



CROUGHTON NEWS

December 2021

Christmas Hamper Raffle
£1 per Ticket
Raffle Tickets can be obtained from
Croughton Tea Rooms or a member of the PCC
The Draw will take place in the
Croughton Tea Rooms
on 17th December, 2.30pm

Croughton Village Flower and Vegetable Show

Our Flower and Vegetable Show saw a wonderful turnout on August bank holiday Saturday. The winners were as follows.

Photography: Becky Warwick (tranquility)

Best veg: Sheila Hancock (mixed trug)

Best dahlia: Stephen Spencer: (decorative or mixed)

Best flora: Richard Golsby (one specimen gladioli)

Best homecraft: Dulcie Hayward (cupcakes)

Basil Coles Memorial Cup: Derek Smart

Most points: Stephen Spencer

Children's competition, up to 11 years old: Emily Wright

Children's competition, up to 14 years old: Pia Hayward

The charitable proceeds of £350 are being shared between the Air Ambulance and Croughton All Saints Church.

A huge thank you to everyone who took part, helped and donated on the day.

Please can you help?

We are very grateful to the current team who clean the church, but the numbers have dwindled recently and we do need some extra help.

It is not an onerous task, with some dusting/polishing and vacuuming - which does not normally take more than an hour, even less if you bring a (socially distanced) friend.

If you feel you can help us to care for our lovely old church, even if just a few times, please ring Chris on 01869 226383.

“ABILITY” - A Community Mini-Bus Service for all residents of Croughton

Ability runs a mini-bus service to Banbury on Tuesday & Thursday to the town centre, various supermarkets & retail parks. On Friday there is a choice of a mini-bus to either Brackley or to Bicester to visit the market & various shops as well as special trips out to a variety of locations – See list below. Why have the hassle & expense of using your car when you can travel for FREE with Ability?!

You need to complete a form to register with this service before you can use it & seats need to be booked in advance by telephoning Ability on 01327 604123. It's easy to register online - <https://abilitycic.org.uk/register/> Forms are also available at the Blackbird, the Tea Rooms or Co-op.

If you have a valid bus pass it's FREE to REGISTER and to USE when you use the village bus stops. The service also offers a door-to-door service for a small annual fee.

Please consider registering to take advantage of this amazing service, with really helpful drivers & a Covid safe environment. There is a real danger of losing this service if we do not support it.

I'm happy to help if you have any queries. Meryl Tel. 819525

Ability Transport Trips Winter 2021

Monday 6th December – Birmingham Xmas Markets (£20 fare)

Monday 13th December – Bicester Village/Garden Centre

RBL Poppy Appeal 2020

The Poppy Appeal this year raised a total of £780.32

Thank you all for giving



Jigsaw swap

If you enjoy doing jigsaws, why not join in with the village jigsaw swap? Several residents have a good selection of jigsaws & are happy to swap with others in the village. Contact me for more details! Meryl 819525

Croughton Village Website

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

www.croughtonparishcouncil.org.uk

Parish Council Meeting held on 8th November 2021

Electricity prices: The Parish noted the 33% price rise in the cost of running the street lights and resolved to look into alternative providers.

RAF Croughton: Will be attending the December meeting to present their proposals for roadside landscaping where bush and tree clearance has taken place.

Footway Lighting: All lamps reported as not working have had repairs requested. Any further issues with the streetlights should be reported to the clerk at clerk@croughtonparishcouncil.org.uk

Road problems: Any trees across the road should be reported to West Northamptonshire Council on 0300 126 7000 between 9am and 5pm or on 01604 651074 outside those hours.

Potholes or other problems can be reported via Street Doctor at <https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/northamptonshire-highways/roads-and-streets/Pages/report-highway-problem.aspx> or if necessary to the clerk at clerk@croughtonparishcouncil.org.uk

Budget: The internal controls report for the previous quarter was received. Proposals for items to include in the next year's budget were solicited and it was requested to use the forecast for inflation to estimate for any recurring items where next year's costs were unknown.

Neighbourhood Watch Liaison: Due to lack of interest in the role, the council decided to mothball the Liaison role between the County Neighbourhood watch and the council. Croughton Parish council wish to encourage the reporting of warnings and news on the Croughton Chat Facebook group as an effective and immediate means of sharing.

Date of next Parish Council Meeting: Monday 13th 7.30 p.m December 2021 in the Parish Room, Croughton Village Hall.

The agenda will be published on the parish noticeboards at the Village Hall and Co-Op car park and on the website. Visit www.croughtonparishcouncil.org.uk

Please note that this Meeting is open to Members of the Public. 10 minutes in total (up to 3 minutes per person) are set aside for public participation, usually the third item on the Agenda, and this provides the opportunity for members of the electorate to speak to items listed on the Agenda. If you wish to attend please register with the Clerk via email in advance of the meeting. Please sanitise your hands on entering and leaving the building and respect other people's space. The wearing of face masks/face coverings during this meeting is optional.

Thank you.

Portway Pocket Park

It's so wonderful to see over the recent months the Portway Pocket Park being used by many local residents and young families more than ever to relax, play and meet in a clean and safe environment. Dogs are welcome in this Community Park, but do please remember, if your dog fouls in this public area please pick up and bin it. Thank you.

Friends of Portway Pocket Park

MERYL'S CHARITY PLANT STALL

Thank you to everyone who came to the Croughton Christmas Fayre on Sunday & supported my Brackley Hogwatch Fundraising Stall, it was a lovely community event, well organised, well supported & we raised a record amount for Brackley Hogwatch! My stall is now having a seasonal break until the colder weather recedes but I will be back in the New Year, so watch this space..!

Thank you very much to everyone who has supported my little stall again this year & helped to raise funds for Croughton reading Room & Brackley Hogwatch. Wishing you all a wonderful festive season.

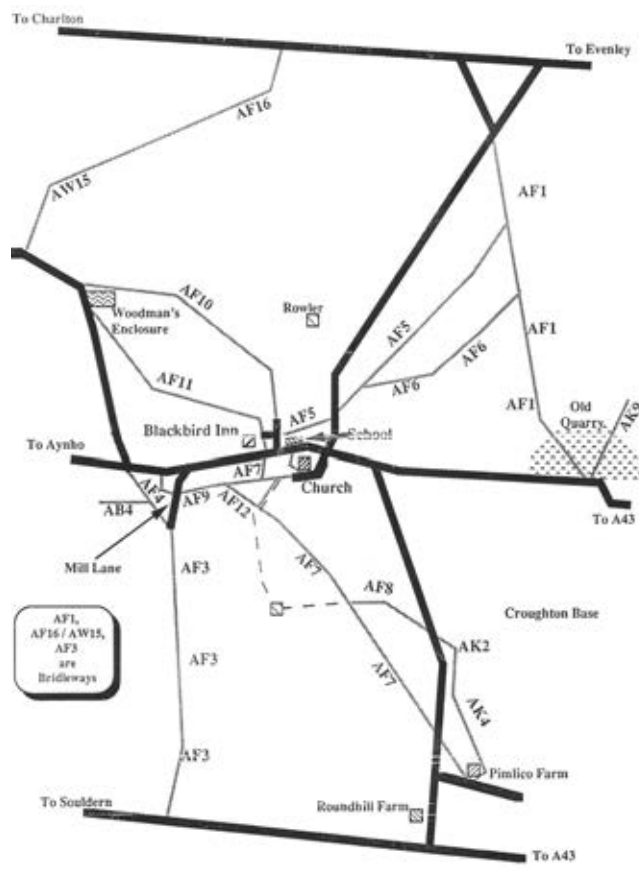
Meryl



Nothing on Telly?

Why not come and join us at our Village Hall – The Croughton Short Mat Bowls Club. We are a small friendly club who meet every Monday evening at the Village Hall. Our motto is “We don't do serious” !! All equipment provided, just a small weekly subscription required. Please contact Cyril on 01869 810207 for more details.

Simplified plan of footpaths and bridleways around Croughton (not to scale).



Pastoral Letter December 2021: Revd Sue Cooper writes

Dear Friends, it's that time of year again, when the Christmas frenzy descends on us and we feel ourselves beginning to rush around. There is always something to do and we find ourselves on what seems like a treadmill of festive fun and activity

I love this time of year, and I can get as carried away as the next person with all the excitement of Carols and Christmas cards and gifts, and the sheer joy of the decorations and coloured lights which brighten our streets and homes and, for a brief time, dispel the gloom of the news stories.

We have entered the season of Advent in our Church calendar, and traditionally this is a time of watching and waiting. Christians are waiting to celebrate Christmas when we celebrate the birth of Jesus just over 2000 yrs ago. Jesus came at a very bleak time in Jewish history, when the Jewish people were under Roman occupation. They had been promised a saviour,,, someone who would come and deliver them from their depressing and oppressing situation. They had been watching and waiting for a very long time, and finally Jesus, their saviour was born.

We have all been watching a waiting a lot over the past 20 months. Initially watching the daily Covid updates by the Prime Minister and Health Secretary; waiting for the 1st lockdown to lift; watching and waiting at loved ones bedsides, or just waiting for news from the hospital; waiting for a vaccine to be made; waiting to have the vaccine, waiting to see loved ones again, waiting for life to begin again!!!!

Waiting is not something we like to do, even before covid reared its ugly head. It stirs up visions of standing in the post office queue or at a bus stop. Waiting feels like a waste of time in our fast paced, fast lived lives, especially as we have missed so much of life in recent months. Waiting is boring. But in our hurry to now begin to live life again to the full, we can be guilty of cramming activity into every last second of our lives and our children's lives,,,,, and something is lost.

The season of Advent in Church is supposed to slow us down, and it takes real effort to enter into it. Christians are not only remembering the joy of the Saviours arrival 2000yrs ago, after a very long wait in terms of history, but we are also watching and waiting for Jesus to return. The bible tells us in Revelation Chapter 22 that one day Jesus will be returning to this earth. This may sound like an outrageous claim, but Christians believe this to be true,,, and so we watch and wait in expectancy for that great day. Anything worth having is worth waiting for isn't it? Think of a pregnancy and the long 9 months of waiting and then the joy of new life. Think back to when you were a child,,, and waited for Christmas morning,,, we all remember how great it was to wake up and feel a rustling at the foot of our beds, and think about how happy we all were when the lockdown finally lifted and the long wait was over, and we were finally able to see our loved ones face to face and hug them again.

Waiting is not all bad is it. And as we celebrate the babe of Bethlehem who was sent into our dark and gloomy world to be our saviour,,, let's pause for a moment and think again; he will be returning to us one day,,,,,but until then,,,,,we watch and we wait.

I do wish you all a very merry Christmas, and every blessing for the New Year. God bless you all,

With love Revd Sue.

All Saints Church, Croughton

December Services in Astwick Vale Benefice

Sunday: 5th December

9.30am, Said Communion Farthinghoe
11.00am Holy Communion, Aynho
11.00am Morning Worship, Hinton

Sunday 12th December

10.30am Holy Communion, Benefice Farthinghoe
5.00pm Lessons and Carols, Hinton

Sunday 19th December

11.00am Holy Communion, Hinton
3.00pm Lessons and Carols, Croughton
5.00pm Lessons and Carols, Evenley
5.00pm Lessons and Carols, Aynho
6.00pm Lessons and Carols Farthinghoe

24th December Christmas Eve

4.00pm Crib Service, Farthinghoe
11.00pm Christmas Eve Mass, Croughton

25th December Christmas Day

10.00am Family Service, Aynho
10.00am Family Service, Evenley
10.00am Holy Communion, Hinton
10.0am Family Service, Farthinghoe

Sunday: 26th December

9.00am Benefice and Said Holy Communion, Aynho

Please check the Church notice board for any unavoidable changes to the Service timetable

If you have any concerns you can contact:
Revd Sue Cooper 01869 810903,
or Church Warden: Angie Robbins 01869 811445.

Village Hall

Hopefully soon we will be able to welcome people back in full but for the moment, Short Mat Bowls and Pilates are running on a Monday evening. If you would like to make a booking for the future please email:
croughtonvillagehall@gmail.com. Many thanks.

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.

The Reading Room

Coffee Morning Tuesdays

The Reading Room in the Back Room 9 to 11
Cake 70p a slice, Tea/Coffee 50p
Raffle every week.



Oxfordshire Craft Guild

We are delighted that after a long drought of being unable to exhibit The Oxfordshire Craft Guild will once again be staging its centre-piece six week long exhibition at The Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock running from **20 November until 30 December 2021.**

With over 30 crafts people showing their work, visitors can be assured of finding a range of quality handcrafted items to enjoy, and those looking to find unique gifts for Christmas will find a wealth of beautiful objects from which to choose from.

The Craft Guild seeks to promote quality of making and design in a wide range of crafts. All of their members have had to go through a fairly rigorous selection process.

So visitors to these exhibitions can be assured of finding a range of quality handcrafted items to enjoy, and those looking to find unique gifts for Christmas will find a wealth of beautiful objects from which to choose from.

Oxfordshire Museum, Park Street, Woodstock

20 November -30 December

Tues – Sat 10.00 am-4.45 pm

Sundays 2.00 pm-4.45 pm

Closed Mondays

Think NHS 111 First

NHS England and NHS Improvement has launched the next phase of the latest 'Help Us, Help You' campaign which focuses on the NHS 111 service as a new way to access A&E.

If you have an urgent but not life-threatening medical need, make sure you contact NHS 111 first rather than going straight to A&E. If you do need urgent care, then NHS 111 can now book you in to be seen quickly and safely in A&E.

As well as this, NHS 111 is also able to direct to or book an appointment at Urgent Treatment Centres, access to Out of Hours GP Services, pharmacies, emergency dental services and walk-in clinics.

Contacting 111 first will also help the NHS to keep you safe by maintaining social distancing and ensure that you receive the right care in the right place, in a more timely and safe way.

If you or your loved one have a life-threatening illness or injury then you should always use 999 and if you do arrive at A&E without contacting NHS 111 you will still receive medical care, with emergency treatments prioritised.

Just think 111 first. When you think you need A&E, contact NHS 111 by phone or online at <https://111.nhs.uk/>

Further information about NHS 111 First is available at www.northamptonshireccg.nhs.uk



Brackley community radio is an online radio station.

To access the station just go to www.brackleyradio.uk

You can also listen on your Alexa echo or Google hub just say enable brackley community radio..



**KATHARINE
HOUSE
HOSPICE**

Aynho Road
Adderbury
Oxon OX17 3NL

What's coming up later this winter?

As we approach the end of the year, we're sharing some updates, ideas, and events for the festive season. We couldn't continue to support our wonderful community without the help of people like you. Thank you!

The gift that keeps on giving

If you're after a great idea for Christmas pressies, then we think our A4 Charity Calendar for 2022 makes a great gift. The calendar features 12 stunning local scenes – taken by talented members of Banbury Camera Club – and helps to raise vital funds for our hospice.

You can pick up your calendars as well as our fantastic range of Christmas cards in one of our shops or find them in the Christmas Shop on our website.

RC Baker Christmas Tractor Run – 18 December

Once again, RC Baker will be bringing the X factor to tractors this Christmas. The hugely popular Tractor Run is making a welcome return, bringing all the glitz and glam of the festive season. On Saturday 18 December, a fleet of fairy-lit tractors will be taking a tour around local villages to spread some Christmas cheer and raise money for Katharine House Hospice. To help plan your evening, you can find all the details as well as the route and timings on our website.

Could you be a Village Champion for Katharine House?

We're looking for volunteers to help put up posters three or four times a year in their local village to help us spread the word about our upcoming events. We already have some brilliant Village Champions, but we're looking to recruit more. If you think you could help, then we'd love to hear from you. Send an email to GetInvolved@khh.org.uk or find out more on our website.

Bereavement support

Coping with the loss of someone special is difficult and can be painful. We offer support and counselling to the family and friends of those cared for by Katharine House Hospice. But we're also here to help anyone in the wider community who is adjusting to a bereavement. If you think that talking to someone would help, or you just want to find out how we can help support you, please get in touch with Mel Mobley, Bereavement and Counselling Lead, on 01295 811866 or email khhbereavement@ouh.nhs.uk.

Digital monthly newsletter – keep up to date with your hospice

Sign up to receive our Katharine House digital monthly newsletter, which is designed to keep you in touch with all our latest news and fundraising events at the hospice.

Find out more

Head to our website to find out more about all these events, news, and more: www.khh.org.uk

Newsletter submissions by 28th of each month to:

Georgina Lucas, 50 Portway Drive, Croughton.

Tel: 01869 810923, or e-mail galucas@waitrose.com

The Croughton Newsletter is published by the Parish Council.