

THE FARTHINGHOE CHRONICLE



Village news, notices and events....

USEFUL CONTACTS

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Mr Ricky Emms
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Community Police Officers

101

Doctors

Brackley Medical Centre
01280 702436 ·
Springfield Surgery
01280 703431

Hospitals

The Horton
01295 275500

Vets

Croft - 01280 703451
Mansion Hill
01295 712110
Taylor Vets
Brackley - 01280 474796
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Rector

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Chronicle Editor

Lynne Lee
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EDITORS WELCOME

**Loveliest of trees the cherry now,
Is hung with bloom along the bough,
And stands about the woodland ride
Wearing white for Eastertide.
A.E. Housman.**

April is a month of freshness and awakening. As the clocks shift and evenings lengthen; Spring makes its way into our lives. It doesn't arrive with speed, doesn't need to be rushed, it seeps in. Lawns become greener, hedgerows thicken with new leaf growth, and along with primroses and wild violets, Bees return, with purpose and energy. The birdsong becomes more assured and confident, and nature gently finds its feet.

April is notable for many events. Firstly, April Fool's Day. I'm sure we can all recall playing jokes on parents and teachers. At about eleven I remember sneaking into the Art Room with a group of cohorts and eating a bowl of fruit intended for a still life study during our lesson. We left the cores and peelings neatly stacked in the bowl and scarpered before the Art Master could discover us. He wasn't happy, but we did own up and each got, I think, 500 lines. In France April 1st is known as Le Jour du Poisson (The Day of the Fish). Like us the French play practical jokes on each other. I recall a local Farmer sending out a message his bull had escaped and we were all to stay indoors. We did – we all knew the Bull was huge and aggressive. A couple of hours later Farmer Pierre appeared leading his bull along the tracks; laughing and wearing a silly hat (The Farmer – not the Bull!). French humour is very different to that of the English!

April often coincides with Easter; an important religious festival that combines sadness with joy. Pagan traditions go back to ancient Egypt with eggs seen as symbols of fertility. In Christianity the custom of Easter eggs can be traced to the early Christians of Mesopotamia, who stained the eggs with red dye to represent the blood of Christ shed during his crucifixion. Eggs were seen as a symbol of new life following the resurrection. In more recent times the practice of making gifts of chocolate eggs has prevailed. They first appeared at the court of Louis XIV in Versailles; and in 1720 the widow Giambore in Turin produced chocolate eggs by filling egg shells with molten chocolate. In 1873 J.S Fry & co manufactured the first chocolate eggs in England and in 1875 Cadbury created the Easter Eggs that we know and love today.

April 23rd is St. George's Day, and Shakespeare's Birthday. Sadly, there are not many celebrations nowadays for our patron saint, but in Stratford upon Avon the Bard's birthday is truly feted. Shakespeare's exact birthdate is unknown but he was born in April 1564 and christened on April 26th following the custom of baptizing children soon after birth. He died on April 23rd 1616 and scholars latterly decided to make that date his birthday. It is a wonderful occasion and well worth a visit. There is a procession to Holy Trinity church where he is buried; and everyone is welcome to go into the church and lay posies on his tomb. Actors from the Royal Shakespeare Company give readings from his works; and there will be a cake around which all will stand to sing Happy Birthday William. It is a joyful day which I have often enjoyed.

There is much to offer in April. Savour the blossoms, the wildflowers, the birdsong and the emerging Hedgehogs. (Who would be grateful for a few cat biscuits – never fish flavoured - and a shallow bowl of water) Above all – enjoy your Easter Eggs. Happy April!

Lynne



Copied below is my email to the Leader of west Northants Council

Attention of Cllr Arnall-Leader of West Northants Council

Dear Cllr Arnall,

As a resident and Council Tax payer of West Northamptonshire Council this week I received a copy of a booklet with my Council Tax renewal details. A scanned copy of the front cover of that booklet is attached to this mail.

As a resident of West Northamptonshire I find the ideals mentioned in paragraphs 2 and 3 to be most welcome. However, my experience as a Parish Councillor for 12 years does not allow me to read those ideals in the same light. The green shoots of those ideals have not even appeared from the soil and as such the paragraphs appear to me more as a Public Relations pipedream. Our Ward Councillors and the Portfolio Holder for Highways would be able to corroborate my experiences.

I hasten to add that my mail is not politically driven because I could have written the same mail 4 years ago, 3 years ago or 2 years ago, it relates to the ability or will of your officers to respond to important issues, be it directly or via Councillors. Communication can only be described as dreadful and if WNC were a business in the public domain it could not succeed. 40 years we have waited for a solution to our severe traffic problems and 5 years we have waited for a solution to a drainage problem on our dangerous pinch point and as communication goes we might as well not exist.

Sorry to be so blunt but someone needs to be more aware of the realities of day-to-day experiences and to get a grip. I can assure you that other Parish Councils in South Northants feel the same way because many of us often share our experiences.

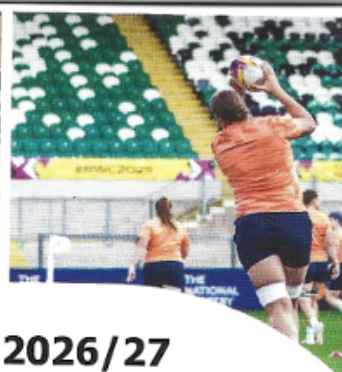
Regards

PS I invite you to come to Farthinghoe and see the current mess at our pinch point for yourself which adds to the danger which already exists.

PPS Cllr Butler's efforts, which go well beyond what we had been accustomed to from the previous Portfolio holder, are much appreciated but he is not being supported

Mick Morris
3 The Old Rickyard

Manor Lane
Farthinghoe
Northants, NN13 5XT



West
Northamptonshire
Council

2026/27

A fresh approach to delivering services

Having taken office in May, I wanted to take this opportunity to reflect on an extraordinary period of change, progress, and renewed connection across West Northamptonshire.

A strong focus for our new administration has been on working more closely with residents and local partners, as we shape a council that is more open, engaged, and responsive.

We have placed real emphasis on speaking directly with you, our residents, and listening carefully to the issues that matter to you most. Strengthening this relationship has been incredibly rewarding and valuable, helping us rebuild trust as well as ensuring that local voices genuinely shape our work.

We have also shared some remarkable moments as a community. A particular highlight was our role in hosting matches for the Women's Rugby World Cup during August and September.

This was a wonderful chance to showcase our area internationally, and it was uplifting to see so many people celebrating women's sport.

It was also pleasing to see so many of you join us for big events in Northampton's Market Square, with Northamptonshire Day and, later, our ice rink proving a hit for visitors as well as local businesses.

I'm proud of the foundations we've built over the past ten months, and as we enter the new financial year, our focus is on deepening community connections, driving key projects forward, and ensuring West Northants remains a great place to live, work, and visit.

Cllr Mark Arnall
Leader, West Northamptonshire Council



VILLAGE NOTICES

CHURCH NOTICES.

Coffee, Cake and Chat

Will take place on Friday, April 10th from 10 – 11am in the Church Vestry. There will be a Raffle. Hope to see you there!

Church Cleaning

On Tuesday, April 14th from 8.30am. New helpers always welcome!

GENERAL

THE FOX AUNT SALLY TEAM

Looking forward towards the start of the Aunt Sally season in the Spring we will be needing some extra players. If you have played before and would like to join the FOX team, or if you have never played but would like to give it try, please contact me for more details.

Sid Atkins

Tel. 07799 505095

USED STAMPS

Thank you to everyone who collected their used stamps for Katherine House Hospice. They were very grateful. I will continue to collect used stamps, and if you do have a I'm more than happy to collect from anyone in the village; or do feel free to drop them off at 6, Seven Sisters Close.

Many Thanks

Jane Atkins

CHILDRENS PLAY PARK

It has been necessary to temporarily close the Play Park due to some large branches coming down off an adjacent tree into the play area. The tree now needs to be checked to ensure that it is safe. In the meantime, the 'No Entry' notices will remain on the gates even though some people have ignored them.

CHARITY BOXING MATCH FOR THE LEWY BODY SOCIETY

Hey fellow Farthinghoe'ers

I'm stepping into the ring on Saturday 11th April for a charity boxing match in which I will be raising money for the Lewy Body Society - sadly this disease took my dad from us.

Watching someone you love go through this is something I wouldn't wish on anyone, it's a cruel illness that affects not just the person, but the whole family, and I'm doing this to help raise awareness and support for other families going through this disease.

If you're able to spare a couple of pounds via the QR code Givestar below that would genuinely mean the world to me and go towards helping people affected by this disease.

Also, if you or someone close to you is being assessed for Lewy Body Dementia (LBD) then please don't hesitate to reach out to me at Stuartlewis_1@hotmail.com. I know how tough it can be, and I'd be more than happy to share my experience or just be there for a chat.

I will do an update note in next month's chronicle to let you know how much we collectively raised.

<https://givestar.io/gs/ultra-white-collar-boxing-fundraising-24257>

Thank you so much for your support.

Stuart Lewis



VILLAGE HALL

BOOKS & BAKES – FRIDAY APRIL 24th - 3.00 - 4.30

Come and join our ever-growing group for tea/coffee & cake, lots of catch-up gossip and enjoy the books in our Library. We will also be holding the 150 Club draw during the afternoon.

CHARITY CONCERT – SATURDAY 11TH APRIL – “A NIGHT AT THE MUSICALS”

A Charity function in aid of the British Forces Federation organised by TPB who do a lot of work with this charity by providing entertainment for Forces personnel and their families both in this country and abroad, so well worth supporting.

If you haven't already got tickets get in touch with Marjorie either by email or phone see below. There will be a bottle bar (cash or card) and nibbles available

**Tickets £15 available via email – bookings@farthinghoevillagehall.org
Or tel. – 07900 590808**

BRACKLEY CHAMBER MUSIC CLUB – CONCERT 25TH APRIL

This very enthusiastic and accomplished group of musicians are returning to the Village Hall for the fourth year. See poster and further information about the programme on the following pages.

JAZZ IN THE VILLAGE – SUNDAY 26TH JULY

We are in the early stages of arrangements for this evening with a Jazz Duo from Scotland who are touring the country. It looks like being a very entertaining evening so make a note in your diary and further details will be published in next month's Chronicle.

REGULAR CLASSES:

Baby Massage	Wednesday 10am - 11am
Ballet -	Monday 5.30pm - 6.30pm & Saturday 9.00am - 1.00pm
Martial Arts -	Sunday 11.30am - 1.30pm
Pilates -	Tuesday 6.30pm - 7.30pm & Friday 9.30am - 10.30am
U3A -	Spanish 1st & 3rd Thursdays 2.00pm - 4.00pm
	Spanish for beginners 1st & 3rd Fridays 2.00pm - 4.00pm
Yoga -	Sunday 10.00am - 11.00am

Booking Farthinghoe Village Hall

The Hall is available for residents of the village to hire at a special rate of £5 an hour for parties and events (other than Weddings). Parties for Children up to 13 years old are at the same rate.

The large, flexible space and its facilities can hold up to 99 people, with chairs and tables and a stage. There is a fully equipped kitchen and access and toilet for anyone with a disability. There is also a bar with glasses provided. (If you want to sell alcohol you will need to apply for a TENS licence, which the Chair of the VH Committee will need to see). There is also plenty of parking and a nice, grassy, outside area surrounded by the countryside. We also have a marquee for you to hire at an extra fee to use in this area.

Have a look at our website www.farthinghoevillagehall.org

We have just redecorated and will shortly be purchasing new tables and chairs. If you wish to enquire about booking the hall or would like to see it in person then either join us at Books and Bakes, which is held on the last Friday afternoon of the month (There is also then access to our library to browse, borrow or take books from) or contact our Booking Secretary on

bookings@farthinghoevillagehall.org or tel. 07900 590808

150 CLUB - MARCH DRAW WINNERS

1st Prize - £25 - No. 86 – Marjorie Morris

2nd Prize - £15 - No. 12 – Sowjana Vellore

3rd Prize - £10 - No.107 – Margaret George



TPB PRODUCTIONS
For every stage
WWW.TPBPRODUCTIONS.CO.UK

A NIGHT AT THE MUSICALS

Farthinghoe Village Hall
Saturday 11th April
Doors open 7pm - Start 7.30pm
Tickets - £15 - Includes Nibbles

To book tickets: bookings@farthinghoevillagehall.org - Call: 07900 590808

Westend to Broadway and beyond

Night At The Musicals

Join us for an unforgettable evening of music, celebration, and community spirit as we present **A Night At The Musicals** — a spectacular concert featuring some of the most iconic songs from the world of musical theatre and film.

From the bright lights of London's West End to the magic of Broadway and beyond, this uplifting performance will take audiences on a journey through classic favourites and modern showstoppers. Expect powerful ballads, rousing ensemble numbers, and beloved hits from some of the greatest musicals and movie soundtracks of all time.

But this evening is about more than just incredible music. All proceeds from the concert will be proudly supporting The British Forces Foundation — a charity dedicated to boosting morale for UK servicemen and women and supporting their families both at home and overseas. Through live entertainment and community engagement, the foundation brings moments of joy and connection to those who serve our country and the communities that stand behind them.

 Tickets: £15 per person. (includes a plate of delicious nibbles to enjoy during the interval of the performance).



A bar will be available for refreshments throughout the evening.



Charity Raffle: Take part in our raffle for the chance to win fantastic prizes while further supporting this wonderful cause.

Whether you're a lifelong musical theatre lover or simply looking for a fantastic night out in support of a meaningful charity, Night At The Musicals promises soaring vocals, heart-warming performances, and an atmosphere filled with generosity and joy.

Come along, sing along, and help us make a difference — one show tune at a time. 

Brackley Chamber Music Club
proudly presents 'Pologonia'...

Chamber Music Masterworks

from the radiant wit of
Beethoven, to the drama and humour of
Shostakovich and the dramatic depth of
Mozart, tracing a rich arc of expression across three
masterworks...

Sat 25th April 2026
7:30pm

Beethoven

Horn Sextet

Shostakovich

String Quartet No. 1

Mozart

String Quintet in G minor

Helen Newing - Horn

Bob Powell - Horn

Doug Abrams - Violin

Claire Hedges - Violin

David Barker - Viola

Rhian Frankcom - Viola

Chris Seddon - Cello



Farthinghoe Village Hall, NN13 5PD

15% Discount Special Offer; Early Bird tickets (on sale until 4th April)

Admission: £12 Early Bird: £9

Under 16s free entry

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/bcmc/2092042>

Profits from this concert will go to: **Farthinghoe Primary School** Charity number: 1085971

Brackley Chamber Music Club – Concert 25th April

We love coming to Farthinghoe, for the warm welcome of locals who support us, as well as the beautiful acoustics of the Village Hall, which is a privilege to play in. We welcome you to an intimate evening of chamber music, which can feel like stepping inside the composer's imagination - where wit, drama, vulnerability, and brilliance unfold at arm's length. This concert brings together three masterworks spanning more than a century of musical history, pairing Classical elegance, Romantic warmth, and 20th-century humour and angst in a program of striking contrast and deep emotional resonance. You also get a glass of wine and nibbles thrown in at the interval for free!

Programme

We begin with Beethoven's Horn Sextet in E-flat major, Op. 81b - a delightful gem in the chamber repertoire. The pairing of two horns and a string quartet creates a sonority that is noble and playful, evoking the outdoor serenade tradition while showcasing Beethoven's unmistakable inventiveness in his early classical phase.

There follows the String Quartet No.1 in C major, Op. 49 by Dmitri Shostakovich. Written in 1938, this offers a fascinating glimpse into the composer's world at a precarious time in his life. Having recently endured political criticism in Stalinist Russia, Shostakovich turned to the intimacy of the string quartet, which would become his most personal and profound form of expression.

The program concludes with the String Quintet No. 3 in G minor, K. 516 by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. His quintets - scored for two violins, two violas, and cello - represent the pinnacle of his chamber writing, and the G minor Quintet stands among his most emotionally complex creations. G minor, a key Mozart reserved for moments of heightened drama, frames a work of intensity and expressive breadth.

This informal concert invites you not only to hear great music, but to experience it from within - to witness the spark between players, the subtle exchange of motifs, the collective shaping of sound. It is an evening of contrast and connection, brilliance and depth – a journey through three master composers at the height of their powers. If you been to a concert like this before, be brave and give it a go! All profits go to the Farthinghoe School Charity.

Tickets available on the following website :

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/bcmc/2092042>

Rector's Ramblings

Quite suddenly the other day Spring happened. Whether this will continue, or if it is just a blip, is anyone's guess. Lambs are gambolling in the fields, and the shepherds who have been taking such care over bringing them into the world and keeping them here look ready to drop. In my garden the blossom - always much more cautious than the daffodils, which will resurrect and flower at the slightest opportunity- is beginning to appear. There are even buds forming on the Wisteria I planted the other year, which has brought to an end the active and contested speculation over whether it had survived the winter.

Throughout Lent groups of us have been meeting for Bible Study following the Book of Jonah, Lent Groups looking at the story of Holy Week, and for Stations of the Cross, marking the journey of Christ from trial to tomb. It has been interesting to see ourselves and our world reflected back in quite recognisable form. The Prophet Jonah who rails against a God who does not understand that His job is to do some proper smiting of the right people; and who cannot bare the fact that a merciful God might love Jonah's enemies as well.

The world that surrounded Christ's death is also quite recognisable in aspects. War, weakness, betrayal, hatred, misplaced loyalty or devotion, injustice, mobs, far from perfect religious leaders, and those in power washing their hands of responsibility. Certainly, I have heard a great deal from many sources about calamity and iniquity both locally and globally. It seems that from Jonah to Christ to us, the rhythm of our vices has not altered.

However. The miracle of Easter does not lie in the sin of man. Yes, the world is fallen, we are capable of evil, we all sin and fall short. Whether you have faith or not these statements are unlikely to surprise you. The miracle of Easter is that we are redeemed. It does not wipe away the past or what we have done - the scars remain- but it shows us that, although we are fallen, we may rise. Easter is the resurrection, not only then, or after death, but within us today. Like new birth, or creation which is always growing and flowering anew, but which is most chiefly visible when the hard winter begins to thaw and, suddenly, we find we are living in Spring.

George Frost

Holy Week

SERVICES

Monday 30 th March	9.30am—Communion—Hinton-in-the-Hedges 9pm—Compline—Farthinghoe
Tuesday 31 st March	9.30am—Communion—Croughton 9pm—Compline—Aynho
Wednesday 1 st April	9.30am—Communion—Farthinghoe 9pm—Compline—Croughton
Maundy Thursday 2 nd April	7.30pm—Agape Meal—Evenley 9pm—Compline—Evenley
Good Friday 3 rd April	11am—Passion Story—Evenley 2pm—Hour Before the Cross— Hinton-in-the -Hedges 2pm—Good Friday Liturgy— Aynho 9pm—Compline—Hinton-in-the-Hedges

All Welcome!

Easter Day

5.30am

Dawn Service—Farthinghoe

Aynho	11am—Communion
Croughton	10am—Communion
Evenley	9.15am—Communion
Farthinghoe	9.15am—Communion
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	11am—Communion

All Welcome!

BYGONE DAYS

April and Easter normally coincide and we all have memories of childhood Easters. For me, living in a city there were no Easter Egg Hunts, but I do recall being given chocolate eggs, and toy fluffy chicks and Easter Bunnies from my parents, aunts and uncles and grandparents. The temptation to eat all of the eggs at once was soon halted by my mother's stern warning that if I made myself sick "you can jolly well clear it up yourself". It worked.

It was also a time when new dresses and short white socks appeared in my wardrobe, once the winter had ended, and summer uniforms had to be worn when returning to school after the Easter holidays.

How was Easter celebrated in Farthinghoe decades ago I asked myself? It appears that in the early years of the twentieth century certain people took turns in presenting the village children with hot cross buns, oranges and Easter eggs on Good Fridays. Residents remembered Mrs. Rush giving them buns, and Mr. and Mrs. Castle giving them buns and eggs; and others recall going to Miss Cave's house in Queen Street to receive a bun and an orange.

In April 1977 Farthinghoe School celebrated its centenary. The school received a framed message of congratulation from Her Majesty the Queen who was at the same time celebrating her Silver Jubilee. A Centenary Pageant was staged in the old Village Hall with all of the children taking part; and an exhibition displaying various items through the decades was received enthusiastically. The children were urged to participate in Old Time Sports including bobbing for apples and shinning up a greasy pole, which for some reason they all seemed to enjoy!

But the hi-light of the festivities was the Grand Concert held in the Village Hall on Saturday April 30th. The programme began with music by the village's young violinists, then the singing of popular songs by Mrs. C. Payne. However, the hit of the evening was 'An Unusual Recitation' when an elegantly gowned young lady strolled the length of the Hall to the tune of 'The Stripper' and removed her garments one by one on the stage in semi-darkness, until finally her luxuriant wig was removed to reveal the cropped head of Andrew Deeley! Might this be repeated at future Village Hall events?

It's clear that Farthinghoe has always known how to make merry and have fun. Long may it continue!

Ed.

LOCAL EVENTS DURING APRIL.

Wednesday 1st April - Brackley History Society.

Brackley Methodist Church.

Talk by Oxford historian Liz Woolley.

" Felicia Keane, Oxford writer, prison reformer and friend to the poor".

£3 to non-members. 7-30pm

Friday 10th April & Friday 8th May - Brackley Bite Street.

Egerton Hall. from 5pm

Food, drinks and music.

Sunday 12th April 3pm - Brackley Band Spring Concert:

St. Peter's Church

An afternoon of uplifting music.

Tuesday 21st April 8pm - Evenley Village Hall.

Talk by Philip Arbury. " Lawns and Flower Meadows"

Members £3 Visitors £4. Cash only.

Raffle and refreshments.

Chatty Cafes in Brackley.

Every Tuesday, 3pm- 5pm - The Crown Hotel.

Every Thursday 6-30pm onwards - The Paisley Pear.

Tea, coffee and chat.

**Garden hosts needed for 2026–27**

Does your garden fill with snowdrops in late winter, burst into colour with spring daffodils, or shine at another time of year? Katharine House Hospice is looking for garden owners to take part in Open Gardens during 2026–27. Gardens can open at any time of year, either individually or as part of a village trail, helping to raise vital funds for local patients and their families. The fundraising team will support you every step of the way, with guidance and resources to help make your event a success. To find out more or register your interest visit:

www.khh.org.uk/gardens

Take on a challenge in 2026

Looking for a new challenge this year? Katharine House has a fantastic programme of events for 2026, from local favourites to once-in-a-lifetime experiences. Get involved in the Banbury Triathlon, the Oxford Half Marathon, a 13,000ft skydive, or take on the unforgettable night-time Snowdon trek, finishing with a sunrise at the summit. For something truly special, Katharine House is also offering an exclusive trek along a remote section of the Great Wall of China. Whatever your goal, you'll be supported every step of the way while raising vital funds for Katharine House Hospice. Find out more at: www.khh.org.uk/events

Volunteering opportunities

If you're looking to do something meaningful in 2026, Katharine House Hospice has a range of rewarding volunteering opportunities. Living Well is seeking a [volunteer complementary therapist](#) on Monday mornings (10am–12 noon) to offer hand or foot massage, helping patients relax and feel supported. We also need [weekend front reception](#) and [weekend ward reception volunteers](#) to welcome visitors, offer a friendly face and help with the small things that make a big difference. This role is flexible and can fit around your life. Find out more at:

www.khh.org.uk/volunteer-opportunities

Monthly email newsletter – keep up to date with your local hospice

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

Emma Wilberforce

Marketing & Communications Manager

Emma.wilberforce@khh.org.uk

Sunday Service Planner for the Astwick Vale Benefice April-May 2026									
	5 th April Easter	12 th April Low Sunday	19 th April 3rd Sunday of Easter	26 th April 4th Sunday of Easter	3 rd May 5th Sunday of Easter	10 th May Rogation Sunday	17 th May 7th Sunday of Easter	24 th May Pentecost	17 th May Trinity Sunday
Aynho	11am Communion	10am Morning Worship	10.30am Benefice Communion All villages invited to join together at Croughton	9.15am Communion	11am Communion	10am Morning Worship	10.30am Benefice Communion All villages invited to join together at Evenley	9.15am Communion	10.30am Benefice Communion All villages invited to join together at Hinton-in-the-Hedges
Croughton	10.30am Communion	11am Communion		11am Morning Prayer	9.15am Morning Prayer	11am Communion		11am Morning Prayer	
Evenley	9.15am Communion	9.15am Communion	5.30pm Evensong St. George	5.30pm Evensong St. George	11am Morning Prayer	9.15am Communion	5.30pm Evensong Croughton	5.30pm Evensong	
Farthinghoe	9.15am Communion	5.30pm Evening Prayer		9.15am Morning Prayer	9.15am Communion	5.30pm Evening Prayer		9.15am Morning Prayer	
Hinton-in-the-Hedges with Steane	11am Communion	11am Morning Prayer	6pm STEANE Evensong	11am Pet Blessing	6pm STEANE Evensong	11am Morning Prayer		11am Communion	

