and took his place at the table for the rest of the meeting.

There were two new Planning Applications to discuss:

- <https://wnc.planning-register.co.uk/Planning/Display/2026/0560/FULL> - a single-story rear extension at Holly Tree Cottage, Park End
- <https://wnc.planning-register.co.uk/Planning/Display/2025/5297/FULL> - Single-storey front extension at Peartree House, Portway

The Council had no objection to either application.

A selection of items discussed:

- **Defibrillator:** the manufacturer of the PAD/PAK batteries for the defibrillator has restarted production, and the distributor has started to receive small quantities.

Croughton is on the priority list as the village is currently without a unit, so hopefully the unit will be back on the Circuit very soon.

- **Community Speed Watch programme:** The Council agreed to fund £150 to allow volunteers to continue the Speed Watch programme for 2026.
- **Dog waste bins:** there has been an improvement in the use of the 4 dog waste bins in the village which are paid for by the Parish Council and emptied once per week. This situation will continue to be monitored.
- **Cemetery tidy-up session:** A date was set of Saturday, 11th April to ask for volunteers from the village to help with a general tidy-up of Croughton Cemetery. Anyone with some spare time and willingness to help is very welcome to turn up from 10am–12pm.
- **Vacancies:** There are just 2 vacancies on the Council. Anyone who is interested in becoming a Parish Councillor should speak to a current Councillor or contact the clerk for more information: clerk@croughtonparishcouncil.gov.uk or 07863 356095 (call or text). (Please note that the clerk works part-time, so there may be a delay in responding to your message)

A reminder if you walk a dog in the village:

It's your responsibility to clear up after your dog

The Parish Council provides 4 dog waste bins within the village and pays for them to be emptied once a week.

If the dog bin appears full, please DO NOT place your dog's waste bag on the top of the bin – please take it home with you and put it in your own black bin.

No-one wants to see a pile of poo bags on top of a bin or on the floor.

PLEASE CONSIDER and RESPECT OTHER PEOPLE

We all need to look after our village. Thank you

Ability Bus Service

After eight wonderful years of serving our community, it is with great sadness that we must share the news that ABILITY Bus Services will be closing.

Sadly, a number of challenges mean Ability can no longer operate in a sustainable way. These include:

- Non-payment of outstanding bills by West Northamptonshire Council
- Reduced reimbursement from local authorities for certain concessionary bus pass journeys
- Uncertainty around Council grant funding from April 2026 and no agreement for longer-term support
- Rising operating costs.
- The loss of office and parking facilities, with no suitable alternative available locally

The office team will continue to support passengers while services remain operational. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us on: 01327 604123.

The office will remain open until Monday 13th April 2026.

To everyone who has travelled with and supported Ability, thank you. It has been a genuine privilege to serve this community, we will always be proud of what we have achieved together.

With heartfelt thanks from everyone at ABILITY Bus Services.

Milton Keynes National Trust Association

You can join an association in Milton Keynes that arranges visits to National Trust properties, lectures, holidays, and social events.

For details, search for Milton Keynes National Trust Association on the internet. Hope to hear from you soon,

Suspicious activity surrounding the Base

... can be reported 24/7 to the MoD Armed Mobile Patrol on 07773 971 924. Please do not use this number to report civilian issues – that should properly be brought to the attention of Northamptonshire Police. Call 101 or go online.

TUESDAYS 10-12



COFFEE MORNING

BACK ROOM OF READING ROOM
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Croughton WI

The next meeting of Croughton WI will be held on **Wednesday 15th April at 7.30pm**, Croughton Village Hall.

Our speaker for the evening will be Neil Jacobs on his work as a McKenzie Friend.

We are a friendly, informal group and our meetings consist of a speaker or activity ending the evening with a raffle and refreshments.

All ladies will be made most welcome, so please do come along to our next meeting.

For further information please contact:
Diane on diane3222@hotmail.co.uk

BRACKLEY HOGWATCH FUNDRAISING STALL



Funding the research, rescue, rehabilitation and release of hedgehogs in Brackley and surrounding villages.

An update on Grace the hedgehog, with a badly infected strimmer wound. She is making a slow but steady recovery from her injuries. Hopefully she will be well enough to be released back to the wild later in the season.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR GARDENS BEFORE YOU START ANY WORK!

Thank you to everyone who came & supported our stall at Little Oaks Pre-school Spring Fair last week, £200 was raised which helps us to continue our care of our local hedgehogs.

Don't forget to visit our little fundraising stall at Croughton Tea Rooms that has lots of hedgehog-themed cards & gifts and some small houseplants in China pots for sale. There is also a box for you to recycle printer inkjet cartridges, all in aid of Brackley Hogwatch. Croughton Tea Rooms serves delicious homemade delicious breakfasts, lunches & cakes, so enjoy some when you visit.

www.brackleyhogwatch.co.uk Registered Charity no. 1188770

Rector's Ramblings

Quite suddenly the other day Spring happened. Whether this will continue, or if it is just a blip, is anyone's guess. Lambs are gambolling in the fields, and the shepherds who have been taking such care over bringing them into the world and keeping them here look ready to drop. In my garden the blossom -always much more cautious than the daffodils, which will resurrect and flower at the slightest opportunity- is beginning to appear. There are even buds forming on the Wisteria I planted the other year, which has brought to an end the active and contested speculation over whether it had survived the winter.

Throughout Lent groups of us have been meeting for Bible Study following the Book of Jonah, Lent Groups looking at the story of Holy Week, and for Stations of the Cross, marking the journey of Christ from trial to tomb. It has been interesting to see ourselves and our world reflected back in quite recognisable form. The Prophet Jonah who rails against a God who does not understand that His job is to do some proper smiting of the right people; and who cannot bare the fact that a merciful God might love Jonah's enemies as well.

Astwick Vale Benefice Services for April 2026

Details at www.astwickvalebenefice.org

St. Michael, Aynho • All Saints, Croughton, •
St. George, Evenley • St. Michael and All Angels, Farthinghoe
• Most Holy Trinity, Hinton-in-the-Hedges

5th April, Easter

11.00am Communion, Aynho
10.30am Communion, Croughton
9.15am Communion, Evenley
9.15am Communion, Farthinghoe
11am Communion, Hinton

12th April

10.am Morning Worship, Aynho
11am Communion, Croughton
9.15am Communion, Evenley
5.30pm Evening Prayer, Farthinghoe
11am Morning Prayer, Hinton

19th April

10.30am Benefice Communion, Croughton
6pm Evensong, Steane

26th April

9.15am Communion, Aynho
11am Morning Prayer, Croughton
5.30pm Evensong, Evenley
9.15am Morning Prayer, Farthinghoe
11am Pets Blessing, Hinton

Croughton All Saints church will be open on Wednesday afternoons, 2-4 pm from 8th April until the end of August.

Village Hall

If you want to have a say in this or feel you can help in any small way from ideas to checking over the hall or just a bit of weeding in the summer, please get in touch.

We are such a small committee we really need help to keep this wonderful place in order but we need help to do so.

Thanks. croughtonvillagehall@gmail.com

The world that surrounded Christ's death is also quite recognisable in aspects. War, weakness, betrayal, hatred, misplaced loyalty or devotion, injustice, mobs, far from perfect religious leaders, and those in power washing their hands of responsibility. Certainly, I have heard a great deal from many sources about calamity and iniquity both locally and globally. It seems that from Jonah to Christ to us, the rhythm of our vices has not altered.

However. The miracle of Easter does not lie in the sin of man. Yes, the world is fallen, we are capable of evil, we all sin and fall short. Whether you have faith or not these statements are unlikely to surprise you. The miracle of Easter is that we are redeemed. It does not wipe away the past or what we have done -the scars remain- but it shows us that, although we are fallen, we may rise. Easter is the resurrection, not only then, or after death, but within us today. Like new birth, or creation which is always growing and flowering anew, but which is most chiefly visible when the hard winter begins to thaw and suddenly we find we are living in Spring.



**KATHARINE
HOUSE
HOSPICE**

Aynho Road
Adderbury
Oxon OX17 3NL
www.khh.org.uk

Win £750 in our Spring Raffle

Our Spring Raffle is now live and it's quick and easy to enter online. Tickets cost just £1, with the chance to win £750 cash, plus other great prizes. Did you know, just 10 tickets could help pay for three breakfasts for patients in our Inpatient Unit?

You can buy your tickets online, pick them up in our shops, or request paper tickets by calling 01295 816484. Don't miss out. Enter by 2pm, Wednesday 6 May 2026. To find out more or buy your tickets, visit: www.khh.org.uk/raffle

Rose to Remember

This has become a special part of our hospice calendar, and we're pleased to share that it will be returning this June. From 9 to 21 June, 600 beautiful purple roses will form a temporary installation in the peaceful grounds of the hospice, creating a space for reflection and remembrance.

Each handcrafted metal rose honours the life and memory of someone special, and over 200 have already been sold. To find out more or buy your rose, visit: www.khh.org.uk/rose-remember

Welcome to Living Well at the hospice

Hospice care isn't only for the final stages of illness. Our Living Well service is available from diagnosis and can be accessed alongside having treatment, offering a different way to access support for people with a life-limiting illness. It is free of charge and focuses on connection, wellbeing and helping you live as well as possible.

You can refer yourself online or call our Living Well team on 01295 228500. Once you get in touch, a member of the team will talk through your needs and how we may be able to support you. Find out more: khh.org.uk/living-well-services

Upcoming Open Gardens

Spring is in full bloom, and we've got a wonderful line-up of beautiful gardens opening their gates over the coming months.

- Saturday 2 May: The Old Vicarage, Adderbury
- Sunday 17 May: From Garden to Vase, Culworth
- Sunday 31 May: Middleton Cheney gardens
- Saturday & Sunday, 13 and 14 June: Hook Norton gardens
- Sunday 14 June: Brackley Care Home garden
- Sunday 5 July: Katharine House Hospice garden
- South Newington private gardens: year-round, by request

It's not too late to get involved. We are still welcoming new Open Garden hosts.

If you'd like to share your garden and support your local hospice, we'd love to hear from you. To find out more or register your interest, visit: www.khh.org.uk/gardens

Volunteering opportunities

If you're looking to do something meaningful in 2026, Katharine House Hospice has a range of rewarding volunteering opportunities.

Find out more at: www.khh.org.uk/volunteer-opportunities

Croughton Village Hall Regular Activities

Pilates Monday 6pm
contact Sandy on 07944 826687

Short Mat Bowls Monday 7.30pm
contact Martin on 07762 659589

Gymnastics - Brackley Gymnastics School
Tuesdays 4.00pm onwards
depending on age/class
Contact Natalie on 07447743237

Ladies Fit Club Tuesday 7.30-8.30pm
contact Zoe 07701 339605

Gymnastics - Brackley Gymnastics School
Wednesdays 4.00pm onwards
depending on age/class
Contact Natalie on 07447743237

WI
3rd Wednesday in the month
contact Diane on diane3222@hotmail.co.uk

Sewing/Craft Drop In
2nd & 4th Wednesday each month 6.00-8.00pm
contact Sally 0749074106
or email croughtonvillagehall@gmail.com

Gymnastics - Brackley Gymnastics School
Fridays 4.00pm onwards depending on age/class
Contact Natalie on 07447743237

Wine Appreciation Group
Friday 8pm (bi-monthly)
contact Martin 01869 810721 or Claire 07751 375689

Newsletter submissions by 28th of each month to:
Georgina Lucas, 810923. email: galucas65@outlook.com
The Croughton Newsletter is published by the Parish Council.



'How wonderful, how pleasing it is when all God's people come together as one.'

Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Smith
High Street, Croughton, NN13 5LT
Tel. 01869 810727
bursar@croughton.northants-ecl.gov.uk
www.croughtonallsaints.northants.sch.uk

SATURDAY 25TH APRIL 2026 10am-2pm EYFS OPEN MORNING & COMMUNITY DAY



Calling all **Prospective EYFS Parents** come and see our facilities as part of this open morning. We offer a Nursery provision from 3 year and have a wonderful indoor and outdoor space for children to flourish. Please contact the office to let us know you will be visiting - we look forward to welcoming you to our wonderful school.

We will also be holding a **school community day** on this day to spruce up the outdoor environment and would love any current parent support- we made such great progress last year we need to maintain this! Please let us know if you can help!

