



# CROUGHTON NEWS

July 2026

## 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.

Remember you don't have to sew or knit particularly, just any type of craft you want to join in and natter along at the same time. There's always some space if you do need to spread out.

Either come along or message the village hall email - [croughtonvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:croughtonvillagehall@gmail.com) or drop Sally a message on 07949 074106.



Tel. 01869 810727  
[bursar@croughton.northants-ecl.gov.uk](mailto:bursar@croughton.northants-ecl.gov.uk)  
[www.croughtonallsaints.northants.sch.uk](http://www.croughtonallsaints.northants.sch.uk)

### Nursery Places Available

We opened our Nursery in September 2023 which is now thriving and have spaces available for children aged 3+ for a Sept, Jan or April start.

We provide an **EYFS Unit** which operates in school hours with an **amazing indoor and outdoor provision** as well as **wonderful, experienced staff**. We are flexible with hours, offering both 15 and 30 hours as well as the ability to pay for additional hours if needed.

Please do contact the school on 01869 810727 or email [bursar@croughton.northants-ecl.gov.uk](mailto:bursar@croughton.northants-ecl.gov.uk) to arrange to look round, ask any further questions and apply!

**We look forward to welcoming you.**

### 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](mailto: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](http://www.fixmystreet.co.uk)

## Croughton Parish Council is recruiting for a Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer

The responsibilities of the Clerk/RFO include:

- carrying out the day to day running of the Parish Council
- being the 'face' of the Council, with good communication skills (both verbal and written)
- managing the accounts and paying the bills
- producing an Agenda for the meetings and writing the Minutes
- maintaining the administration for the Cemetery and Allotments

Basic computer knowledge and experience in Word and Excel, as well as a willingness to be self-driven, would be an advantage.

The role is part time, at 10 hours per week and offers a salary of £16.35-£17.85 per hour, depending on experience. Working from home for some of the time is an option.

For further details, or if you have any questions, contact the current clerk, who is due to retire in August: [clerk@croughtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@croughtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## All Saints Church Fête

What a wonderful afternoon, It was lovely to see so many people come together and enjoy the fête.

A huge thank you to Kate Goodwin for her hard work and enthusiasm, and to Kate's helpers for giving time and effort before, during and after the fête.

We are also grateful to everyone who donated prizes, refreshments, plants, cakes and other items.

Finally, thank you to everyone who came along to support the fête, the total monies raised was £2455.65p.

Thank you all for your support – All Saints Church PCC

## Croughton School PTFA 100 Club



### Results June 2026

1st: Shirley Golsby, 2nd: Louise Waters, 3rd: Liz Wiggins

The next draw is on the 31st July.

Thank you

## Croughton Village Website

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

[www.croughtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.croughtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)



## Croughton Parish Council – 8th June 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](http://www.croughtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

There were no new Planning Applications to discuss this month

A selection of items discussed:

- **Election of a Chair:** Cllr Vee Griffiths had resigned as Chair before the meeting. Cllr Steve Caldwell was duly elected as the new Chair and was welcomed to the role.
- **Councillor resignation:** Cllr Simon Kerby had resigned from the Council since the last meeting. He was thanked for his work while on the Parish Council, including his 2 years as Chair and also for being instrumental in carrying out the project to reduce the electricity bill for the street lighting.
- **Allotment Wall:** The Clerk has submitted the Borrowing Application to MHCLG and has received a response requesting clarification and changes to some of the information. Unfortunately, this will further delay the process.
- **Traffic Working Group:** The group agreed that they should set up a meeting ASAP to discuss issues in the village and to publish the results of the traffic survey. Although not directly run by the working group, it was noted that the Community Speed Watch equipment has arrived and will be in use throughout the village during next few months.
- **Defibrillator:** A very successful meeting took place with representatives from the Parish Council, the AED Guardians, the WI, the Wine group/beer festival, Brackley Morris Men and other representatives from the village. The defibrillator is now back up and running, so the focus turned to fundraising for new equipment, with the possibility of installing a second defibrillator nearer to the Portway end of the village. It was agreed that the Parish Council will hold the funds in an earmarked reserve and a working group was set up to monitor fundraising and to decide on appropriate equipment to purchase. (For info, the working group is independent from the Parish Council).
- **Vacancy for Clerk (part-time):** The vacancy has still not been filled, and the closing date had been extended to 26th June. It was agreed to advertise the post on the SLCC national network as well as the adverts on the website, Facebook and noticeboards. Anyone interested in the job is welcome to contact the Clerk for further information.
- **Councillor vacancies:** There are now 4 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](mailto:clerk@croughtonparishcouncil.gov.uk) or 07863 356095 (call, text or WhatsApp).

Please note that the Clerk works part-time, so there may be a delay in responding to any messages.

## Portway Pocket Park Community BBQs



After a hugely successful 2025 programme, this year we're hoping for more of the same – more new faces, more laughs and plenty more warm sunny evenings for our free-to-attend community BBQs, held on the beautiful and ever-improving Pocket Park on Portway Drive in Croughton (what3words: ///reform.shrubbery.commented).

This year, BBQs will be held on the last Saturday of every month between May and August as follows:

**Saturday 25 July • Saturday 29 August**

### How it works

Join us at the Portway Pocket Park from 5pm onwards. Bring your own food to cook on the communal gas BBQ as well as your favourite tipples, plus a dish to share (e.g. a salad, some nibbles, fruit or a dessert).

The BBQ will be ready to cook on from 6pm until around 7.30pm, then we'll chat, maybe kick a ball around or play a game, plus you can keep warm later into the evening by the fire pit. It's family friendly, and well-behaved dogs are welcome too.

If you are able, a small donation helps with our running costs, and will be most gratefully received.

**The Village Hall** ... is available to hire for some evenings and parties at weekends. 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](mailto:croughtonvillagehall@gmail.com)

## BRACKLEY HOGWATCH FUNDRAISING STALL



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

A very big thank you to Croughton Co-op, Croughton Tea Rooms as well as residents and visitors to Croughton who have recently donated money to our collection boxes at Croughton Co-op (£44.38) and Croughton Tea Rooms, bought items from our fundraising stall (£77.08) and also donated inkjet printer cartridges (£22.35). An amazing grand total of £143.81!

Here is a list of our Summer fundraising stalls, please say hello when you visit these events!

Sunday 12th July 11–3p.m - Greatworth Summer Fayre.

Wednesday 5th August 10–2pm Brackley Teddy Bear Festival.

Sunday 30th August 12–4pm - Evenley Fete.

All money raised goes to the care and treatment of poorly and injured local hedgehogs. We are very grateful for your continued support

[www.brackleyhogwatch.co.uk](http://www.brackleyhogwatch.co.uk) Registered Charity no. 1188770

## Croughton Short Mat Bowls



We are a small friendly club who meet in the Village Hall on Monday evenings 7.30pm to 9.30pm (bowls provided). Come along and give it a try. For more information contact Martin on 07762 659589.

## The Croughton Wine Appreciation Group

### Lost, Found and Off-the-Beaten-Tract

Our next event, July 10th, will explore the more unusual wines with grapes you have never heard of, from some of our local supermarkets.

All events are held in the Village Hall from 8pm. There will be the usual break midway for bread and cheese to this end please let us know if you have a gluten or dairy intolerance.

If you are a first time visitor please contact Martin on 01869 810 721 of [croughtonwag@gmail.com](mailto:croughtonwag@gmail.com) so we can insure there is enough for everyone.

Future dates for your dairy are Sept 25th, Nov 6th, 4th.



**Time to start thinking about Christmas!** We are planning on holding a live nativity for the Benefice in Croughton in December this year, and are looking for some adults to take on parts. If you are able to take on a role backstage or front, we want to hear from you. No previous experience required. If you can sew, paint, speak, or just be there, we have a place for you. All welcome.

**We will have some more training sessions for serving at the Altar in the Benefice.** This is an opportunity to learn more about what happens at the Altar during Communion.

It is informal, friendly, a chance to ask questions and to learn. Open to anyone who might wish to begin serving at the altar, those who have been doing it for years, or who are just interested in learning more about this Sacrament at the heart of our faith. Dates are as follows:

9th July – 6pm – All Saints' church in Croughton

6th August – 6pm – St. Michael and All Angels', Farthinghoe.

## Rector's Ramblings

As I was led by a churchwarden through a jeering crowd and placed firmly in the stocks, I took the opportunity to reflect on my two years as Rector here. As the first sponge connected solidly with my nose, and a man from Croughton Road in Aynho asked if I was the vicar of anywhere near here, I thought about what can happen in two years.

Two years ago, I was starting out for the first time with responsibility for my own parish. I was advised, wisely, that there would be a honeymoon period of grace which would probably last as long as that given to the new Prime Ministry just taking office (I have been keeping an eye on the Vicar of Makerfield in case they make a move for my living).

It is a pleasure and a privilege to be Rector of the Benefice (even as parishioners pelt me with sponges, and when I cannot dissuade the people of Aynho from gambling on trained rodents on a Sunday). A great deal has happened in our villages, and it has been wonderful to welcome new people and families regularly to services, to build on traditions, and the new ideas that are springing up (keep a look out for Christmas and Choirs). Most importantly there are the things that I cannot publish here, but do hold in prayer. Thank you all who have shared time, trust, and prayer.

In June our eight churchwardens (Evenley and Croughton are still looking for a second churchwarden), having been elected, were sworn in by the Archdeacon. They have each kindly agreed to organise, lead, clean, fundraise, lead tours, open

## Astwick Vale Benefice Services for July 2026

### Details at [www.astwickvalebenefice.org](http://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 July

11am Communion, Aynho  
9.15am Morning Prayer, Croughton  
11am Morning Prayer, Evenley  
9.15am Communion, Farthinghoe  
6pm Evensong, Steane

#### 12th July

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

#### 19th July

10.30am Benefice Communion, Aynho  
5.30pm Evensong, Croughton

#### 26th July

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

**Croughton All Saints church will be open on Wednesday afternoons, with free bottled water during any heatwave.**

churches, stay late, come early, and do all this unpaid and with prayer. Our Ministry Team, our clergy and Lay Readers who visit and take services, have been prompted to renew their commitments for the coming year.

Across our villages a not inconsiderable army of people work for our parishes, holding keys, serving at altars, reading, praying, cleaning, mowing, ringing bells, singing, playing the organ, cooking, visiting, and much more. Often the Church seems so monumental -and it is, the gathered people of God around the globe and across time- but it is also intensely local and personal. Rather like the building; at once permanent and ancient, and also in need of constant maintenance and work.

One of the great joys of being Rector -aside from the neat black wardrobe- is to be constantly amazed and delighted by the gifts people make of themselves. By the way that everyday activities, or passions, or talents are turned to the service of God, and the daily things of life or ourselves are hallowed and made holy. The joy of music, or the skill in speaking, the act of listening or empathy, the care of the world or individual held in prayer, or the daily laundry. It is a reminder that for all that the Church seems separate and defined, it is made up of ourselves, as the living Body of Christ in the world. Coming as we are and offering what we are.

Thank you to everyone who gives time so generously. If you can offer time, or prayer, or are interested in taking on something new and meaningful, please be in touch. If we can offer an outlet for your talent or passion, we would love to hear from you.

## Croughton All Saints CE Primary School – End of Term Update



As we approach the end of term, I would like to share a brief update from Croughton All Saints.

It has been a busy and successful year, with a rich curriculum and a range of experiences for our pupils. We introduced a new phonics scheme, which is already having a positive impact, and strengthened our approach to maths through a mastery model that supports fluency and deeper understanding.

We have also adopted a Therapeutic Thinking approach to behaviour, alongside a behaviour curriculum to support pupils in understanding expectations and making positive choices.

Children have enjoyed a wide range of trips and visitors, including Bletchley Park, Warwick Castle, and Blenheim Palace, as well as in-school experiences and a whole-school visit to the pantomime. Sport has remained a key strength, with strong participation in events and activities, supported by our ongoing work to promote active lifestyles.

Our PTFA has continued to raise valuable funds, and we remain proud of our strong links with the church and wider community.

We look forward to a number of end-of-term events, including Sports Day, the Maples production of Edith's Wartime Scrapbook, and Enrichment Day.

Finally, I would like to share that I will be leaving my role as Headteacher at the end of this term to pursue a new opportunity within education. It has been a privilege to lead the school, and I am grateful for the continued support of our pupils, staff, families, and community. I am confident the school will continue to thrive.

Our Nursery and some year groups still have spaces available. Please do get in touch if you would like to arrange a visit or find out more.

Mrs Sarah Smith, Headteacher,  
Croughton All Saints CE Primary.

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

## The Blackbird

### July Events

**2nd** – Every 1st Thursday of month is Quiz Night 7.30pm with Uggy's Pizza van.

**4th** – Live Music with Full Circle Duo 8pm / Redline pizza van 5pm

**11th** – "BLACKBIRD BAND FEST 1" \*\*FREE ENTRY\*\*

Featuring:

THE MONTANAS 2pm

FIVE REVIVED 3pm

WATER THE FOXES 4pm

NIGHT RIDE HOME 5pm

Headline: THE STOLEN LINES 6pm

**18th** – Karaoke 8pm / Old Style Burgers van 5pm

**28th** – Kans Kitchen Thai Food Van. Every last Tuesday of month.

Contacts : Facebook "The Blackbird in Croughton"  
Email : Blackbirdinn38@gmail.com.



## 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 07949074106  
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

## Equilore - Supporting wellbeing through horses

Equilore is a local charity based in Croughton, using horses to support the wellbeing and personal development of children, young people and adults. Through Equine facilitated learning and therapeutic activities, we help people build confidence, improve emotional wellbeing, develop communication skills and strengthen relationships in a safe and supportive environment.

In May, we were delighted to welcome members of the local community to our Open Day. It was wonderful to see so many people come along and learn more about our work. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the day a success.

We are pleased to be holding another **Open Day on Saturday 15th August** and would love to welcome both familiar and new faces. Whether you'd like to meet the horses, find out more about what we do or simply enjoy a visit, we'd be delighted to see you.

For more information about Equilore, please visit [www.Equilore.co.uk](http://www.Equilore.co.uk)



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