



CROUGHTON NEWS

March 2026

The Blackbird

We will be running Quiz Nights every 3rd Wednesday of the month with next being **18th of March**.

On Saturday March 14th we have live music with Amy Fleur @8:30pm and Dirty Old Boots (duo) on Saturday March 28th.

Follow us on Facebook "The Blackbird in Croughton"

Footpath lighting

Please report any footpath lights 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 to West Northamptonshire Council through the WNC website: <https://fix.westnorthants.gov.uk/>

There are emergency numbers for issues such as flooding or urgent out-of-hours problems.

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.

TUESDAYS 10-12



COFFEE MORNING

**BACK ROOM OF READING ROOM
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

JOIN OUR GIANT
EASTER EGG RAFFLE

Tickets
£1

All proceeds to support the Church

Prize Draw to take place on
1st April 2026
1.30pm

At the Tea Rooms
Croughton

The Village Hall

If you want to use the hall to play badminton or table tennis, just get in touch, we have tables and nets available.
Email: croughtonvillagehall@gmail.com

The Croughton Wine Appreciation Group

Our first face to face event of 2026 is coming up on March 13th. This will be an informal get together to chat and enjoy a different selection of wines from perhaps unusual sources. Hopefully to discover some drinkable and reasonably priced wines. Bring your own nibbles on this occasion.

Further dates for the diary are **April 17th, June 5th, July 10th**. All events are held in the village hall at 8pm. If you would like to join us and have not been before please email Martin on croughtonwags@gmail.com or call 01869 810 721.



Croughton Village Website

For all information on events, parish council meetings and general information etc.
www.croughtonparishcouncil.gov.uk



Croughton Parish Council – February 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

February's meeting was a relatively short one. There were no new Planning Applications to discuss, and the Council were still waiting to hear about the borrowing application for the loan to rebuild the allotment wall.

A selection of items discussed:

- A large section of the CPC meeting was spent discussing the situation of over-flowing dog bins. The Parish Council pays a contractor to empty the bins once a week and they have reported a similar situation in other areas during the Christmas period. However, it was noted that one of the bins in Croughton had dog poo bags piled on the top, even though the bin was not actually full. It was agreed that this is NOT acceptable. If the bins are used correctly CPC doesn't believe that there is a capacity problem but, in any case, it was agreed that, if a dog bin is full, we would expect people to take their dog's poo bags home and

place them in their own black bin. The situation will be monitored over the coming months.

- The Chair reported on a recent Information Afternoon held at RAF Croughton. Attendees were welcomed by Squadron Leader Sheeran and given a brief history of 501 Squadron 422 Unit. There are currently only about 300 USAF Airmen at RAF Croughton, but it is an essential hub for the communication circuits of Europe, Africa, the Middle East and the Far North. The afternoon included a history of the Base going back to WW2 and its important role as a training base – it was never an active airbase because it had a grass runway. There was also a bus trip to see the Fighter Pens, which are recognised by Historic England and were listed in 2011 as the best examples in existence in the UK.
- Vacancies: There are still 3 vacancies on the Council. We are aware of one person who has put themselves forward to be co-opted at the next meeting. 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 when you're walking your dog:

It's your responsibility to clear up after your dog.

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

If the dog bin appears full, DO NOT place your dog's poo bag on the top of the bin - 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 the bin or on the floor.

PLEASE CONSIDER and RESPECT OTHER PEOPLE

We all need to look after our village. Thank you

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.

Croughton School PTFA 100 Club

Results February 2026

1. Darren Parkinson 2. Becci Worrod . Kate Reeves

Congratulations to all the winners There are still numbers available if you would like to sign up. First prize is around £30! Contact the school office for a form.

Ability, Your local 'ring and ride' minibus service, available to everyone!

There is a regular shopping service from Croughton to Banbury on Tuesdays and Thursdays and on Fridays to either Brackley or Bicester. The new and improved excursions list is included on the right! Concessionary bus passes are accepted. There is a fare payable to any non-concessionary bus pass holders.

You need to register before you can use the service. You also need to book your seat in advance before you travel on a journey. You can join as a Bronze or Silver Member and travel from your nearest bus stop, or enhance your membership to Gold to get closer to home for added convenience and comfort.

A one-time-only Administration Fee of £10 applies to all new memberships. Registration forms are available at Croughton Village Hall, Croughton Tea Rooms & the Co-op. You can also register online at: <https://abilitycic.org.uk/membership/> or telephone 01327 604123 Monday-Friday 9am - 2pm (Voicemail out of hours)

We look forward to welcoming you on board!

New Monthly Shopper Service – Spring 2026

Milton Keynes/Winterhill Retail Centre/Bletchley
2nd Wednesday of each month

Bell Plantation/Towcester 3rd Wednesday of each month

Northampton – Town/Sixfields Retail/Garden Centre Wootton
4th Wednesday of each month

Bicester Town/Bicester Village/Bicester Garden Centre
Last Friday of each month

Paid Excursions List – £25 Fare Per Trip

Thursday 12th March Didcot or Chilton Garden Centre

Monday 23rd March Oxford City (1st Drop) or Yarnton Garden Centre (2nd Drop)

Tuesday 31st March Stow On The Wold or Fosseway Garden Centre

Friday 10th April Thame

Friday 22nd May Witney, Oxfordshire

BRACKLEY HOGWATCH FUNDRAISING STALL



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

Last week, one of our carers took in a female hedgehog with a badly infected strimmer wound. Grace the hedgehog is now receiving specialist care & treatment from our dedicated volunteer, Julie Wade. Let's hope she makes a good recovery.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR GARDENS BEFORE STARTING WORK!

We have a fundraising stall at Little Oaks Pre-school Spring Fair on Saturday 21st March, 10am -1pm at Egerton Hall, Brackley. We'll have new hedgehog themed items, teddy tombola plus a children's lucky dip, please come & support us. We also have a 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

Astwick Vale Benefice Services for March 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

8th March

10.30am Benefice Communion, Evenley

15th March

10.30am Morning Prayer, Aynho

11am Morning Prayer, Croughton

11am Morning Prayer, Evenley

9.15am Morning Prayer, Farthinghoe

11am Morning Prayer, Hinton

22nd March

10.30am Benefice Communion, Hinton

29th March

10.30am Benefice Communion, Aynho

Rector's Ramblings

According to whomever keeps track of these things, roughly 91% of New Year's resolutions do not last to the beginning of March. This is good news for gyms, which sell many more memberships than they could accommodate because they know most will be used only once or twice. This may be less good news for us. After all, for some reason, it is more painful to give up on a New Year's resolution -to try and change something and fail- than it is to never try at all.

This month (8th March, 10.30am, Evenley) 6 people will be confirmed in our Benefice. Baptism can take place at any age. There is no charge, no tests, only the will to be baptised in faith is required (for those under 7, the will of parents and their promise to raise them in faith). It is an embodying of the embracing love of God, which is trusting, missionary, and comes to us even before we understand it. At a Confirmation service a person who has been baptised comes to make their baptismal vow, either repeating them or making them for themselves for first time.

Confirmation is not a completion of Baptism. It is when a person has been living as a Christian, and after reflection and discussion, knowing the successes and failures of life, the world, and faith; stands before the bishop and the church to say that this is their faith and that they commit themselves to continuing in this life. The Bishop will then pray for the grace of the Holy Spirit, that they will have the strength to live as Christians.

New Year's resolutions and Confirmation are not about the event itself. In both cases it is the examination of where we have been, where we are, and then the determination and informed commitment to where we want to go. Like a resolution, like Lent, at Confirmation it is not the single act that is most important. It is the resolution each day, each moment, to renew this commitment for our lives when decisions and trials come.

However the commitments of your life are faring, each moment comes with the challenge, and the opportunity, to direct it as you really wish it to be. Baptisms are never washed away. Commitments are renewed with each breath, and if we stumble we can rise again. The Grace of God is over all. If you would like to explore confirmation, Baptism, or any question, I would love to hear.

I pray you have a good Lent, and know the Joy of Easter renewed each day.

Lent Bible Study: Jonah and the Big Fish

Join us at the Aynho Rectory every Wednesday in Lent (four meetings), 6pm for a Bible Study looking at the Book of Jonah.

All Welcome, refreshments provided. Please contact the Rector.

Stations of the Cross

Join us as we follow the journey of Christ to the Cross each Thursday in Lent at 12 noon.

5th March—St. George's, Evenley

12th March—St. Michal & All Angels', Farthinghoe

19th March—Holy Trintiy, Hinton-in-the-Hedges

26th March—St. Michael's, Aynho

Holy Week

Monday 30th March;

9.30am—Communion—Hinton-in-the-Hedges

9pm—Compline—Farthinghoe

Tuesday 31st March:

9.30am—Communion—Croughton

9pm—Compline—Aynho

Wednesday 1st April

9.30am—Communion—Farthinghoe

9pm—Compline—Croughton

Maundy Thursday 2nd April

7.30pm—Agape Meal—Evenley

9pm—Compline—Evenley

Good Friday 3rd April

11am—Passion Story—Evenley

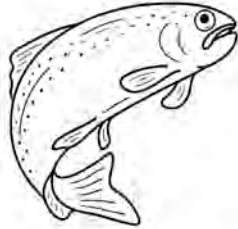
2pm—Hour Before the Cross— Hinton-in-the-Hedges

2pm—Good Friday Liturgy— Aynho

9pm—Compline—Croughton

Reverend G. Frost, Rector of the Astwick Vale Benefice.

Telephone: 01869 810 903. E-mail: rev@gfrost.name



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Est. 1973

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

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Est. 1973

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- Sorry, no day tickets (membership only)

Enquiries

jerry@rhs-son.co.uk

Tel: 01869 810823

www.upperaynhofishery.co.uk



**KATHARINE
HOUSE
HOSPICE**

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

Rose to Remember returns

Rose to Remember 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 will be dedicated to the life and memory of someone special, offering a meaningful way to remember a loved one. To find out more or buy your rose, visit: www.khh.org.uk/rose-remember

Garden hosts needed for 2026-27

Does your garden fill with snowdrops in late winter, burst into colour with spring daffodils, or shine at another time of year? Katharine House Hospice is looking for garden owners to take part in Open Gardens during 2026-27.

Gardens can open at any time of year, either individually or as part of a village trail, helping to raise vital funds for local patients and their families. The fundraising team will support you every step of the way, with guidance and resources to help make your event a success. To find out more or register your interest, visit: www.khh.org.uk/gardens

Every penny makes a difference

During 2025, our community raised a fantastic £9,446.48 simply by donating spare change into collection tins in local businesses. We're incredibly grateful to the cafés, shops, pubs and workplaces that support us by keeping a tin on their counter — these small acts really do make a big difference.

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

If you run or work in a local business, hosting a collection tin is an easy way to support our work, show your customers you care, and make a real impact — at no cost to you. To request a collection tin, please email fundraising@khh.org.uk and we'll be in touch.

Volunteering opportunities

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

Living Well is seeking a volunteer complementary therapist on Monday mornings (10am-12 noon) to offer hand or foot massage, helping patients relax and feel supported. We also need weekend front reception and weekend ward reception volunteers to welcome visitors, offer a friendly face and help with the small things that make a big difference. This role is flexible and can fit around your life. Find out more at: www.khh.org.uk/volunteer-opportunities

Monthly email newsletter — keep up to date with your local hospice. Sign up to receive our Katharine House email newsletter and keep in touch with all our latest news and fundraising events at the hospice: khh.org.uk/newsletter

Newsletter submissions by 28th of each month to:

Georgina Lucas, 810923. email: galucas65@outlook.com

The Croughton Newsletter is published by the Parish Council.