

THE FARTHINGHOE CHRONICLE



Village news, notices and events....

USEFUL CONTACTS

West Northants Councillor

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Chairman to the Parish Council

Mick Morris
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Website

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Village Hall Bookings

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07951 755171
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01295 710491

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Mr Ricky Emms
01295 710406

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
Middleton - 01295 233555

Rector

Office@astwickvalebenefice.org
Phone - Benefice Administrator
- 01280 702861

WNC Planning Department

WNC Planning Department
Phone - 0300 126 7000
planning@westnorthants.gov.uk

The Fox Inn

01295 713965

Chronicle Editor

Lynne Lee
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EDITOR'S WELCOME

A shaded lamp and a waving blind,
 And the beat of a clock from a distant floor:
 On this scene enter – winged, horned and spined -
 A longlegs, a moth and a dumbledore;
 While 'mid my page there idly stands
 A sleepy fly, that rubs its hands.....
 An August Midnight - Thomas Hardy 1899.

Hello everyone, we have reached high Summer - and August heralds the approaching change of the seasons as the nights gradually draw in. As Hardy indicates; in August we notice all of the Moths and other insects scuttling and fluttering about at night in the warm Summer air; along with numerous flying insects that are drawn to our lamps. However, our gardens are still in full bloom to enjoy and relax in, and for many people it is a time to go on holiday before the schools re-open in September.

The period for the closing festivities of the Summer. There are many traditions associated with August. The Royal National Eisteddfod takes place in Wales and can be traced back to 1176 when the first one was held. The Priddy Sheep Fair is held in Somerset in mid-August, and in Bath one can visit the Roman Baths by torchlight. In many Derbyshire towns and villages the art of well dressing is demonstrated; and in some areas of Northumbria the Feast Day of St. Oswald is still celebrated. St. Oswald was a Northumbrian Warrior King and a champion of Christianity, who was killed in 642AD at Maserfield near Hexam, in a battle against Penda King of Mercia. Thus, August is a month filled with traditions both ancient and extant.

In our old home in Normandy August was always busy, notwithstanding that most French families go on holiday at that time. The Farmers would come to bale the grass that they had previously cut on the Marais (Marshland) facing our home. We loved to watch as the Storks followed the tractors, knowing that the small mammals on which they fed would be exposed as the grass was hurled around. It was also the time for getting in and storing the logs. Logs are more precious than gold to the Normans, they are fiercely protective of their woodpiles, and woe betide anyone who might dare to venture near in the hope of stealing a few logs. Additionally, our neighbours advised us to take care around our woodpile as often the Vipers (Adders) would hide themselves in there, so we had to be careful with our dogs and cats. Our Farmer friend Pierre would arrive with his tractor towing a trailer full of logs. Payment was always in cash followed by a glass (or three) of red wine and a good chat in our kitchen. Then we had to stack the logs in the wood store. Back breaking work but ok as long as the heavens didn't open as they sometimes did. Nevertheless, it was always a congenial and neighbourly afternoon.

Here in England there will be Summer Fetes, Open Gardens to visit and all manner of Festivals locally and further afield. There is much to relish before the Summer is over. Whatever you are planning during August I hope that you'll be able to relax and have fun.

Lynne.



ROAD CLOSURE

As many of you will already know there will be a planned road closure on the A422 from from Monday 3rd August to September 6th. The closure will stretch from the Chapel Lane junction to New Road junction but will not restrict movements of residents within the village.

Farthinghoe Parish Council would like to thank all who signed the petition demanding to see the prepared traffic management plan which eliminates a repeat of all previous Traffic Closure nightmares and this has been forwarded to West Northants. Council.

You will have received a leaflet through the door from the Council with contact details, including an out of hours emergency phone no. should you experience any problems during this period.

A422 Farthinghoe Closure - 500 Bus service – 03 Aug 2026 to 08 Sep 2026

During the road closure at Farthinghoe the 500 Stagecoach service will be on a diversion route. It will serve Farthinghoe at the Almhouse stops **IN BOTH DIRECTIONS**.

We will be unable to serve bus stops at Washle Drive and New Inn in Middleton Cheney during this closure. We wish to apologise for any inconvenience caused.
Stagecoach Update issued 29 Jul 2026

PLAY PARK

The toddler swings will be back in place and usable on Saturday 1st August.

Mick Morris
mick@farthinghoeparishcouncil.gov.uk

VILLAGE NOTICES

CHURCH NOTICES.

Church Cleaning

Will take place on Tuesday, August 11th from 8.30am.
New helpers always welcome!

Coffee, Cake & Chat

On Friday, August 14th from 10 – 11am in the Church Vestry.
There will be a Raffle.
Hope to see you there!

Communion

There are training sessions for serving at the Altar taking place in the Benefice. An opportunity to learn more about what happens at the Altar during Communion, how to serve at the Altar, and how to receive Communion. It is informal, friendly, a chance to ask questions and learn. Open to anyone who might wish to begin serving at the altar, those who have been doing it for years, or who are just interested in learning more about this Sacrament at the heart of our faith.:



WANTED

Musical Director to help refound the Parish Choir at All Saints church Croughton.

A great opportunity to help people of all ages come together to sing.

We are looking for someone to lead a choir for 2-3 services a month, with rehearsals, and rest periods guaranteed. In return, we can offer the support of our Parish Organist and Administrator, RSCM standard rate of pay or above, and an enthusiastic congregation in one of England's 1000 Best Churches.

This role can be tailored for the right candidate.

To know more, please contact the Rector, The Reverend George Frost

Telephone: 01869 810 903 : e-mail: rev@gfrost.name



All Saints' church
Croughton, Northamptonshire



GENERAL NOTICES

FARTHINGHOE SCHOOL

The school are pleased to report that when the new term commences in September they will have increased the number of pupils to 29 – double the number during the last year. This is really good news and we congratulate them on their efforts in attaining this.

LITTER PICK

We began the village litter pick at the start of July. I would like to thank Jenny Phipps, Joan Mildren, Jane Atkinson and Vivienne Fox for accompanying me on the first two expeditions around the village. Between us we managed to collect a substantial amount of litter. I would also like to thank Mick Morris for the delivery of four more 'pickers' which will be very useful on subsequent outings.

It has been decided that we shall go out every six weeks to do the Litter Pick. Unless it's pouring with rain, or very hot, we shall meet outside The Fox at 10.00am on a Monday morning. The next date will be Monday August 17th.

If you would like to help keep Farthinghoe clean and tidy please contact me. It isn't obligatory to come along every time, just when you have a little time to spare.

Lynne

GARAGE/TABLE TOP SALE 2026

The Events Team are delighted to announce that following the success of last year's Garage Sale, there will be another one from 1pm to 4pm on SUNDAY 27th SEPTEMBER. There is the option to have a table top sale at the village hall rather than outside your house if you prefer.

Charge for each sale is only £5 which will be donated to the church. Tea and cake will be available at the village hall from 2pm.

If you would like to join in, please contact:

Becky: 07774940229 or

Wendy: wendy.gainford@gmail.com

Can you state whether you want a space at the village hall or outside your house. Please give at least a week's notice if you decide to cancel your sale as a minimum number of 14 sales are required to make it worthwhile. Thank you.

VILLAGE HALL

BOOKS & BAKES – FRIDAY 28th AUGUST - 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.

CHILDRENS SHOW – SUNDAY 30TH AUGUST

The Panto Bus Company are bringing a children's show to the Village Hall on the above date. It will be a matinee starting at 2pm with tickets at £5 each and under 2's free (see poster on the following page). Whatever your age and whether or not you have children come along anyway for what will be a very entertaining afternoon.

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

Yoga -

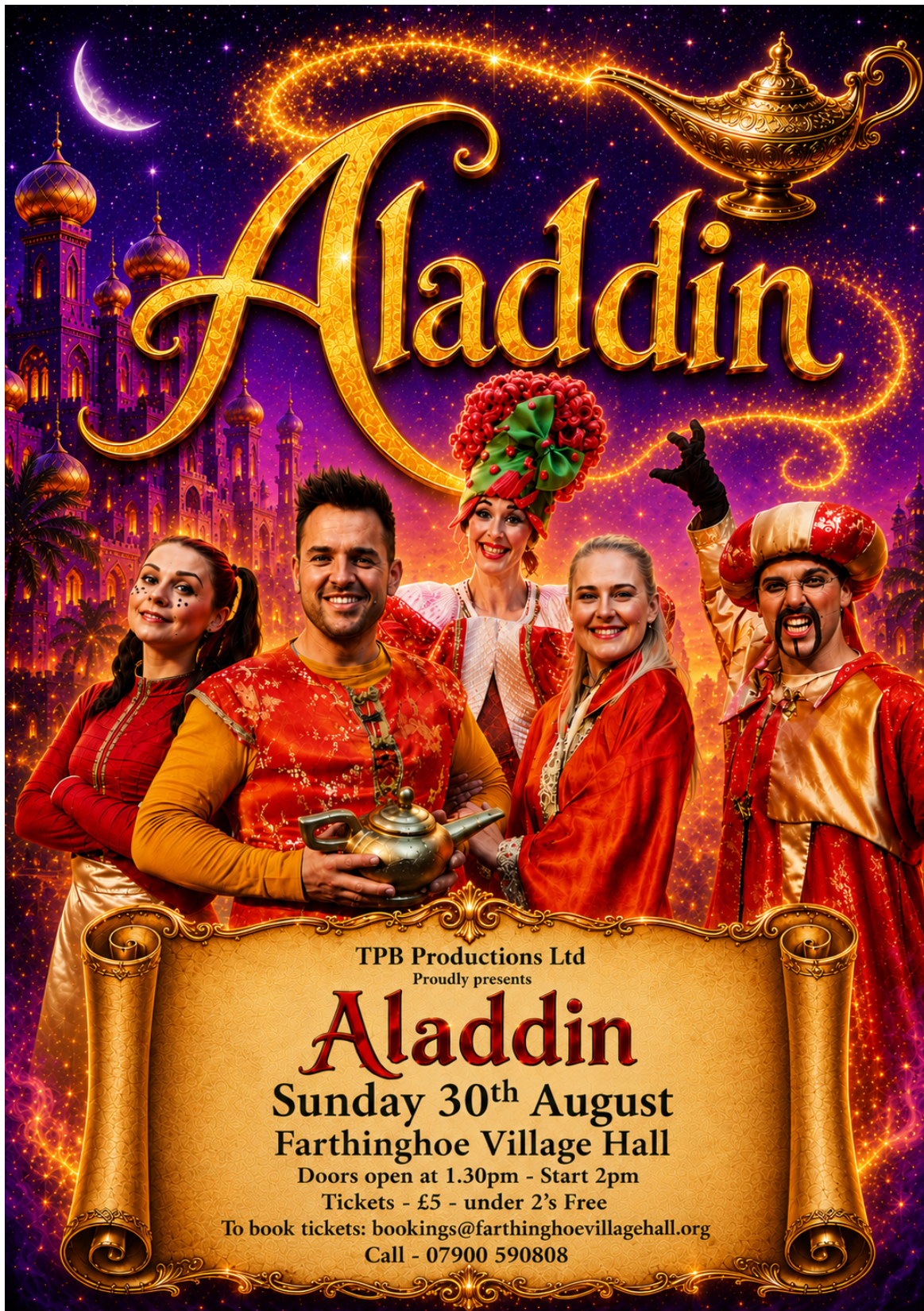
Spanish for Beginners 1st & 3rd Fridays 2.00pm - 4.00pm
Sunday 10.00am – 11.00am

150 CLUB - JULY DRAW WINNERS

1st Prize - £25 - No. 154 – John Lee

2nd Prize - £15 - No. 111 – Andrew Deeley

3rd Prize - £10 – No. 35 – Ivy Hollingworth-Baylis

A vibrant poster for the musical Aladdin. The title 'Aladdin' is written in large, ornate, golden Arabic script. Above the title is a glowing magic lamp with a trail of sparks. The background features a night sky with a crescent moon, stars, and a glowing city with domes. In the foreground, five cast members are shown: Jasmine, Aladdin, the Genie, and two other characters. The Genie is on the right, wearing a red and gold turban and robe, with one arm raised. Aladdin is in the center, holding the magic lamp. The other characters are dressed in traditional Middle Eastern attire. The bottom of the poster has a golden scroll containing the production details.

TPB Productions Ltd
Proudly presents

Aladdin

Sunday 30th August
Farthinghoe Village Hall
Doors open at 1.30pm - Start 2pm
Tickets - £5 - under 2's Free
To book tickets: bookings@farthinghoevillagehall.org
Call - 07900 590808

As I write, I have just returned from the family farm. My Grandfather is back home, and continues, despite dementia, to keep up work around the farm. Today I found him engaged in the endless job of sweeping up the dusty earth that comes with the warmer weather. It is not a job that I, personally, would bother with. But together we managed to leave the track by the orchard clean as a whistle. We also found a penknife I had gifted him that had been missing for a decade. Wiped clean it is as good as new. Seeing Granddad engaged in the endless task of sweeping the ground clean, I was reminded of the phrase from Remembrance, 'all valiant dust that builds on dust'.

It is common in scripture to speak of the ultimately passing things of the world as dust, but I think not enough attention is paid in that sentence to the term 'valiant'; which speaks to the enduring human spirit that ever strives and builds, even if only -ultimately-with dust. But today, at the orchard, three things struck me. None new, but worth repeating. The ground sweeps down to the pond, and all the fields I could see had turned brown. The only exceptions are the trees. Trees put down deep roots, which allows them to endure dry weather in a way other plants cannot. Jeremiah speaks of faith like a tree planted by a river, which can thrive in the good, and is rooted enough in the water of faith to put forth green shoots in the drought. (Jeremiah17:7-8)

For years in the orchard there was an apple tree whose trunk had snapped, and it had fallen across the ground. However, it remained alive and continued to fruit as it lay there. A few years ago the tree was cut down to a stump to clear the ground and prevent it rotting. Out of the stump a fresh and straight shoot is now growing. The tree is preparing to stand up again. Seeing this suddenly made sense of the passages of scripture where there is reference to a tree going wrong, so it would be cut back to the root to allow it to grow properly -a metaphor for life, where sometimes a bad path must be abandoned to begin on the right one anew. I understood the meaning, but now I have seen it in action.

Finally. As I remembered watering a Pear tree one dry summer, in the hope that it might survive to begin producing something, I was put in mind of Luke13:6-9. Where the owner wants to remove a tree that has never grown any fruit as a waste of good space. The Gardener asks for a year to get it to fruit, where he will give extra care, and dig round it and manure the ground. A parable to speak of the love of God even for those of us who have produced little in love, action, or faith; whereby this dearth of return causes God to invest even more. A reminder that whilst we may not feel it, God can be at work in our lives to do great things and show great care. That, even when it feels - like the tree - that we are merely encircled by manure, God is moving.

George Frost

BYGONE DAYS

As we puff and pant our way through the current heatwave trying to conserve water; I thought it might be interesting to see how Farthinghoe managed such difficulties in times past.

The early Parish Council minutes tell of the basic needs of a water supply and the removal of waste, but in a manner that we would not recognise today. It appears that a parish pump was the main source of water, but it needed repair quite frequently. Some villagers had wells in their gardens, but the parish pump supplied most homes. Several elderly residents maintained that the water quality was pure and good to drink, this was tested occasionally by inspectors who reported it as being “satisfactory”.

In 1911 it seems that there was a drought, which brought about a council discussion on how to relieve pressure upon the pump. Way back in 1884 there had been allegations that water was being wasted in Farthinghoe, but when the main village supply was opened; after a day of heavy use it was said that it contained 3,888 gallons of water?? Thus showing that there was no fear of the supply running out. In 1929 Councillor E.G George said that the place in Farthinghoe believed to be the source of the Great Ouse had dried up. There were worries that that at least half of the springs in the village would be dry by October, but the Chairman insisted that the village pump had never failed even in the driest of summers and that there was water everywhere in Farthinghoe.

In the 1930s Mrs. Rush laid on water for the village in stand-pipes; a boon for many cottagers as they no longer had to fetch their water from the pump. Many years later in 1976 (I remember it well), there was a threat that stand-pipes would once more be needed and some villagers must have regretted the closing of the traditional wells during a previous decade.

By 1941 the village had piped water and the Parish Council requested that the supply should be connected to the school and to the council houses. In 1943, a failure of supply elicited the suggestion that an additional tank on top of the original one might help. In 1949 the Parish Council was assured that an ‘adequate’ scheme for all twenty-six districts of the Rural District Council had been prepared and was being put out for tender. Apparently, it materialised fairly speedily and brought about the end of a lengthy saga regarding Farthinghoe’s water supply.

Looking at this nearly eighty years later made me realise anew how fortunate we are to be able to turn on our taps; to have sufficient water for most of our needs, even in a heatwave like the one we have been experiencing. The stoic villagers of yesteryear would undoubtedly have appreciated the changes of the modern world; that I, and I imagine most of us, have always taken for granted.

Ed.

LOCAL EVENTS DURING AUGUST

Chatty Cafes in Brackley.

Every Monday 2pm -4pm Esquires Cafe, Juno Crescent.
Every Tuesday 3pm -5pm The Crown Hotel, Market Place.
Every Thursday 6-30pm onwards Paisley Pear, Northampton Rd.

Veterans Breakfast Club - Paisley Pear - From 9-30am
First Saturday of the month. Breakfast, banter and friendship
Open to all veterans and serving personnel.
Brackley.chair@rbl.community for further information

Wednesday 5th August - Brackley Town Park.

Teddy Bear Picnic in the Park - 10am-2pm.

Bring your favourite Teddy and a picnic.
Admission Free.

Wednesday 5th August - Brackley Methodist Church.

Brackley History Society Talk - 7-30pm

"Mary Queen of Scots- Betrayal of a Sovereign".
Members Free. Visitors £3.
Contact: Karen Gees: 01280 702837

Friday August 7th /Saturday August 8th - The Mill Banbury

"Dear Zoo". Children's Classic book - Live on Stage.
Further info. Online.

Friday August 14th - Brackley Bite Club - Egerton Hall.

Music and Street Food.

Sunday August 16th - Brackley Town Park.

Brackley Classic Car Show - From 11am.
A Display of Vehicles to raise funds for the Mayor's Charities.

Sunday 16th August - Banbury Market Place.

Banbury Food and Drink Festival. 10-30 am4-30pm
Entry Free. Live Music and a wide selection of food and drink

Sunday 30th August - Evenley Village Green

Village Fete and Fun Dog Show - 12pm -4pm.
Traditional Fete with a Vegetable & Craft Show
Food Vans, Tombola, Music and entertainment.



Free sport and activities on offer at roadshows

Children, young people and families are invited to get active this summer as our free Sports Roadshow tours West Northamptonshire.

Younger children can get involved in creative craft sessions, while families can also enjoy inflatables, games and interactive activities suitable for all ages.

The free events will run from 1pm to 5pm at the following location

:

- **Brackley – Wednesday 19 August, Town Centre Park**



COMEDY CLUB

FARTHINGHOE

Saturday 10th October

Follow us on





Carey Marx
"International
Multi-Award
Winner"

Andrew Bird
"Comic's Comic
Winner"

Jake Lambert
"Michael MacIntyre
Tour Support"

DOOR 7pm SHOW 8pm
TICKETS £20
www.lonewolfcomedy.co.uk
Cockley Rd Farthinghoe Brackley NN13 5PD
Line Up Subject To Change



POSTMAN GARY'S RETIREMENT

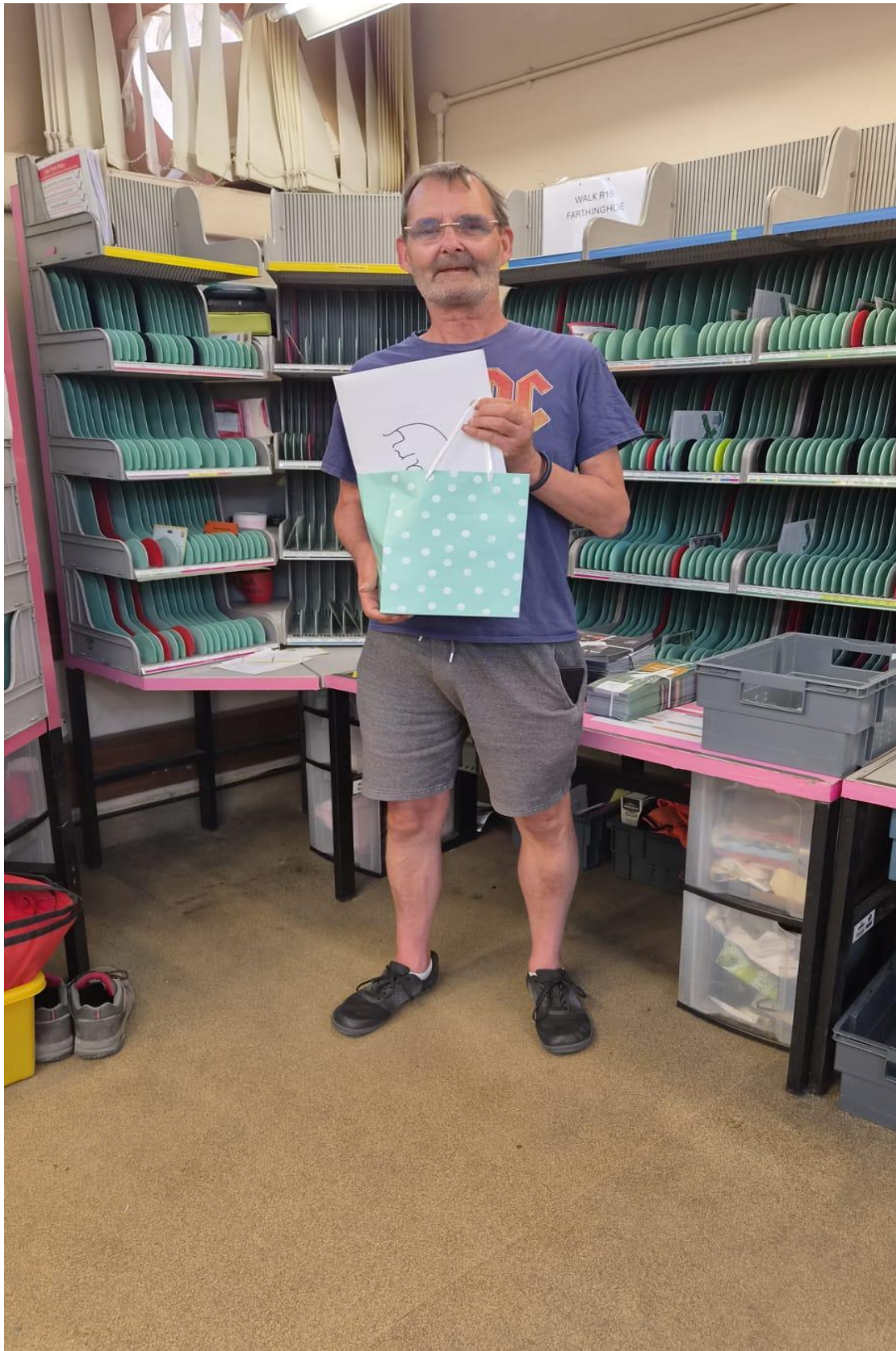
Thank you to everyone who signed Gary's card and for your kind and generous donations. You related some very touching stories about him and it's clear that he was very well respected and trusted.

I am delighted to say that between the residents and businesses of Farthinghoe and Steane, we collected over seven pages of signatures and raised the grand total of just over £635. A small amount of this was used to purchase a glass coaster of Farthinghoe as a token gift, and the remainder was given to him on Friday 31st July at Brackley Sorting Office to spend as he wishes.

Special thank-you must go to Pippa, Wendy and Alan for their help with the collections and I would also like to offer my sincerest thanks to you all for your kindness towards us when we knocked on your doors.

With very best wishes
Rebecca Wilde





Sunday Service Planner for the Astwick Vale Benefice August-September 2026									
	2 nd August 9th after Trinity	9 th August 10th after Trinity	16 th August 11th after Trinity	23 rd August 12th after Trinity	30 th August Beheading of John the Baptist	6 th September 14th after Trinity	13 th September 15th after Trinity	20 th September St. Matthew the Apostle	27 th September Michaelmas 29th
Aynho	11am Communion	10am Morning Worship	10.30am Benefice Communion All villages invited to join together at	9.15am Communion	10.30am Benefice Communion All villages invited to join together at	11am Communion	10am Morning Worship	10.30am Benefice Communion All villages invited to join together at	10.30am Communion
Croughton	9.15am Morning Prayer	11am Communion		11am Morning Prayer		3.00pm Songs of Praise	11am Morning Prayer	9.15am Communion	Farthinghoe
Evenley	11am Morning Prayer	9.15am Communion	5.30pm Evensong at Croughton	5.30pm Evensong	All villages invited to join together at	11am Morning Prayer	5.30pm Evening Prayer	6.00pm Evensong/ HARVEST	
Farthinghoe	9.15am Communion	5.30pm Evening Prayer		9.15am Morning Prayer		11am Morning Prayer	9.15am Communion		11am Morning Prayer
Hinton-in-the-Hedges with Steane	6pm Evensong Steane Chapel	11am Morning Prayer	Croughton	11am Communion		6pm Evensong Steane Chapel	11am Morning Prayer		