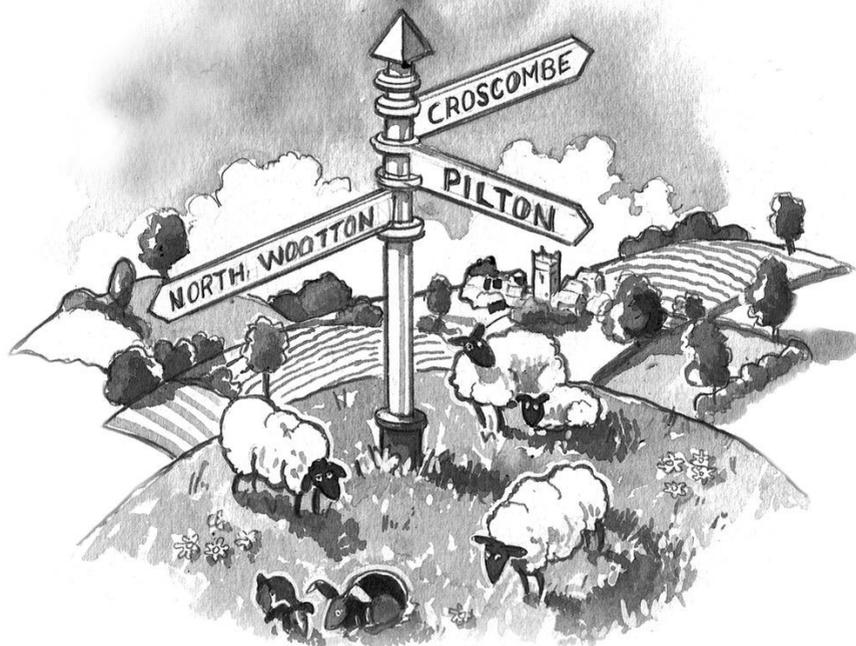


The ROUNDAABOUT Magazine

March 2026



Enquiries about material for The Roundabout

Please send emails to the email address magazine@roundaboutnews.org.uk.
All material in word or email please. **Deadline for April edition is 16 March**

Data Protection Ruling

We are grateful for material for The Roundabout, which we distribute in our villages and make available on websites. Please contact us if you have any concerns about GDPR

Why is it called “The Roundabout”

Well not a lot of people know this but between the parishes of Pilton, North Wootton and Croscombe there is a hill called The Roundabout. This hill is the only point with views over all three parishes. Thank you to Liam O’Farrell, a local Pilton artist - liamofarrell.com - for providing us with our cover image depicting the hill (Map reference ST 58506 43515)

Welcome to the Community

Welcome to any other newcomers in the villages, please let us know if you’d like us to include your name and details so we can all say hello

Donations

If you are able to make a donation, no matter how small, towards the running costs of The Roundabout Magazine, please e-mail us at magazine@roundaboutnews.org.uk

Roundabout Team

Pilton: Liz Richards, John Broxup and John Dikes (Distribution)

Croscombe: Richard Cronin, Howard Sleaf, Libby Morgan and Darryl Morgan

Welcome to March

As I write this in the middle of February, I think many of us are hoping that March brings a stretch of dry weather. After the start we have had to the year, even a few days of brightness would feel like a reset. I trust that The Roundabout will be arriving, delivered by our wonderful volunteers, in the sunshine and with a sense that spring is edging closer.

This year will feel different without the festival. Some will miss the familiar rhythm of it. Others may welcome the quieter summer. Either way, it gives us the opportunity to look at what is already here and remind ourselves that our villages and those around us, are always full of music, performance and creativity, and none of it requires a long walk through crowds or a scramble for tickets.

You can sit in a village church or hall and hear musicians who normally perform in major venues choose to bring their work to a small Somerset audience. You can see local groups who rehearse week after week because they care about the craft and the joy of performance and making that accessible to all. A film night that continues to bring people together. Comedians who know how to lift the mood with a laugh. All building that sense of community that grows stronger each time people come along.

It is easy to overlook how unusual it is to have these opportunities on our doorstep. If you have not been to something recently, consider going. Being in the room changes the experience. You hear the breath before a note. You see the focus on a performer's face. You feel the atmosphere shift when a piece is played, a joke lands or an actor delivers the line that draws us all in. These moments stay with you. They remind you that culture is something happens here, in the places we pass every day.

This month's magazine gives you a sense of what is coming up. Enjoy looking through and choosing something to attend, make an evening of it with friends and family. These events exist because people put in the time to make them happen. They deserve our attention and an audience.

Liz Richards

CROSCOMBE

What's On in Croscombe – March

1st	8pm	Quiz Night	The George Inn
3rd	7pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
8th	7.30pm	Orchestra Concert in Aid of Save the Children	Village Hall
9th	7pm	Film Night	Village Hall
14th	10 – 12	Coffee Morning	Village Hall
19th	12.30pm for 1pm	Senior Citizens Lunch	Whitstones Shepton Mallet
15th	6.30 - 8.30	Extraordinary Parish Council Mtg	Village Hall
28th	11-2pm	Easter Charter Market	Village Hall

What's On in Croscombe – April

5th	8pm	Quiz Night	The George Inn
7th	7pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
11th	7pm	Croscombe Frolics – Murder Mystery	Village Hall

Croscombe Village Hall Film Night

Springsteen. Deliver me from nowhere. Cert 12a

Monday 9th of March

The film chronicles the making of Bruce Springsteen's 1982 "Nabraska" album when he was a young musician on the cusp of global superstardom.

Staring Jeremy Allen White . "Allen White's performance is masterful "

Doors open 7.00 pm for 7.30 start. Admissions £7.00 Bar available .

Croscombe Village Hall Coffee Morning

Saturday 14th March. 10 to 12am Delicious Home made Cakes.

Freshly brewed coffee, delicious home made cakes and savouries. Book stall and raffle. All welcome.

Voice of the Villages – Jenny Mitchell.

I was brought up in Lazonby, a rural village of some six hundred people in the Eden Valley, in (then) Cumberland. Now, after several peripatetic years as an Air Force wife, the twenty first home of our married life is in a rural village of some six hundred people, here in Croscombe. And we are delighted to be here.

Not long after moving into Townsend Barn I was interviewed by the Archdeacon of Wells, one Dick Acworth, who needed a secretary. The interview lasted all of ten minutes – I got the job. So my commute for the next happy nine years was from one end of Long St to The Old Rectory at the other.

After two more Archdeacons of Wells and retirement, David Osborne, our former rector, 'invited' me to be a church warden of St Mary's, which I did for six years and I'm now Fabric Member on the PCC. I have grown to love the old building despite its leaky roof (now fixed with the help of a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund), idiosyncratic electric system and ancient drains! As in many small village churches the worshippers are becoming fewer, older and less able to manage all that needs to be done. We are blessed with a generous group of villagers who value the church as an integral part of Croscombe and help out, both practically and financially. (If you have the time and inclination to offer your services occasionally with churchyard tidying or taking a turn on the church cleaning rota, you would be welcomed with open arms!)

After two and a bit years without a priest it is wonderful that the Rev James Sharp has now been licensed as priest in charge of our (newly extended) benefice. He will be an extremely busy man with six parishes to look after. I know he will be given a warm Croscombe welcome, just as the Mitchell family were, thirty two years ago.

Postage Stamps - I am still collecting postage stamps - used, unused, U.K. and foreign for charity (RSPB at present). They can be left at my house - Livadia, Fayre Way, Croscombe. Charities are always grateful for donations. Many thanks for those received recently. Janet Dowding

Orchestra Concert in Aid of Save the Children

Jim & Suzanne Swainson and friends are presenting another Orchestral Concert in aid of Save the Children in Crocombe Village Hall at 7.30 pm on Sunday 8th March.

The programme will be: HANDEL Concerto Grosso op.6 no.7, HAYDN Cello Concerto in D major & SCHUBERT Symphony no.5.

WILL HARRIS, a talented young musician who has recently returned from studying cello at the prestigious Eastman School of Music, Rochester, USA will be the soloist in the concerto. Tickets at £12 (to include canapés provided by Save the Children) available from James Swainson 01749 346079, Hilary Cain 01749 428015 or jgswainson@gmail.com

Quizzers Needed!

The last couple of months, the numbers have been down on our monthly quiz at the George, Crocombe. This is our main fundraising event which happens during the winter months. It's held on the first Sunday in each month starting at 8pm. Great quizzing, great fun & great raffles!

Next quiz Sunday 1st March, followed by Sunday 5th April.

Please come & join us!!

Easter Charter Market

Saturday 28 March 11-2pm, Crocombe Village Hall

Celebrate the coming of spring at our wonderful Easter market. Bring the kids for an Easter egg hunt and craft challenge. Shop local for food, gifts, local artwork, preloved kids clothes and toys and much more. Stay for lunch and home made cakes, try your luck on the tombola and best of all meet friends old and new at our brilliant community event.

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Food served 8am - 2pm, 5-8pm (not Sunday evenings)

Croscombe Flood Group

Croscombe has clearly been very fortunate with no flooding so far this winter, we do share our commiserations with those parts of the country that have not been so lucky. The Flood Barriers have been deployed a couple of times but the anticipated rainfall did not materialise. The culvert Access chamber is now planned to be built in June avoiding the eel migration season. We are looking at possible locations for attenuation ponds which will need the support of the land owners upstream of Croscombe.

This leads me to suggest mini attenuation opportunities. If you have a water butt then through the winter leave the tap open to get a dribble of water then in storm rainfall the butt will fill delaying the water going to the river.

Senior Citizens

Our March meeting is our fish and chip lunch on Thursday 19th March at 12.30pm for 1pm. We go to Whitstones in Shepton Mallet and if anyone should need a lift please ring me and maybe one could be arranged.

Lyn Manvill 07780 661 327 or lynmanvill@gmail.com

Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting

All Croscombe residents are invited to Croscombe Village Hall Sunday 15 March 6.30-8-30pm <https://croscombeparishcouncil.co.uk/>

In the absence of the mandatory Annual Parish Meeting being called by the Parish Council last year, a group of villagers are calling an Extraordinary Parish Meeting to discuss concerns around the culture of the current Parish Council especially in regards to its governance, conduct and the high turnover of parish clerks and council members. This has become pertinent following recent public comments made by the outgoing clerk following her resignation.

There will also be reports from the Flood and Orchard groups, and any other village groups who would like to report on their activities. Contact Croscombe Annual Parish Meeting Facebook page to be added to the agenda.

Please come along to join in the discussion about the future of our wonderful vibrant village. Tea, soft drinks and cake will be provided.

Sophie Arnold, Mary Cadogan, Maggie Charlesworth, Terri Chichester, Nic McElhatton, Sarah Fawcett-Fice, Helen Lawson, Kate Lewis, Nicola Morris, Mick Rogers, Jim Scott, Martyn Starnes and Claire Sully

Croscombe Directory

Welcome to the all-new Croscombe Directory – a handy, easy to read guide to what’s going on in the village. If your group or event is not listed here and you would like it included please email Libby Morgan (libbymorgan65@btinternet.com). Alternatively, if you are included and need anything added/alterd then please also get in touch.

Allotment Association

Looking to grow your own vegetables, meet like-minded people, and enjoy the outdoors? We have 3m x 9m plots available at our welcoming Croscombe site. The plots are affordable, there is water on site, with a shared shed and tea station for a cuppa and a chat. The allotment holders are a friendly, knowledgeable community who are ready to help and we have seasonal socials throughout the year. Whether you’re a beginner or an experienced grower, there’s a warm welcome waiting for you. Get growing with us — we’d love to have you!

Contact: Bruce Rawlinson 07707529775

Bell Ringers

We practise most Monday evenings at St Mary's, Croscombe from 19:30 to 21:00. There are eight members of the band, but we often have one or two ringers from Wells and Wookey. We aim to ring for all Sunday services at Croscombe, and also for any special national events (Coronation, VE Day etc). Due to the nature of the ancient art of bell ringing, our practices are always a public performance!

Contact: Helen Brown helenbrown1998@gmail.com Ken Brown ken98b@gmail.com

Church Flower Arrangers

We are a group of (mainly women, but there is a man who puts in the occasional appearance) who arrange window and altar flowers, some on a regular basis, others for the big events, Easter, Harvest Festival, Christmas the occasional wedding and funeral. We are all volunteers and many use flowers from their own gardens, but that isn’t a necessity. We would love you to join us, no experience is necessary, if you can put a bunch of daffodils in a vase they you would be very, very welcome.

Contact: Louise Tully chateautully@btinternet.com

Church Key Rota Volunteers

Our beautiful C15th Church, which is an architecturally acknowledged treasure, (Pevsner described it as "one of the most complete cases of the survival of Jacobean church furnishings in the county") is open every day for visitors who often come specifically to the village to view its significant carving. Several village volunteers are responsible for the locking of the Church each evening (the morning opening is covered by one person), it's usually about two weeks each year. We lock generally at dusk depending on personal commitments and if you find you cannot fulfil your week then we swap around but I am the backstop. If you feel you would like to be added to the list, please contact me ... many hands make light work.

Contact: Louise Tully chateautully@btinternet.com

Community orchard group

Croscombe Community Orchard is a burgeoning orchard of young trees largely sponsored by members of the Croscombe community comprising varieties of apple, pear, cherry and plum. A dedicated group of volunteers manage and maintain the plot on Thrupe Lane just south of the Croscombe burial ground.

Contact: Louise Tully chateautully@btinternet.com

The Dream Team

We are a group of five local women who organise one or two fundraising evenings each year. We never do the same event twice so expect the unexpected and be prepared to join in the fun! Thanks to the generosity of everyone who supports us we have raised money for local charities such as the Shepton and Wells food banks and Children's hospice south west, as well as for the village playground and Ukraine. We meet regularly to plot and plan our next fundraiser (possibly over a glass of wine or two!) and we are always on the lookout for volunteers to help on the night of the event. Do get in touch if this appeals to you- it's hard work but a lot of fun. **Contact:** Mary Cadogan marylucia.cadogan@gmail.com Hilary Cain Hilary.cain@gmail.com

Film Night and Coffee Morning

Regular film night and coffee mornings (usually monthly) are held at the village hall and these are advertised in the Roundabout and on Facebook

Contact: Pauline Drew pauline.drew@hotmail.co.uk

Frolics/Take Art

We are an Am-dram group who put on a February traditional family panto and other ad-hoc shows and also host occasional professional theatre and dance via Take Art. Anyone interested in getting involved on stage, back-stage, front-of-house, tech etc etc please do get in touch to hear more

Contact: Howard Sleap h.sleap@btinternet.com Richard Cronin richard.cronin567@btinternet.com

Fun Day

A day in the village for the village, held in the summer. There's lots of variety including a range of market stalls and activities, a bouncy castle, skittle alley, barbeque, live music – all of it run by volunteers. More volunteers always welcome and it's a great way to meet the village if you're new.

Contact: Nick Fowler fowlernj1@sky.com (or contact on Facebook messenger)

OAPs and Children's Fund

A not-for-profit fundraising group which supports the OAPs and Children in the village. All funds raised pay for the OAPs Christmas dinner and the annual summer coach trip to Weymouth. Funds raised for the children include funding the bouncy castle and barbeque at the Fun Day. Father Christmas is also invited to visit the village and gifts are provided for the children. Fundraising events include a harvest auction which is held at the pub.

Contact: Nick Fowler fowlernj1@sky.com (or contact on Facebook messenger) Imelda North lann4848@gmail.com

The Parish Church of The Blessed Virgin Mary, Croscombe

We are the Parish Church for Croscombe. At the moment we hold Sunday services at least twice a month - usually the second and fourth Sunday. Details appear each month on the back page of Roundabout and on our Church Near You website. Use your internet browser to search for achurchnearyou, then select A Church Near You, enter your BA5 postcode, choose address option, click right arrow, select Croscombe: The Blessed Virgin Mary. Our village school also holds its services in the church several times each year. St Mary's is a Grade 1 listed building and well worth a visit

Play Area Working Group

We are a group of parishioners who are involved in improving and maintaining the children's play area. This involves finding out what options are available, determining what the children would benefit from most, fundraising, arranging quotations and organising contractors to undertake any new works. If you have any ideas, fundraising opportunities, or want to be involved in any way then please get in touch.

Contact: Ben Gudzelak cllr.gudzelak@croscombeparishcouncil.co.uk

Senior Citizens

A group that meets once a month, the 3rd Thursday of each month, in the village hall at 2.15pm. It is for more senior members to get together where we have light entertainment, quizzes, talks, meals etc. a general couple of hours to meet up with friends, make new friends and spend an afternoon together. We always finish with a cup of tea and biscuits, very often homemade ones kindly supplied by one of our members.

Contact: Lyn Manvill 07780 661 327 or lynmanvill@gmail.com

Sequence dancing

We meet every week in Crocombe village hall at 8pm to 10pm on a Tuesday. The cost is £2.50 pp which includes a tea/coffee and biscuits at half time. We do not actually teach but are only too willing to help anyone who would like to learn. It is good exercise and a good memory booster. A very social group and we always welcome new members .

Contact: Lyn Manvill lynmanvill@gmail.com

Tai Chi

Held on Mondays at Crocombe Village Hall between 10.30-11.30. Tai Chi is an easy exercise available to all. It improves balance and coordination, as well as relaxes and enhances health and wellbeing. We are a friendly group sharing some gentle exercise together. The moves may be performed standing or seated and are suitable for all ages and abilities. We end the lesson with a cuppa and biscuit for those who can stay a little longer.

Contact: Jan Hodge hodgejan@icloud.com

Suppers at The Cross

The Cross at Croscombe is more than just your local award winning B&B. On a regular basis it holds suppers and is very lucky to have the talented culinary wizard Kate Hunter cooking at these events. Kate started her catering career with an apprenticeship at the 3 starred Michelin restaurant, Le Gavroche, under the tutorship of Albert Roux. Cheffing for luxury yachts and private resorts in the Caribbean, the Jockey Club in Saratoga, and European Villas followed. Since settling in Croscombe Kate's ongoing passion for the culinary arts has seen her skills much sought after for private lunches, dinners and weddings. Kate sources many of her organic ingredients from local markets, by foraging and by growing her own vegetables. The evenings start off with complimentary drinks and nibbles followed by a seasonal set 3 course meal (vegetarian options are available). The Cross dining room is the perfect size to create a welcoming and warm atmosphere. There is even a covered walled garden to enjoy your pre dinner drinks and meet your fellow diners. For more information visit www.info@cross-croscombe.co.uk and if you sign up to my e-newsletter I will keep you up to date with future supper dates and menus. There are also opportunities for private functions to be held which can be tailored for your needs.

Contact: www.info@cross-croscombe.co.uk 01749 343352 Terri

Village email

The purpose is to send out information from the police Neighbourhood Watch and village organisations including allowing villagers to offer items for sale or put individual notices out to others. If you would like your email address added please get in touch.

Contact: Chris Jackson cj1311@gmail.com

Village Hall

Croscombe village hall hosts a wide range of clubs and societies and offers a venue for weddings and parties. The management committee provide regular film nights and coffee mornings to support funding for the hall. We welcome new members joining us on the committee either as trustees or volunteers.

Contact: Katharine Little. Bookings, Caretaker katharinegarvey@hotmail.com
Pauline Drew Chair

Village Orchestra

We have been encouraging people in Croscombe and surrounding area to make music together and explore the orchestral repertoire since 1975! Practices are Every Friday from 7.15 till 9.00pm in Croscombe village hall. We do two concerts each year, one in January and the other in May. There are also others by invitation. The orchestra welcomes new players of any age.

Contact: Tony Bevan arbevan@icloud.com

Village Voices from Croscombe

We would love to start a page for Village voices from Croscombe. If you would like to contribute a short piece about your life in the village then please contact Libby Morgan by email on libbymorgan65@btinternet.com. Alternatively, if you would like to nominate someone whose voice you would like to hear please drop her an email saying who it is.

West Shepton Short Mat Bowls Club

Short mat bowls is a version of the outdoor game but played indoors on green mats. It is a very user- friendly and relaxing game and is played by people of most ages. We meet at Croscombe Village Hall every Thursday from 2 to 4 pm and from 7 to 9 pm. Membership is £30 per year and we pay £3 to play and have breaks for free drinks and biscuits at each session. We are a friendly lot and welcome newcomers. I am the Secretary and can be contacted by email (patandjerry65@yahoo.com), mobile (0790 161 0369) or landline (01749 595140). Jerry Jeremiah, Secretary.

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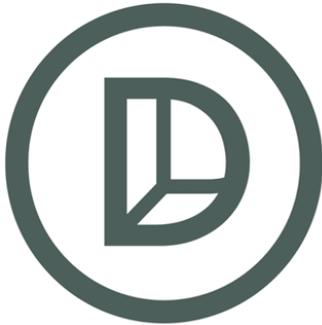


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PILTON

What's On in Pilton – March

9th	7.30pm	Pilton Village History Group	Village Hall
18th	2.15pm	Happy Circle	Village Hall
21st	3pm	Afternoon Tea (Booking Essential)	New Room Coffee Shop

What's On in Pilton – April

13th	7.30pm	Pilton Village History Group	Village Hall
15th	10am	Defibrillator Training	Village Hall

Pilton has an abundance of groups, associations and energy. A sample of what is on offer is listed below and should anyone else have any ventures that are not included please let us know.

Village Groups

Allotment Association

ASBO (maintaining footpaths and bridleways)

Bridge

Food Bank

Gabriels Orchard

Happy Circle

Judo

Pilton Community Speedwatch

Pilton Players

Pilton Show

Pilton Walks

Tai Chi

Village Voices

Ukulele

Art Group

Bell Ringers

Dance

Football

Hand Bells

History Group

Pilates

Pilton Craft Group

Pilton Playing Fields

Pilton Village Hall Trust

Table Tennis

Tithe Barn

Writers Group

Yoga

New Room Coffee Shop Pilton

New Room Afternoon Tea - 21st March 3.00p.m.

Don't miss out on a full afternoon tea, featuring a selection of finger sandwiches, scones with clotted cream and jam, followed by a selection of cakes. All presented on fine bone china, accompanied by pots of tea.

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL as numbers are limited. £17.50 per person.

To book please call in and reserve your places at the Coffee Shop.

Pilton coffee shop is situated in Top Street, adjoining the Methodist church and is open Mon-Sat 10-12.30. The views are fantastic and the interior bright and airy. We offer a selection of cakes; bacon rolls and cheese toasties with a choice of teas and coffees. All profits made by the cafe are given to charities chosen by the volunteers and we also sell handmade accessories, so always check us out for your present shopping

Defibrillator Training

The trustees of the village hall are pleased to invite you to a defibrillator training course on 15th April at 10am in the village hall run by South West Ambulance Service.

The session will last approximately 90 minutes and will include an opportunity for questions afterward. There is no fee for the training, however you can donate to the Ambulance Charity if you wish. It would be helpful to have an idea of numbers so if you feel you and any friends might attend kindly email us at secretarypvhall@gmail.com

If you wish to take a coffee in with you please arrive early as we will hopefully have a large response to this invaluable training session. We look forward to welcoming you there.

Pilton Happy Circle. Wednesday 18th March

Wednesday 18th March, 2.15pm. Ian Sumner. our local photographer hopes to bring us all into focus with his work in photography. You may like to buy his new festival book, please drop in for a look at some great photos. Feel free to bring your own photos.

Meeting at Pilton Village Hall. Tea, coffee and biscuits available visitors £2. A warm welcome awaits all at the Happy Circle club. Open to everybody over 55.



Pilton Village History Group

Advance date: April 13th “Dr. Claver Morris. The Extraordinary Life and Work of a Local Somerset Doctor in the Eighteenth Century”

Our next meeting is on Monday 9th March. 7.30pm Pilton Village Hall
Tom Bree will give us what promises to be a fascinating talk on...

‘John Michell, The Great Pyramid, Wells Cathedral and the Festival's Stage.’

This talk will focus upon a remarkable cosmological discovery envisioned by John Michell in around 1970. Its diagram - consisting of Earth and Moon - includes a particular type of triangle which forms the cross section of the Great Pyramid in Egypt. This discovery had a significant influence upon the design of Pilton's pyramid stage in 1971. The diagram also appears to have been knowingly used in the design of Wells Cathedral as well as the cathedrals in York and Southwell and even the 'Cosmati' Pavement in Westminster Abbey, recently used in the coronation of King Charles III.

Tom Bree has been involved in the practice and study of Sacred Geometry for over 25 years. He studied with the Master-Geometer Professor Keith Critchlow - a close friend of John Michell – at the Prince's Foundation (now the King's Foundation) between 2001-03 and has been teaching Sacred Geometry at the Foundation and elsewhere for the past 20 years. Between 2010 and 2022 Tom slowly researched the use of geometry and cosmology in the designs of English Gothic cathedrals with a particular focus upon Wells cathedral. His book **The Cosmos in Stone** will be available at the talk.

All Welcome. Visitors £4, Members free, Membership £20 for calendar year Refreshments.

Pilton Art Group

We meet every Thursday afternoon 2 to 4 pm in the Chapel Cafe Top Street. We pursue our own artistic talents plus the occasional group creative challenge. Group visits to art galleries are always a pleasure. Do come and visit and see if our group is for you. More info - Paula 01749 890323

Pilton Parish Council

As we are all aware there have been a number of situations recently in the village that have caused damage to property. The Parish Council would like to help set up a Neighbourhood watch groups in the village. If you are interested/want to find out more, please email Helen clerk@piltonparishcouncil.org

Also, on the same vein, we would be interested to understand who has CCTV or Ring type doorbells that could potentially assist the police in future enquires. If you are happy to share information with PPC and potential the police please let Helen know on the email above. All information will be held securely and only given to the police if there is a reportable offence committed

Pilton Flower Show Schedules

The Flower Show Team are hard at it already! We have already met several times, and are now pleased to let you know that paper copies of the schedule for Pilton Flower Show, to be held on September 5th 2026, will be available by early March as follows...

- A) Paper copies will be found at The New Room Coffee Shop, Pilton Co-op, The Crown and Pilton Stage Bar.
- b) Schedule can be printed off at www.piltonflowershow.org.uk

This should give the growers, crafters, jam-makers, photographers and youngsters plenty of time to plan what you're are going to enter in September. Let's have a bumper number of entries this year. Contact the Flower Show Team on piltonflowershow@gmail.com or 01749 890357 if you have any queries.

Perfect Curve Fitness & Dance Classes at Pilton Pavilion



Wednesday's Dance 4 Fun - 18.30 - 19.30pm

Thursday Pilates - 9.30 - 10.30am

For full weekly timetable and workshop information please email: sarahhenderson08@hotmail.co.uk

or visit our Facebook page

Pilton Duplicating Service

Pilton Duplicating Service was set up in 1982 with an unexpected profit from Pilton's Royal Wedding Celebrations!

It was, and still is, intended to provide a copying service more or less 'at cost' for villagers and village organisations.

Originally using a hand-operated Roneo machine with wax stencils, we have kept up with the times and our latest copier/scanner/ink-jet printer can handle up to A3 paper, and in colour. We hold stocks of A4 and A3 white paper, and many colours of A4 paper and thin card, or you can use your own paper if you wish... We can also do scanning up to A3, laminating, and photo printing (if just a very few).

Sample prices for 2026 are

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Contact - Chris King ck.pilton@gmail.com

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Village Voices Community Choir

Village Voices Community Choir is a friendly group who just enjoying singing! All abilities and ages are welcome. We meet weekly on a Tuesday evening, 7:30 - 9:00 pm at The Cafe Rooms in the Methodist Chapel, Top Street, Pilton BA4 4DG.

There's no charge for your first evening with us so you can "try before you buy" and it's only £5 per session after that. Our terms roughly fall in-line with the "School Calendar". Harvey Brink is our Music Director (Deputy Director of music at Wells Cathedral School), who brings the best out of us by simply making our choir sessions fun.

Do drop me an email if there is anything else you wish to ask or pop into one of our sessions. We look forward to meeting you. Shirley (Admin) villagevoices22@btinternet.com

The Crown Pilton

	Opening Hours	Food
Monday	Closed	
Tuesday	4pm – 10pm	
Wednesday	12 – 11pm	Fish and Chips 4 – 8pm Eat in or takeaway
Thurs – Sat	12 – 11pm	Lunch 12 – 2.30pm Dinner 5.30 – 9pm
Sunday	12 – 9pm	Roast Lunch 12 – 4pm

The Crown – March Events

- Tues 3rd Mar: 5.30-8.30pm – Taco Tuesday
- Wed 4th Mar: 5:00–9:00 PM – Fish & Chips Eat in or takeaway
7:00 PM – Have I Got Booze for You? Pilton’s very own quiz night, hosted by Reg £2 per person
- Thurs 5th Mar: 5:30–8:30 PM – Burger Night 2 burgers + 2 drinks for £35
- Tues 10th Mar: 5.30-8.30pm – Taco Tuesday
- Wed 11th Mar: 5:00–9:00 PM – Fish & Chips Eat in or takeaway
8:00 PM – folk night
- Thurs 12th Mar: 5:30–8:30 PM – Burger Night 2 burgers + 2 drinks for £35
- Fri 13th Mar: 6:00 PM – A Pound for the Sound. A celebration of alternative music culture
- Tues 3rd Mar: 5.30-8.30pm – Taco Tuesday
- Wed 18th Mar: 5:00–9:00 PM – Fish & Chips Eat in or takeaway
7:00 PM – Pilton Pop Quiz. Hosted by Quiz Master reg £2 per person
- Thurs 19th Mar: 5:30–8:30 PM – Burger Night 2 burgers + 2 drinks for £35
- Tues 3rd Mar: 5.30-8.30pm – Taco Tuesday
- Wed 25th Mar: 5:00–9:00 PM – Fish & Chips Eat in or takeaway
7:30 PM – Pilton’s Big Comedy Night Out
Tickets available on website
- Thurs 26th Mar: 5:30–8:30 PM – Burger Night 2 burgers + 2 drinks for £35
8:00 PM – Open Mic Night
- Fri 27th Mar: 6:00 PM – A Pound for the Sound A celebration of alternative music culture
- Tues 31st Mar: 5.30-8.30pm – Taco Tuesday

The Pilton Stage and Village Hall

The Pilton Stage is open Tuesday – Sunday serving a range of drinks

Tues – Thurs	6pm – 11pm
Friday	6pm – 10pm
Saturday	2pm – 11pm
Sunday	12pm – 6pm

Natcha's kitchen serves **Thai food** on both Thursdays and Fridays between 6.00pm and 8.30pm and **Sunday lunch** is from midday to 2.30pm. To reserve tables and to pre order please call 07706134132.

The Friday menu consists of 4 curries. The traditional green and red curry available either with Prawn, Chicken or Vegetable only. The Panang, which surprisingly, has proved to be the most popular curry so far. With a few different vegetables and a touch sweeter and less spicy than either the red or the green varieties. As well as a massaman curry, which is a very mild and coconut flavoured curry with big chunks of potato and chicken, similar to a coconut stew. Finally, we have recently started doing Crispy Duck Noodles which is a non-spicy option. With roasted then fried duck on a bed of egg noodles, pak choi and sauce. We also offer a variety of different starter options including spring rolls, gyoza, samosas, prawn crackers and fish cakes.

Thursday is noodle night. The idea being for one plate dishes that are tasty, wholesome and puts a smile on people's faces. All the dishes are £12 or less, so beats washing up on a cold miserable Thursday evening. Pad Thai is a particular favourite!

Sunday lunches has received great feedback. The only negative feedback to date is that the portions are too big and they didn't have room for a pudding. Options include topside of beef, Belly pork, Chicken or if you're feeling hungry a full trio! All available with all the trimmings.

For further information, events, dates & times please see our website thepiltonstage.com and Facebook @thepiltonpage and @thepiltonstage

Pilton Walks



Over the past 6 months between 15-25 people have walked regularly with Pilton Walks. We plan & lead local walks, once or twice a month, around the local area. Mud, stiles, kissing gates, cattle, sheep & the occasional deer are seen. We walk about 4 miles in 2 hours, stopping on route for a snack/drink. We have a Facebook page called Pilton Walks & a WhatsApp group for those who don't use FB.

Everyone is welcome to join & many of us bring our dogs. For further information please check the **Pilton Walks** Facebook page.

Co-op

We are extremely fortunate to have a Co-op, a brand which focuses on social responsibility in the village. This shop gives huge benefits to us as residents and the other local communities. Currently it is open from 8am -8pm every day and offers a good selection of groceries and household goods.

The shop also includes a Post Office with banking facilities, which is amazing for a village like ours. To survive the shop and Post Office need our support, so where it is practical a gesture goes out to you all, please use it don't lose it!

The Bush Nursery

The Bush Nursery, on the eastern edge of Pilton village, has proved care to young children for over 25 years. Set within owner Vivien Goode's house, a very 'home from home' atmosphere is prevalent, especially important as children are often here for long hours while their parents are at work. It's a privilege to nurture little people and they delight in having lots of outdoor space to explore and have contact with the animals (many are rescues) that live here. Families come here from Pilton and much further afield, and I now have the second generation here! As a property, The Bush has an interesting history, a few people may remember it as a pub many years ago. It's always nice for the children to learn about occupations, hobbies or ways of life- if anyone would like to come and chat briefly to us about what you do/your interests, then we will make you very welcome! Contact Vivien on 07506 873009

Writers Group with The Write Assistant

Every Tuesday 7pm - 9pm. Join us to write, chat with other writers, gain advice from me, a professional writer and socialise with a cup of tea!

Please contact Nicola on 07955744331 or thewriteassistant.co.uk for more details and the sign up form! £10 ticket includes free tea, coffee and biscuits.

Please pre-book so I know how many biscuits to buy! You can pre-book up until the day of the event.

Pilton Table Tennis Players

Established in 2023, Pilton Table Tennis Club meets in the sports pavilion at the Playing Fields on Monday evenings.

Welcoming all abilities, we play a mix of doubles and singles across the evening, between 5.15pm and 9pm, in an easy going, friendly atmosphere.

We are hoping to welcome more players and maybe a volunteer or two to help with opening and closing up. To find out more, you can message or call Thom (07375 625 256) or Chris (07967 754530) or email piltontt@gmail.com

Or just turn up on a Monday after 5.15pm! Weekly subs are £5, and your first session is free. Loaner bats are available.

Table tennis is a lovely way to keep fit and have fun. We hope to see you there.

March Poem

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.
William Wordsworth

March Quote

You can't go back and change the beginning but you can start where you are and change the ending.

C.S. Lewis

NORTH WOOTTON

WHAT'S ON IN NORTH WOOTTON

Village Events:

- Quiz Night: The 3rd Tuesday of Every Month at the Crossways Hotel, 7pm start, £2 pp on the night. All Welcome.

Crossways Inn 2026 Restaurant Specials:

- Monday Thai Curry Night £12.00
 - Tuesday Pie Night £15.00 (4 different choices)
 - Wednesday Nepalese Night £18.00
 - Thursday Curry Night £12.00
 - Friday Steak Night £18.00
 - Saturday Bottomless Brunch £35.00 – 12:30pm – 3:00pm
- Reservations Recommended enquiries@thecrossways.co.uk 01749 899 000

AROUND AND ABOUT

CarmenCo – Breathe Music

Sunday 8th Mar 2026 - Alhampton Tabernacle

Two Performances: 4pm and 6pm

Passionate Arias and fiery Instrumentals. Don't miss an opportunity to see this internationally acclaimed Trio perform music from their new show 'My My My Delilah' which will be touring the South West as a full theatre production from October 2026 onwards.

As the trio behind "A Pocket Opera", CarmenCo (mezzo/flute and two guitars) are known for both their outstanding musicianship and for their originality - finding new, unique and entertaining ways to present classical music: They often incorporate movement, dance and storyline into their concerts, and vary instrumentation from solo guitar through to voice/flute and two guitars, making their concerts and shows as unique and colourful as the players in the

"The most ASTONISHING performance we have EVER staged" - Aberdeen Music Society

What's On in Shepton Mallet

Every Friday

Weekly Friday Market

Art Bank Cafe - Shepton Mallet

Live music: Raphael Weinroth-Browne + Hannah Moule 15th March 6.45pm

Let's Buy the Amulet present internationally renowned cellist and composer Raphael Weinroth-Browne who is redefining the cello with his signature blend of metal and Middle Eastern music influences. Plus, cellist and singer Hannah Moule, the main songwriter from UK Art Rock innovators Moulettes. Tickets from £9 via takeart.org/whats-on or in person from the Art Bank.

Shepton Sunday Market, 29th March 10am – 3pm

Somerset's best Sunday day out brings together a fabulous, curated mix of local traders. We have local producers, street food, vintage & antiques, designer-makers, homewares and fashion, alongside kids' fun entertainment and live music & DJs.

Easter Egg Hunt

Join Shepton Mallet Town Council and Collett Park Cafe at Collett Park on the 4th April, 11am – 2pm, for a fun-filled day of Easter Activities!

-  Free Easter Egg hunt around the park
-  Lamb and other animal petting
-  Bring your own Easter bonnet and join the Easter Bonnet Parade with prizes to be won (13:30)
-  Face painting
-  Free Crafts with prizes to be won

Special Event: Prince George and Master Frederick

Discover the remarkable story behind Prince George and Master Frederick at a Special One-Off Talk in Shepton Mallet, Somerset

Locals and history enthusiasts are warmly invited to an illuminating evening of historical storytelling at St Peter & St Paul's Church in Shepton Mallet with author Rosalind Freeborn on Thursday 19 March 2026, from 7.00pm (doors) with the talk beginning at 7.30pm.

Presented in collaboration between Shepton Mallet Area History Group and the Parish Church of St. Peter & St. Paul, the event will explore the extraordinary and little-known story of Frederick William Blomberg, the secret eldest son of King George III, and his lifelong friendship with his half-brother Prince George, later the Prince Regent and King George IV.

Inspired by family connections, and drawing on years of research, Rosalind Freeborn will reveal how Frederick was raised within the royal household at Richmond and Kew, educated at Cambridge University, ordained, and went on to serve as Rector of St Peter & St Paul's Church in Shepton Mallet — a role that connects this remarkable historical figure directly with the local community.

- Tickets: Pre-book via Eventbrite (booking fee applies): <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/special-event-prince-george-and-master-frederick-tickets-1981528692661> or Pay-on-arrival @ £5, subject to availability.
- Plus: Refreshments will be available for a donation

The evening promises an engaging blend of local heritage, royal history, and narrative insight — offering residents and visitors alike a fresh perspective on the historic bonds between a Somerset parish and the British monarchy. Attendees will be transported back to the 18th century, discovering how these two figures shaped one another's lives, and how Frederick's legacy lives on in the very community church hosting this event.

For more information:

Email: info@sheptonmallethistory.co.uk |

Web: <https://www.sheptonmallethistory.co.uk/> | <http://www.sheptonbenefice.org/> | www.rosalind-freeborn.com

Strawberry Line Volunteer

The Strawberry line is a traffic free path from the Mendips to the Sea following the route of the old Strawberry Line railway.

Would you like to find out more about how you can help us? Different groups of volunteers work on different days on different sections of the line. You can become a member of our society or find out all about volunteering on our website <https://www.thestrawberryline.org.uk>

We are a really friendly group and would welcome any help you could offer.

West Pennard Church of England Primary School

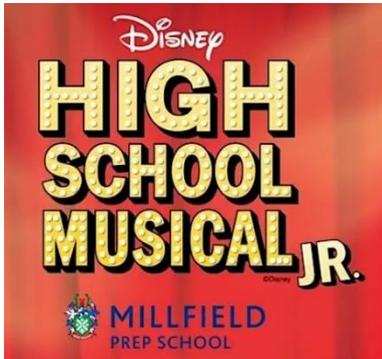


We were out and about in February, enhancing learning with visitors in and visits to places in our local area and beyond. We had a number of PSHE workshops led by SCARF in early February, exploring themes such as 'feelings', 'friends', 'decisions', 'my wonderful body', 'meet the brain' and 'it's good to be me' with the children. It was a great opportunity for the children to understand themselves and others better and to learn what makes them tick. The following week, we built upon this learning with Maths and Art Week which we organised to coincide with Mental Health Awareness Week. The children had a great time linking Maths to Art and expressing themselves in a more creative way with our Pixels to Paint themed week. They explored how grids, numbers, and codes underpin both digital and traditional art. They moved from digital pixels to paint, collage, and sculpture, discovering fractions, area, and patternmaking along the way.



Year 2 visited Tropiquaria in Watchett in order to support their learning about rainforests and rainforest animals. They were able to see snakes, chameleons and spiders that are native to the places that they have been studying, and

even got to hold some of them. We are hoping that there were no extra passengers on the bus home!!!!



A selection of Year 5 and 6 children visited Wells Cathedral for a sound and science workshop. They explored the WOOFYT (Wooden One-Octave Organ for Young Technologists), exploring the physics of pumps, valves and air pressure, and collaborating with each other to perform music on this unique, custom-built instrument. We have a lot of musical opportunities coming up later this term, including participation in the Highbridge Music and Arts Festival, supporting our status as one of the lead schools in Music in Somerset. Later that week our Year 4 children visited Millfield to watch their production of High School Musical. Huge thanks to the Cathedral and Millfield for providing such a unique and memorable experience!

Year 6 got on their bikes in February, learning about road safety and how to look after their bikes with our Bikeability course. Thanks so much to the Bikeability team and to Mrs Smith for accompanying the children.

We look forward to next month and our book week, which will include a visit by renowned author, Tracey Corderoy. As always, we are thankful to the Wells Festival of Literature and others in the community for making this happen for the children and also for all of the above enriching experiences. It is the relationships that we have and build that make our community a place in which all can thrive.

Best Wishes, Tony Wheat, Headteacher

Parishes of Pilton, Croscombe, and North Wootton

Priest-in-charge	Revd James Sharp	07448 681 499 revjamessharp@gmail.com
Reader	Susan Green	01749 890524
PILTON PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST		
Churchwardens	Mr Paul Warry	01749 890434
	Mrs Wendy Bower	07967 663 993
PCC Treasurer	Mr Paul Warry	01749 890434
PCC Secretary	Mrs Jayne Sims	01749 890350
PILTON METHODIST CHURCH		
Minister	Rev Andrew Prout	16 Acacia Drive, Frome BA11 2TS 01373 301092 andrew.prout@methodist.org.uk
Chapel Stewards	Gordon Taylor	07388 123824
	Mrs Deborah Towner	01749 342614
Secretary	Mrs Deborah Towner	01749 342614
Steward	Fiona Case	01749 899125
CROSCOMBE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN		
www.stmaryscroscombechurch.org		
Churchwarden PCC Treasurer	Mr Terry McCarthy	01749 345139
PCC Secretary	Mrs Janet Dowding	01749 330725
CROSCOMBE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH		
Pastor	Jeremy Tremeer	07956 627233
Elder	Mr Simon Hawkins	07958 656705
Treasurer	Ms Yolán Search	01749 34285
NORTH WOOTTON PARISH CHURCH OF ST PETER		
Churchwardens	Christine Raphael	01749 890310
	Mr Alistair Bovey	01749 707017
PCC Treasurer	Mr Jeffrey Macklin	01749 890210
PCC Secretary	Elizabeth Lester	01749 899559
Editor, North Wootton News	Mr Steve Ruddock	01749 890045

REVD JAMES SHARP - INTRODUCING MYSELF

Andi and I are moving up from Bournemouth, where we have lived for over twenty years, raising our three children Connor (age thirty, lives in London, marrying Emmie in June), Brook (age 28 lives near Radstock, got married to Mollie two weeks ago) and Maddy (age twenty-five, lives in Brighton), and being a foster family for much of that time.

Andi has been running her own business by the sea – Alexander Lodge B&B – for the last few years. We love living on the coast, but at the same time are really looking forward to going back to rural life having been townies for years! I love football, films, music and cooking and am partial to the occasional Single Malt or Bourbon when pressed. Over the last eighteen years I have worked in Chaplaincy, Parish and Pioneer ministry and am particularly interested in the intersection between church and local community. The Church of England has, mostly rightly, taken a bit of a bashing in recent years. Yet on the ground locally, we still have such astonishing opportunities to serve, love and bring the peace and good news of the gospel.

I lost my dad just before Christmas, and my mum now lives (in the house they built by hand sixty-five years ago) in a small farming village on her own, so I am personally aware of how vulnerable some are in rural areas when not close to essential services. The role of local churches in providing community, support and practical help is essential – thank you SO much for all you do in this regard, and for keeping the wheels turning during both vacancies.

What we are currently referring to as the emerging Fosse Mendip Benefice is a large area so I will need you to point me in the right direction from time to time, both figuratively and literally. And for those who enjoy hospitality, please consider asking a couple of neighbours over and inviting Andi and me to join. We look forward to meeting many of you over the next few months

James

Edward Moore of Croscombe

Eddie was a devoted father to his four children - Carl, Gray, Danielle, and Kelvin - a proud grandfather and a loving great-grandfather. Family meant everything to him. He was born on 29th April, 1932, in Preston, Lancashire but moved to Harrow in London for the wartime years. Like many boys, Eddie had a sense of adventure and cycled with friends to explore bomb sites during the Blitz: excitement and freedom despite the dangers around them.

At just 14 years old, he left school and became an apprentice plumber. He cycled up to 20 miles a day, tools strapped to the back of his bike - a sign, even then, of his determination and work ethic. At 18, he began National Service and later volunteered to go to Korea serving as a military policeman. He eventually spoke openly about his experiences there, some horrific, some deeply heartfelt, years that left a lasting impression on him and shaped him into the man he was disciplined, resilient, never giving up, but also someone who understood that life is fragile, precious, and meant to be lived fully.

Returning home, Eddie met Joyce, the love of his life, and began a partnership lasting an extraordinary 67 years. He was a devoted husband, caring for Joyce lovingly until her death in 2021. They lived with his mother until they made their first home in Hemel Hempstead. With 14 other men, he took part in a remarkable self-build project, constructing 16 houses over three years, all in their spare time.

After working at Kodak, Eddie felt the pull of another adventure, moving his growing family to Somerset, and renovating an old farmhouse: roofing, painting, building, fixing. He built and ran a boarding kennels business, kept chickens, goats, ducks, and geese, and filled the place with animals and children. He was always busy, always building, always caring. He ran his own plumbing and central heating business, serving people with skill, honesty, and pride in his work, with a strong sense of discipline and physical strength. He was a black belt in judo.

Eddie and Joyce moved to sunny Spain, where Eddie continued working as a plumber and finally settled in Croscombe where he continued plumbing for the local community until the age of 80. He was kind, jokey, loving, caring, approachable, and always a true gentleman at heart. He had a gift for making people feel at ease, and his life touched many hearts. He was respected, admired, and deeply loved. Edward Moore was a remarkable man - hardworking, adventurous, devoted, and full of life. He will be deeply missed but never forgotten. His legacy lives on in his family, in the people he helped and loved, and in the many lives made better simply by knowing him.

BIBLE READINGS

1 st March	Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17	John 3: 1-17
8 th March	Romans 5: 1-11	John 4: 5-42
15 th March	Exodus 2: 1-10	Luke 2: 33-35
22 nd March	Romans 8: 6-11	John 11: 1-45
29 th March		Matthew 21: 1-11

CHANGES IN SERVICE PATTERNS

There are some changes in the service patterns at the Parish Churches so do make sure that you check first.

We hope there will be services in each church on most Sundays and some will be lay led. *The Churchwardens*

SUNDAY 1st MARCH 10.30am at St Mary Magdalene Church, Ditcheat
First Service of Revd James Sharp
Followed by a Bring-and-Share Lunch

8th March 11.00am First service of Revd James Sharp
at St Mary's Church, Croscombe

22nd March 11.00am First service of Revd James Sharp
at St Peter's Church, North Wootton

5th April 11.15am First service of Revd James Sharp
at St John the Baptist's Church, Pilton

DATES FOR COMPLINE ON ZOOM

on the following Sunday evenings:

1st March

22nd March

If you would like further details about joining in this simple evening service, please contact rector.pcnd@gmail.com

PUZZLING QUESTIONS will meet on March 3rd at 2.30pm in The New Room Coffee Shop at Pilton Methodist Church. Everyone is very welcome to join this informal Discussion Group.

ABOUT PEOPLE

We are sad to report the death of **Roy Thorne** of Dinder.

We send our loving sympathy to his family and close friends.

ONLINE SERVICES

A weekly service with hymns and a sermon is available from the Church of England website.

Please Google: CofE online services,

Click on weekly service. There is no need to sign up.

Scroll down and click on the picture for the service.

PILTON METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES

Chapel Services begin at 10.30am.

PARISH CHURCH SERVICES

MARCH 2026

1st March 10.30am	Lent 2 Benefice Holy Communion (Revd James Sharp)	Crocombe
8th March 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Lent 3 Holy Communion Holy Communion Morning Service	Pilton Crocombe North Wootton
15th March 10.30am 11.00am	Lent 4 Mothering Sunday PCWT Service at the Methodist Church Mothering Sunday Service	Pilton North Wootton
22nd March 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Lent 5 Morning Service Holy Communion Holy Communion (Revd James Sharp)	Pilton Crocombe North Wootton
29th March 10.30am	Palm Sunday Benefice Service for Palm Sunday	Alhampton
Holy Week 30th, 31st March and 1st April		
2nd April 7.00pm	Maundy Thursday Benefice Holy Communion	Crocombe
3rd April 12.00pm	Good Friday Good Friday Service	North Wootton
5th April 11.15am	Easter Day Holy Communion	Pilton