



The Cropredy Crier

Village news for March 2021



You are invited to
VERNA'S GIN AND BLING COCKTAIL (HAT) PARTY
VIA ZOOM @



A Device Near You

FRIDAY MARCH 26TH 2021 @ 6.00 P.M.



Cock your hat, mix your cocktail and join us for some hat related stories, readings and some novel cocktail ideas.

This is a "WEAR A HAT DAY" event raising funds for
BRAIN TUMOUR RESEARCH

Contact: verna.wass@btinternet.com to book your place, joining link to be sent nearer the time

Visit: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Verna-Wass-WearaHatDay> to make a donation

CROPREDY TENNIS CLUB

www.cropredytennisclub.co.uk

NOTICE of AGM



This year's AGM will be an online Zoom meeting on

Wednesday 10th March at 7.30 pm

email Simon Bright for log in info

bright@sbrights.co.uk

Hopefully it won't be too long before we can resume playing tennis and welcome new and returning members of all ages.

Thank you for all of the Christmas and new year tips and gifts, a happy and healthy new year to you all.

From Bob (postman)

(Apologies to Bob, we received this last month but it slipped through the net. Ed.)

Good for the soul

And so it begins... the season of Lent stretches ahead – again. It is a season for doing important work, inner and outer, personal and collective, which may be hard. Lent is also a source of good news as it has the potential to offer just what we need – maybe especially in these continuing pandemic days. In this season, one of the traditional practices is that of fasting. But what sort of fast, to echo words from the prophet Isaiah? And haven't we done more than enough giving up in our Covid restricted lives? Rather than giving up treats and pleasures perhaps we are called to another fasting. To fast from being strong and 'holding it all together', and allow our vulnerability and tenderness to grace our relationships. To fast from a reliance on privilege and discover creative ways to challenge injustice. To fast from the embrace of isolation and discover different ways into companionship – with others, with creation. To fast from endless list-making of things to fill the merging days and enter into the quiet, a listening, for what might be emerging, for new possibilities. To fast from a need for certainty, and allow trust in the mystery of things. And then perhaps, I will arrive at Easter and realise those things from which I have fasted I no longer need to pick up again. Won't that be good for the soul?



Revd Hilary Campbell

SERVICES AT THE PARISH CHURCH

In person communal worship in Church is suspended for the time being, although Church remains open for individual private prayer between 10am and 2pm every day. As soon as services resume we will post information as widely as we can around the village.

Please contact Hilary to access our weekly Sunday Zoom Service.
Other services on Zoom: Tuesdays 12.00 mid-day
Please contact me for information on joining these by computer or phone.

Revd Hilary Campbell: vicar@campbells.me.uk 01295 750385

The church clock is still stopped, so at least it's right twice a day. The spring at the top of the pendulum has snapped and we are waiting for the good people from the Cumberland Clock Company to come and fix it...

MESSAGE FROM THE METHODIST CHAPEL

The Methodist Circuit has indicated that we should not hold any Worship Services in the Chapel, while C19 tier 4 controls apply in Oxfordshire.





WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
Friday March 5th. 2021



It is still not certain when we can meet in the Chapel for the WDP service. Therefore, it has been decided not to arrange another date for later on in the year. We would still like to participate on the day by reading through the service booklet in our own home at **4.00 p.m.**

I will deliver the service booklets to your house together with the Brown donation envelope. This service is WDP's only source of income and any donations would be gratefully received. The donations each year have made a massive difference to the charities that WDP supports.

If you would like a service booklet contact me
Sheila Jones 01295 750480 or 07731635596

VILLAGE HALL 250 CLUB

Cropredy Village Hall have held a socially-distanced end of year draw. The following is a list of lucky winners -

Stuart Alexander ,Christine Draper, Trudy Stables,
Pete Bendle, Julian Freeman, Mavis Thompson
CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU ALL.

Please note that during the current Covid crisis, the 250 Club is temporally suspended.
Details of restarting the 250 Club will be published when possible.

We are Open



Ideal time to plant ...
Garden Plants



Summer Hanging Baskets
Orders now being taken



Mother's Day
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if you can't find what you are looking for on our web shop, then please give us a call!



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CROPREDY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Wednesday March 17th. at 7.30 p.m.

An illustrated talk by

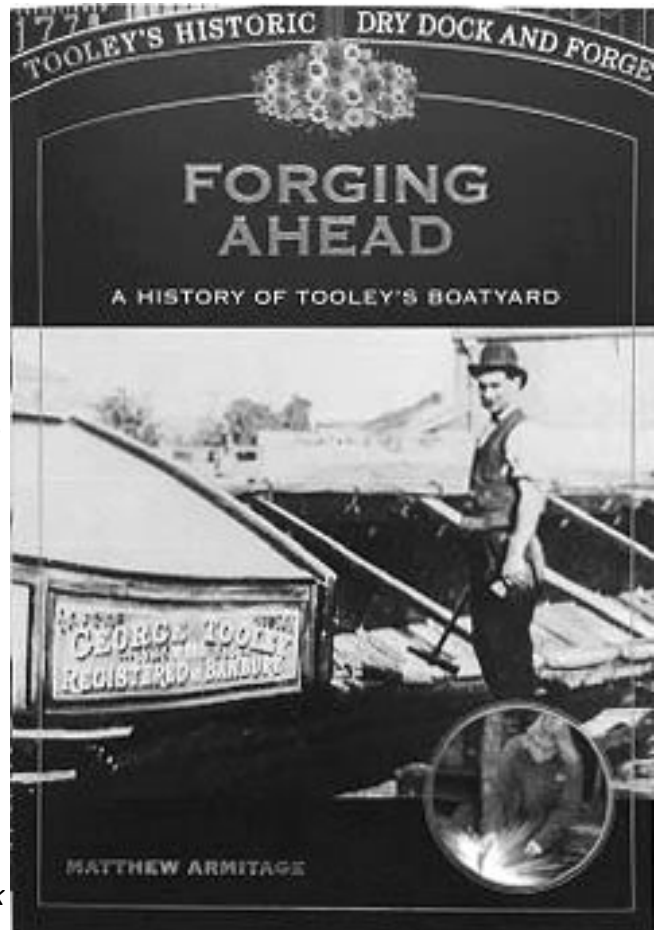
MATTHEW ARMITAGE

Director, Tooley's Boatyard

When the Oxford Canal came to Banbury in 1778, Tooley's Boatyard was established to build and repair the wooden horse-drawn narrow boats plying the newly constructed canal network, that played such an important role in the Industrial Revolution.

Matthew Armitage will give an insight into how age old practices still prevail and thrive to this day. The boatyard, a unique working set up, is one of the oldest working dry docks on the inland waterways. When current restrictions are lifted, you can visit the 1930s workshop, the carpenter's store, the belt-driven machine workshop, a paint store and a 200 year old blacksmith's forge, still in use today.

This is a talk which will entertain and inform anyone with an interest in the history of the canals and Inland Waterways. In the current circumstances, it will be available via Zoom. Members wishing to join the talk should contact Bob Garland c/o bob.n.garland@gmail.com to register their interest. He will then provide a link to use on the day. Interested non-members should also contact Bob.



Matthew's new book on the history of the Tooley's Boatyard : *Forging Ahead* is available at: <https://tooleysboatyardtrust.org.uk/forging-ahead/> All proceeds will support the boatyard and its projects

SNOW CLEARANCE

Thank you to the team leaders and all the volunteers who cleared away the snow on Sunday January 24th. Are there any young (or not so young Ed.) members of the village who would be willing to help on occasions such as this. If so please contact

Sheila Jones on 07731635596





THE LITTER PAGE



First we have:

Fly-Tipping

Over the past few months we have seen fly-tipping incidents in and around the village. Clearly this is unacceptable and please remember that dumped rubbish left on the highway or private land can be a danger to the public and needs to be removed quickly.

I would like to appeal to all residents if they should see such an incident to get it reported at the very earliest opportunity. It can be reported through either:

- Oxfordshire County Council\FixMyStreet\Postcode\Click on Map to identify location\Fly-tipping
- Cherwell District Council\Rubbish and Recycling\Report\The Environment (Fly-tipping).

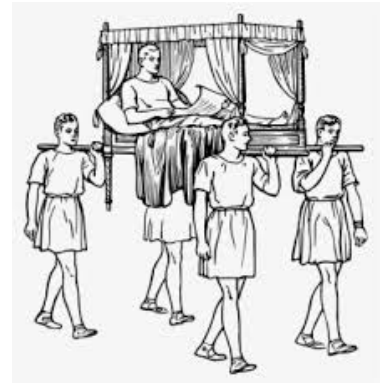
All Councils take fly-tipping very seriously and as such respond at their very earliest opportunity.

Let us all help ourselves to keep Cropredy tidy and a very pleasant environment in which to live.

Des Knight

Cropredy Parish Councillor

*Ooops. sorry,
wrong kind of
litter....*



and then we have a letter from concerned parishioners.

Litter Picking in Cropredy

A small and exasperated band of litter pickers collected dozens of large bags of rubbish from our immediate highways and byways over the past few weeks. We hope you will have noticed the difference. No more beer cans/bottles; wine, whiskey and vodka bottles; take away food boxes, some with the food still inside; masses of crisp packets and chocolate bar wrappers; empty plastic bags and full dog poo bags. We rummaged in ditches which have not been cleaned for years and suspect that a lot of it was debris from visitors and passing traffic.

We realise that this is not of Cropredy villagers' doing but we are left with the thoughtless actions of 'outsiders'.

If you go for a walk take a plastic bag with you and some rubber gloves, or gardening gloves and pick up anything you see. If you come across anything which is just too much (a take away party in a layby for example), please let us know.

Sermon over!

We hope you appreciate your new, cleaner walking areas.

Rachel 750918, Grace 07765465994

Cherwell fly tipping reports 01295 227003

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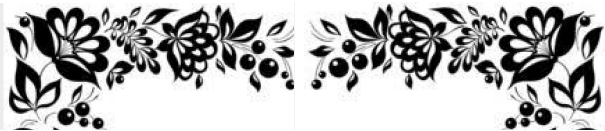
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A Blooming Big Thank You

To All on the Church Flower Rota

As we enter the season of Lent we say a
big
thank you

to all those who have kept our Church
looking beautiful with their fresh flower
arrangements throughout the year.

We appreciate their generosity,
commitment and hard work in creating
beautiful displays and in the day to day
work of keeping them at their best.
Flowers are not allowed in Church during
Lent so the joy of seeing them again at
Easter
is much anticipated!

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POST OFFICE IS OPEN AT THE CHURCH ROOMS

**MONDAYS and WEDNESDAYS
9.30 a.m. TO 1.30 p.m.**

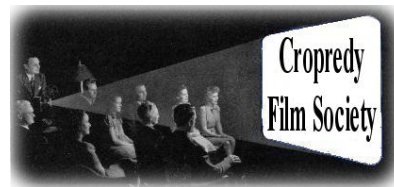
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VOUCHERS

FOREIGN CURRENCY FISHING LICENCES
BILL PAYMENTS MOBILE PHONE TOP UPS,
MAIL REDIRECTION CASH + CHEQUE
DEPOSIT (PARTNER BANKS)

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO WEAR A
FACE MASK**

Cropredy Film Society



The Annual General Meeting for all members of Cropredy Film Society is usually held immediately before the February screening. In the current restrictions, the AGM for 2021 is postponed

A new date will be announced as soon as the village hall re-opens and we are able to meet again for a film supper.

The committee will continue in their present roles until that time.

Cropredy WI



Cropredy WI are still going strong despite all the current restrictions, with issue 38 of our 4 page weekly lockdown newsletter in preparation as I write. The newsletter contains , amongst other things, articles on local history, book, radio and TV recommendations, photographs of members' craft work (one member has knitted 200 hats for Syrian children in refugee camps) and, importantly , updates on the growth of our Christmas presents- each member was given an amaryllis!

During this lockdown we have embraced Zoom, we have weekly Zoom coffee meet ups and in our monthly Zoom meetings have enjoyed a fascinating talk on bees, stretched our brains in a quiz and shown our artistic talents in a craft evening.

We are very much looking forward to meeting again in person and also to resuming our regular museum and gallery outings. We also have plans for the return of the WI Swap Shop, we will be collecting handbags for charity(please don't throw yours out, save them for us) and of course the popular Cropredy Scarecrow Trail will take place in the summer.

If you would like to sample Cropredy WI on Zoom then you would be most welcome. Just email me at christine.2.garland@gmail.com and I will send you the details.

We hope we will be able to welcome you as a member when we get back to face to face meetings.
Christine Garland Cropredy WI



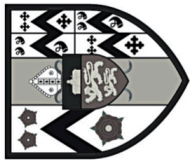
Cropredy Parish Council are keen to update the Cropredy Information Sheet, which is distributed to every household and business in Cropredy.

The last edition was published in 2020.

If you wish to be included in the 2021 edition please confirm your details (Club/society/business), contact name, email and telephone number to

info@cropredyvillage.info by 31 March 2021

BRASENOSE



THE



The Brasenose's Takeaway Nights

Wed-Sat 5.00 - 8.30 pm and Sundays 12 - 6 pm

Until restrictions are lifted

WEDNESDAYS 12" PIZZA MENU

THURSDAYS *Italian*

FRIDAY



SATURDAYS Traditional pub menu

SUNDAYS

Sunday lunch

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Cropredy Gardening Club AGM

Due to the current restrictions, this year's AGM is postponed.
 A new date will be announced as soon as we are able to meet again.
 The committee will continue in their current roles until that time.
 In the meantime carry on and keep gardening!

Dear Editor,

During this pandemic, we are constantly showing our appreciation for the NHS in its entirety, but in this instance, we would like to express personal recognition to the Doctors and Staff at Cropredy Surgery who always provide excellent medical care and attention.



They are now working tirelessly, often seven days a week to provide the immunisation necessary to protect patients. Our grateful thanks and thoughts are with them during these risky times and we wish the Doctors and Staff a safe journey ahead.

We have NHS key workers in the family and naturally feel anxious for them, but we are also immensely proud. Thank you NHS for all that you do for each and everyone of us at all times.

Thank you also to the volunteers in the community who are always there if we need them.

Barbara and Jim Ware (The Stone House)

THE RED LION
at Cropredy

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redlioncropredy@gmail.com

The Red Lion Crossword Competition
A little bit of fun for you.
Your chance to win a lock-down treat from us!
★Congratulations to Julia for winning last month's prize!★

ACROSS

5. Salted or roasted? (4)
 8. It's not a slice, it's a _____ of lemon (5)
 9. A popular fruit (6)
 11. The Russians favourite (5)
 15. The way you select your music here at The Red Lion (6,6)
 17. The Pirates favourite (3)
 18. Shaken not stirred (7)
 19. Steeped in ginger with an elephant logo (8)
 21. Ice and a _____ (5)
 22. Steak preference (4)
 23. Our 'middle of the road' lager (6)

DOWN

1. The Black Stuff (8)
 2. Our regular original bitter (8)
 3. Our premier lager (5,7)
 4. I am your parent's sister (4)
 6. Juice in a Bloody Mary (6)
 7. Mother's Ruin (3)
 10. The Red Lion's little Imp (5)
 12. You might treat me on the 14th March (3)
 13. Diet or full fat? (4)
 14. What you mainly do in our restaurant (3)
 16. Sharp's Amber Ale (7)
 20. The colour of Merlot (3)
 24. Do it at the end of the evening? Quietly! (5)

Your Name:

Telephone No.:

I am under 18:

Gary Snelling - Your creative answer to last month's Wordsearch made us smile. A "sly, festival, beer." awaits you when we re-open!

Post your answers through our door at The Red Lion Pub or email your answer, we will select a winner at random on March 14th.
Don't forget to include your name and telephone number!

CROPREDY PARISH COUNCIL

Vacancy for the Post of 'Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer'

Interested in contributing to the Cropredy community in a part-time paid role?

A vacancy will be arising for the post of Clerk to the Parish Council. The Clerk manages the administration and finance of the Parish Council. It is an important and interesting role requiring about 8 hours per week including attendance at 10 meetings per year. It would suit someone with skills in administration, finance and business IT.

If you are interested please email cropredypc@btinternet.com for further details. An informal telephone chat can also be arranged.

Minutes of a Virtual Meeting of Cropredy Parish Council held online on Monday 8th February 2021.

At the beginning of the meeting Keon Petre gave a brief presentation on his proposals to develop on his property on School Lane seven holiday lets equipped for use by disabled people. The Council meeting then started at 7.35pm

Present: - Councillor Margaret Boscott Councillor Bob Dunn
Councillor Bob Garland Councillor Tania Johnson
Councillor Sheila Jones Councillor Des Knight
Councillor Jacqui Smith

In Attendance: one member of the public who joined the meeting.

- 1. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON:** prior to the meeting Cllr Dunn had informed his fellow councillors that he intended to stand down as Chairman at this meeting. He then proposed that Cllr Johnson take over this role. This was seconded by Cllr Knight and unanimously agreed.
- 2. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRPERSON:** Cllr Johnson then proposed that Cllr Knight take over her role as Vice Chair and this was seconded by Cllr Garland and unanimously agreed.
- 3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** were received from County Cllr George Reynolds, District Cllr Phil Chapman and Kenneth Porter (Clerk).
- 4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** there were no declarations on this occasion.
- 5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** of 14th December 2020 were approved as a correct record to be signed by the Chairman.
- 6. MATTERS ARISING:** Cllr Garland reported that he and Mr Smith had received an excellent response to the call for people to attend a meeting via Zoom on forming a Cropredy Climate Change Group. A meeting has been scheduled for 25th February.
- 7. REPORTS OF WORKING GROUPS:**

(i)Village Maintenance and Development – Cllr Knight reported that following a review of the damaged retaining wall in Hell Hole, he and Cllr Johnson had made contact with Tony Brummell (Building Control Manager – CDC) and Michael Freeman (Landlords Agent) respectively. The wall has had some dislodged stones replaced and the ivy on the retained side has been cut to take some of the stress from the wall. Mr Brummell's initial visit on 18th December established that it was not necessary to close the footpath but he would re-visit 5 weeks later. Upon re-inspection on 22nd January, he felt the wall did not appear to have deteriorated. However, he believes the underlying problem to be excessive earth pressure exacerbated by ground water not being able to readily drain through the wall. He remains concerned about the wall's long-term stability and is writing to Mr Freeman accordingly. In the meantime, he has asked Cllr Knight and the PC to regularly monitor the wall's condition and let him know immediately if we believe there is any further deterioration. He will make a further inspection in a few weeks. Cllr Knight had also been informed of a fly tipping incident along Claydon Road. This was reported through the CDC website and it was removed within four working days. It was considered that a rain harvesting system should be provided for the allotments.

The enhanced facilities would be recognised by a moderate increase in the allotment fees to £10 p.a. This was proposed by Cllr Knight and seconded by Cllr Dunn and approved unanimously.

(ii)Transport and Traffic, Street Lighting and Trees – Cllr Knight reported that the construction specification for the proposed school car park has been finalised. Cllr Knight compiled the tender document and it was sent to four companies (one being Keon Petre - landowner). There have been three site visits hosted by Mr Petre with Cllrs Knight and Garland, however two of the four companies have declined to quote based on other work commitments. The PC is considering whether to extend the tender period to involve a further two companies in order to achieve a competitive quote. There has been some enquiry as to when the Cropredy Bridge repairs are going to be done as it has been almost a year since we were advised that it was scheduled for summer 2020. The Clerk has written to Robin Calver (Principal Highway Structures Engineer – OCC) and we have been advised that, due to Thames Water diversion issues that still have not been resolved, it is intended to reconstruct the footbridge this summer. Thanks were expressed to Jim Smith for reporting blocked road drains in Roundbottom using fixmystreet.com and ensuring that the parked cars were moved to enable Oxfordshire Highways to successfully pump them out. Cllr Dunn has placed the order with Nicholsons for the 'Duty of Care' Tree Survey. This was expected to be completed and reported by early February and Cllr Dunn will contact to ask for progress.

(iii)Village Plan, Crime Prevention and Environment –Planning, Finance and Legal – Cllr Jones reported an excellent turn out for the snow clearance team on 24 January; a vote of thanks will be placed in the Crier together with a request for more volunteers. Cllrs Jones, Garland and Knight had subsequently checked and topped up the salt bins. Two were found to be in poor condition and letting in water and Cllrs Jones and Knight will investigate replacing these.

(iv)Planning, Finance and Legal:

New Planning Applications: 20/03376/F – land rear of 2 Stanwell Cottages, G Bourton – erection of two agricultural buildings;

20/03573/F & 03574/LB – Springfields, Station Road – replacement entrance porch, link structure & rear conservatory.

Decisions: 20/03293/TCA – 10 Vicarage Gardens – reduce silver birch by 60% due to severe decay – granted.

Councillor Garland commented that few planning applications have been forthcoming, probably reflecting the general state of the economy.

8. **SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB** – the tree is to be felled as soon as the ground is firm enough to work on.
9. **FINANCE** – the Clerk's report had been submitted to councillors prior to the meeting and it was **resolved** that the payments itemised for £3283.94, together with one further cheque for £234 in favour of Blueberry Twist for the Webbuilder renewal, be authorised.
10. **REPORT ON COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS** – in the absence of County Cllr Reynolds there was no report on this occasion.
11. **REPORT ON DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS** – in the absence of District Cllr Chapman there was nothing new to report on this occasion.
12. **Correspondence:** **OCC** – Climate Action framework; Winter Support Grants for those affected by the pandemic; news bulletins **CDC** – Cherwell Parish Bulletins; Parish Precept request (submitted by Clerk); **OALC** – December & January Members' Updates; **Community First Oxfordshire** – newsletter; **OPFA** – Lockdown guidance; **CPRE** – monthly newsletters; **Rural Services Network** – Rural Bulletins; **Healthwatch Oxfordshire** – Briefings;
13. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS NOT OF A CONFIDENTIAL NATURE** – there were no further matters arising on this occasion.
14. **ANY MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ATTENDING THE MEETING** – Mr Brooman had submitted reports to the Clerk on the three occasions that there was some flooding in January. Mr Brooman offered to help with updating the Village Information Sheet and would put a note in The Crier asking for any updates. Cllr Boscott commented that she had some amendments which she will send through. The Teenage Shelter is currently being used as a book exchange and a more suitable location for this will be sought once lockdown has ended.
15. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** via Zoom will be held on Monday 8 March 2021 at 7pm.

There being no further matters the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.20pm.

Give Your Business a Boost - Advertise in The Crier

As we move into 2021 all organisations, businesses and voluntary groups alike, are having to think about rebuilding and reinvigorating themselves after a very difficult year. The Crier provides a vital service to local organisations in circulating information about their activities. It relies heavily on local businesses for advertising to cover its costs. It also offers businesses a very cost effective way of reaching those in the local community most likely to use their services.

Advertising rates for 2021 are as follows:

Quarter page	£8 per calendar month
Half page	£15 per calendar month
Full page	£25 per calendar month

Advertisers who book and pay for the year ahead attract a discounted rate of 12 months for the price of 10 (or pro rata for alternate months or other block bookings)!

You can still vary your copy month to month.

The Crier is published by The Church of St. Mary the Virgin Cropredy

Advertising enquiries to: verna.wass@btinternet.com

With lock down continuing it is inevitable that restrictions still will apply to permitted activities. Please check the village website (<https://www.cropredyvillage.info/welcome.htm>) and facebook pages (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/377518459014813/>) for updates

The Cropredy Crier is sponsored by Cropredy Parochial Church Council. All advertising revenue is passed to the Parochial Church Council to help to defray printing costs. All other production and distribution services are voluntary.

Whilst every care is taken the editor accepts no responsibility for any errors, omissions, consequences or the easing of lock-down.

Deadline for the next edition will be Thursday March 18th.

Stephen Wass: editor@church-of-st-mary-the-virgin-cropredy.org



Roger Gooding

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