

CRANHAM VILLAGE MAGAZINE

With Cranham Parish and Benefice News and Information

February '25



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**Any views and opinions expressed in the Cranham Magazine
are attributable only to the individual contributors.**

Advertisements in this magazine do not imply recommendation.

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A Letter from The Clergy - 'BIG 5' ACTION AREAS FOR 2025



Back in 2024 our churchwardens and I initiated a conversation with our benefice churches using a 'Big Ask' questionnaire, because we wanted our congregations to have their say about church life in the benefice, and to test the direction of the past few years. In doing so, the plan is that we can all move forward together.

Some initial findings are summarised here:

- * 97% feel welcome when visiting their church
- * 78% would highly recommend their church
- * 90% say they have someone they could get help and support from within the church
- * We are a narrow cross section compared to wider community:
69% are over 70 years old, 74% are female, therefore
- * We need to grow the number of children & their adults, and men in our congregations!

Having reviewed the results of our survey the next step is for us to develop some specific ways in which we can build God's kingdom in our benefice through prayer, discernment and action in the following five areas:

WELCOME: connection, pastoral care and fellowship – To include building connections and relationships with communities through eg baptisms, weddings and funerals

WORSHIP: Variety in worship to continue – To cater to varied views expressed and to reach 'new' people

DILIGENT DISCIPLESHIP: encourage & practice! Especially increased prayer, fellowship, service and homegroups. Linked to this is our fourth target area -

OUTREACH: continue, and initiate! Continue to build relationships with children and their adults (eg family services, toddler groups, Sherlock Suppers and parenting courses). Initiate men's outreach – pub gatherings, curry nights and Saturday breakfasts are already being planned for this year!

FINANCE & FACILITIES: explore together – Giving, fundraising, stewardship, generosity. We noted the particular goals of Cranham and Painswick congregations to improve existing facilities (including loos, importantly).

Continued on page 5

Worship in Cranham - February 2025

(LR = Lay Reader)

Sunday 2nd 11.00am Benefice Communion, Pitchcombe Revd. Paul & Sue H LR

4.00pm Christingle **Rev. Helen**

Sidesman Nicole Wotherspoon
Readers Nicole Wotherspoon
Ian Wotherspoon

Sunday 9th 11.00am Holy Communion **Rev. David & Mike C**

Sidesman Mark Crowther
Readers Clive Hayden
Nicki Clapton

Sunday 16th 6.30pm Evensong BCP **Sue H & Rosa**

Sidesman Julie Berry
Readers John Bentley
Joy Bentley

Sunday 23rd 11.00am Morning Worship **Mike C LR**

Sidesman Roger Moore
Readers Roger Moore
Linda de Cossart

Mid-week February Services in the Benefice

Mon 3rd	8.30am	Sheepscombe	Earlybird Prayer	Karen R
Tue 4th	9.00am	Painswick	Morning Prayer	Revd Sarah
Wed 5th	11.30am	Richmond	Holy Communion	Revd's Sarah & Mary
Mon 10th	9.30am	Edge	Morning Prayer	Ann Kennett
Tues 11th	9.00am	Painswick	Morning Prayer	Revd Sarah
Wed 12th	12noon	Painswick	Holy Communion	Revd's Sarah & Mary
Wed 12th	7.00 pm	Painswick	Prayer & Praise	Revd Paul K
Tues 18th	9.00am	Painswick	Morning Prayer	Lindsay
Wed 19th	11.00am	Resthaven	Holy Communion	Revd Sarah & Mary
Tues 25th	9.00am	Painswick	Morning Prayer	Revd Sarah

Zoom services

@ 9.00am on Feb 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th @ 9.30am on Feb 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th.

Please see page 6 for other Benefice Service's

Church Flowers

2nd & 9th Feb Marcia Lynall
16th, 23rd Feb & 2nd Mar Nicole, Deb C-S & Gillian Smith
No Flowers during lent 5th March to 17th April



Church Cleaning

1st Feb Nicky Overs
8th Feb Vics Soutar
15th Feb Lesley Hodges
22nd Feb Sylvia Ardron
1st Mar Sue Stick



Refreshments will be served after the following services:

2nd Feb 4.00pm Christingle Service
9th Feb 11.00am Holy Communion
23rd Feb 11.00am Morning Worship



A Letter from The Clergy - 'BIG 5' ACTION AREAS FOR 2025

We have one further question as we start 2025: WHAT DO YOU THINK?
Please write to me and let me know how you think your local church can
continue to grow and serve the parish here for years to come.

Wishing you peace and every blessing in the year ahead,

Revd Sarah
beaconrector@gmail.com

Fix my Street

website to report potholes and fly tipping etc

<https://www.fixmystreet.com>

Benefice Services - February 2025

Sunday 2nd February - 5th Sunday before Lent

11.00am	Painswick	Benefice Communion	Revd. Sarah & Ch'wardens
4.00pm	Cranham	Christingle Service	Revd. Helen

Sunday 9th February - 4th Sunday before Lent

9.30am	Edge with Harescombe	Morning Worship	Sue H
9.30	Pitchcombe	Holy Communion	Revd. Sarah + Rosa
11.00am	Painswick	Family Worship	Vics + Revd Sarah
11.00am	Cranham	Holy Communion	Revd. David + Mike

Sunday 16th February - 3rd Sunday before Lent

9.30 am	Harescombe with Edge	Holy Communion	Revd. Helen & Rosa
11.00am	Sheepscombe	Morning Worship	Mike
11.00am	Painswick	Holy Communion	Revd. Sarah
6.30pm	Cranham	Evensong (BCP)	Sue H & Rosa

23rd February - 2nd Sunday before Lent

9.30am	Pitchcombe	Holy Communion (BCP)	Revd. Helen & Rosa
11.00am	Sheepscombe	Holy Communion	Revd. David
11.00am	Painswick	Beacon Praise	Mike C
11.00am	Cranham	Morning Worship	Revd. Sarah

For more detailed information about Cranham services please see page 4

Cranham Parish Council website

lots of info including the minutes of meetings

<https://cranhampc.org.uk/>

www.beaconbenefice.org.uk

Christingle Service

Cranham Church

Sunday 2nd February at 4pm



We will create our Christingles together and celebrate God's love for the world.

Everyone is Welcome!

The service will last around 45 minutes and is planned with families and children in mind.

There will be a cash collection in aid of the Children's Society.

Refreshments served afterwards.

You may ask 'why have the Christingle service in February?' Although often associated with Christmas there is no set time for a Christingle service. February 2nd is the church's Feast of Candlemas, when traditionally all the candles for use in the coming year were blessed, so with the lovely candles of our Christingles it seems a perfect time. And as December gets so busy with other events we hope it can be a lovely celebration during those grey, dull days of early February.

VILLAGE email - cranhammail@gmail.com

Cranhammail is for all village announcements, such as forthcoming social events, society meetings, planned



Extracts from The Messenger – February 2025

Celebrating grandparents and grandchildren this month with Faithful Generations

"I deeply believe that the precious relationships between grandparents and grandchildren have profound and lasting effects. My grandma had (and still has long after her death) a huge influence on my faith. I know that she prayed for me every day of my life, and the faith that she modelled was inspirational," Kate Stacey, Diocesan Collaborative Ministry Lead: Lifelong Learning.



The chance to form, nurture and celebrate the deep connection between grandparents and grandchildren is at the heart of Faithful Generations. We have two free events taking place, a fun day on 1 February at Gloucester Cathedral, and a workshop led by Becky Sedgewick, author of 'Grandparenting for Faith' on 11th February where you can think more deeply.

Faithful Generations offers countless opportunities to engage with your grandchildren and surrogate grandchildren, and with faith in ways that are creative and personal.

Learn about DJ-ing with your teenager, find out how your four-year-old would represent you as a gingerbread person, and have you ever thought about how the children in your life view God?

The activities taking place at our Faithful Generations event on 1 February at Gloucester Cathedral create sacred moments and encourage connections that are meaningful and memorable; decorating doves as symbols of gratitude, exploring the beauty of stained glass through crafts inspired by your favourite Bible stories, or strolling through Gloucester Cathedral's cloisters hunting for shapes and colours with the littlest members of the family.

Imagine your teenage grandchild leading you onto a dance floor during an interactive worship session, or visiting a prayer station together, where they can express their own prayers and concerns. These moments mean you can step into each other's worlds, make lasting memories and feeling the presence of God along the way.

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There is also an 'Uneven Song', a fresh take on the traditional Evensong service, blended with dance, interactive songs, and a display of candles and doves. This is led by Bishop Rachel who invites us to join her as she reflects on this time of year and its significance for our lives.

There are so many activities to choose from. See our full schedule at <https://gloucester.anglican.org/event/faithful-generations-event/>.

On 11th February, Becky Sedgwick leads a workshop on the unique role of grandparents in nurturing supportive relationships with younger generations. Whether you are grandparents by family or by the role you play in churches, schools, or communities, the workshop shows us how supportive, close relationships between generations can influence faith formation.

It is important to take time for gratitude, reflected with a shared lunch and prayer after the workshop, and to honour yourself and others who play a guiding role in the lives of younger generations.

Find out more, and hear from Becky herself, at <https://gloucester.anglican.org/event/faithful-generations-workshop/>.

Jo Wetherall, Senior Children and Families Connector, explained the vision behind Faithful Generations: "Faithful generations came about in a number of ways, all of which contributed to recognising that we need to pay attention to the role of people of grandparent generation and inspire, equip and resource them in sharing faith."

"Often people in parishes tell us they have no contact with children, meaning there are no children present on Sunday morning, and we are quick to point out that many people have contact with children in other ways, for example Open the Book teams, toddler groups and their own grandchildren, godchildren, nieces, nephews etc."

"When we talk about Growing Faith at home Bishop Rachel frequently refers to grandparents and their role in sharing faith."

"The events are all aimed at enabling people to have conversations about faith which feel normal, are not super spiritualised, but recognise the presence of God in everyday life. We are also realistic in that, for some people, sharing faith in their families is problematic. We want to acknowledge this and support them."

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For all the details and to book your space, visit <https://gloucester.anglican.org/2024/youre-invited-to-faithful-generations-events-in-february/>.

Lent 2025 – Living Hope

The Church of England's Lent theme for 2025 is *Living Hope*. An initial overview of the campaign is now online at www.cofe.io/LivingHope.

Living Hope offers us the opportunity to deepen our hope in God and be part of what God is doing to bring hope in the world. This year, the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday, is on 5th March and you are invited to come along to your church to find out more about Lent and Easter. Find your local events at www.AChurchNearYou.com.

What do you think about the Messenger?

The diocesan communications team wants to hear your views about The Messenger, our social media and our other publications. Share your thoughts so we can ensure they are engaging, relevant, and valuable to you.

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/yxx9ezxt> for the questionnaire.

Events and training

More details for all these events at gloucester.anglican.org/events

Faithful generations event Cathedral Green, Gloucester Cathedral, 1st February, 12pm to 5pm

Book now for this fun and creative afternoon where grandparents and grandchildren can explore Christian faith and spirituality together. There will be prayer spaces, story, activities, dance, interactive worship and more. <https://gloucester.anglican.org/event/faithful-generations-event/>

Faithful Generations 'What can a Grandparent do?' workshop

Church Centre, St Andrew's Church, Station Road, Churchdown

GL3 2JT, 11th February

Becky Sedgewick, author of *Grandparenting for Faith*, leads this workshop, teaching how to understand the importance of strong intergenerational relationships and how to share and demonstrate faith meaningfully.

<https://gloucester.anglican.org/event/faithful-generations-workshop>

Peace doves at Tewkesbury Abbey, Tewkesbury Abbey, Church Street, Tewkesbury, GL20 5RZ, 1st to 27th February

Experience the Peace Doves and Imagine Peace installations by Peter Walker, where thousands of paper doves are decorated with messages of love and peace by local communities to create a display of art.

<https://www.tewkesburyabbey.org.uk/peace-doves-at-tewkesbury-abbey/>

Chrism Eucharist 2025, Gloucester Cathedral, 17th April, 11am to 12.30pm

This special service will be led by Bishop Rachel Treweek. Around 400 clergy and lay ministers will come together for the Maundy Thursday service, where they will process through the Cathedral. They will then renew their vows of ministry. This service will be live streamed and all are welcome to attend.

Have your say

Visit Facebook **Diocese.of.Gloucester**, email Katherine at kclamp@glosdioc.org.uk, follow us on Twitter **@glosdioc**, view videos on YouTube **Diocese of Gloucester** or visit our website gloucester.anglican.org

These extracts are from The Messenger, a monthly communication produced by diocesan communications office at Church House, College Green, Gloucester, GL1 2LY. The full 'Messenger' is available on www.gloucester.anglican.org and can be emailed to all parish and church representatives who request it. The extracts printed here are provided by Church House and published without alteration and therefore do not necessarily reflect the views of the Cranham magazine editorial team.

Reminder

**There is no Bisley Flicks in the Sticks this month
as it's Panto time in Bisley!**

**The next Flicks in the Sticks will be on
Tuesday 11th March at 7.00 for a 7.30pm start**

Cranham Organ Restoration Celebration

Cranham Church was full on Saturday 11th January for our 'Restoration Celebration', an event in honour of the newly restored church organ. Nationally renowned organist and organ adviser Paul Hale performed 6 pieces, demonstrating the full range of sounds and depth of the organ. He ended with the 'world premiere' of a piece recently written by a friend of his called 'Cranham', which was based on the Holst hymn tune to 'In The Bleak Midwinter'.

Paul talked about the history of the Cranham organ, which was originally built in 1895 by the famous London firm of Lewis & Company and is an excellent example of the expert skill of the makers. He showed the state it was in last year, with considerable dust and wear and tear. The organ restorer, Ross Daly, also gave a presentation, showing in detail all the work that had been done to remove over 1000 pieces which all had to be labelled, and then the extensive repair of the metal, leather and felts, before reassembly.

This was the organ's first complete overhaul. The initial budget for essential repairs was around £18,500, but once dismantled, it was decided to undertake a full repair on it, leading to a final bill of £42,500. Guests at Restoration Celebrations included the Diocese's organ adviser, and some of the grant bodies that had supported the work, as well as other



Paul Hale & Ross Daly

organists and people who had participated in some of the many Cranham fund-raising events for the Organ Fund. A total of £34,500 has already been raised, which has helped greatly to fund the work.

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Cranham Organ Restoration - from page 12

The audience congratulated Cranham resident Peter Holmes and his wife Liz for their incredible 1500 mile walk last year from Gloucester to Santiago di Compostela, which had resulted in an unexpected grant from the Golden Bottle Trust towards the Organ Fund.

Additionally, Restoration Celebration just happened to take place on the birthday of Cranham organist Beryl Berry, who has been playing the organ in the village for over 50 years, following in the footsteps of her father Laurence Head. The event ended with the PCC thanking Beryl for her incredible service and presenting her with a gift, accompanied by rousing singing of 'Happy Birthday', before everyone enjoyed fizz and petit fours.



Helen Daltry

Foodbank



Thank you to those who came to support the Foodbank last month (please also see page 16), the date below will be our next collection date in Painswick.

Our next collection will on
Wednesday 12th February

Volunteers will be in the
Stamages Lane car park from 10.00am - 12noon

As always, if you prefer to make a bank donation, you can do so using the following details:

Stroud District Foodbank CIO Sort code: 09-01-29 /Account: 21994911

Thank you!
The Foodbank Team, Mobile: 07950 651228

CRANHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

AGM

**Thursday 30th January 2025, at 7.30pm,
followed by refreshments, and at 8.15pm by**

**How a
'Georgian Pleasure Garden'
came to be built
in Cranham**



An illustrated talk by Jan Whitton

Cranham Village Hall

* *

Members Free/Visitors £4/All welcome



CRANHAM VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

THE 100 CLUB

Cranham Village Hall is a Charitable Trust and the 100 Club is one of our fundraising activities.

It is a hassle-free and there are **spare numbers available!**

So.... What is the 100 club??

Each number is £12 per year with payment requested by Standing Order or Direct Debit annually on 1st March. Half the total subscriptions are paid out in monthly prizes.

Prizes

£25 for the winner draw for
January, March, April, June, July, Sept, October, December
With **£100** for the winner draw for
February, May, August, November.

Winners are contacted and names shown on the VH noticeboard

If you would like to support the VH and join the 100 club,
please contact

100clubcranham@gmail.com

1st Annual payment will be 1st March 2025



THANK YOU!

**BEACON BENEFICE FOR YOUR DONATIONS OF
599.35KGS, WHICH HAVE MADE A BIG
DIFFERENCE TO LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS ACROSS
THE STROUD DISTRICT THROUGHOUT 2024.**

Your generosity and continued support help change lives and bring hope to

those in need.



Ebworth

There has been large flocks of fieldfares, redwings and starlings feeding on the fields along the drive to the Ebworth Centre. There are over a thousand birds present at times so it can be quite the spectacle. Look out for golden plover amongst them. I am yet to see any feeding on the farm this year, but I am sure that they will be about. As their name suggests they are a lovely golden colour which glints in the sunlight. Also look out for the little grebe and kingfisher on the ponds in Workmans Wood. They have been seen regularly recently. The little grebe was a first for Ebworth when I spotted it before Christmas.

We were hit quite badly by the storms before Christmas with a mixture of small and large trees blown over. In some areas this windblow has been quite spectacular. It is very sad to see big, old trees blown over, but it is a natural process. It creates excellent dead wood habitat and large gaps in the canopy where the next generation of trees will grow.

We had the very sad report of a dog attack on one of our tenants sheep in the middle of January.

Unfortunately, the sheep's injuries were very bad and it had to be euthanized. Overtown Farm is very often extensively grazed. This means that the gates are left open and the livestock are able to range over multiple fields. This allows them to exhibit more natural behaviour. For example, they can move to more sheltered areas when the weather is cold. This also means that dog walkers may come across livestock in any part of the farm at any time. Please keep your dog on a lead when you are walking, running, horse riding or cycling across the farm. Anybody's dog can attack a sheep and lot of dog attacks happen without the owner even noticing.



The forestry contractors are now finished in Workmans Wood and most of the tracks are now open. Thank you for your patience whilst the works were ongoing. It's great to see the woodland opened up and it will be exciting to see how the vegetation reacts to the extra light. We are still doing some in-house thinning work so for your safety please do continue to respect any signage or path closures you come across.

Tom Griffin (Area Ranger)

Ebworth and Crickley Hill, National Trust



**What could be more romantic on
Valentines night than take
the family out for a quiz & a curry ?**



FRIDAY 14TH FEBRUARY

Cranham Village Hall

£2 – 'just for fun' paper quiz

Pay as you eat curry buffet

Under 12'S - £4 a plate

Over 12'S - £ 8 a plate

DOORS OPEN

**6pm for family curry buffet
with more highly spiced curries
suited for adults available**

between 7-8.30pm

Pay Bar

BOOKING ESSENTIAL

**Contact Rachel Monro
– 07737 545159**



AT CRANHAM VILLAGE HALL

February

Tuesdays 4th, 11th, 18th (half term) & 25th

Serving homemade food from 9.30am until 14.00pm

serving take aways or table service in the committee room

Teas & coffee, cakes & bakes, breakfast & brunch

available 12-2pm –filled jacket potatoes & homemade soup & a scone

Fridays 7th, 14th, 21st (half term), 28th

Serving homemade food from 9.30am until 12.30pm

serving teas & coffee, cakes & bakes, breakfast for take away

or table service in the committee room with the main hall being available for

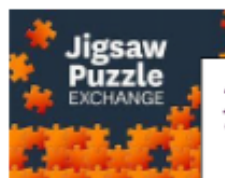


Parents and carers are welcome to bring their own toys/activities and use the hall for runaround space

NB...Committee room is reserved for quiet natter & guests!!



**FREE
WIFI**



**ASK A POP-UP CAFÉ
TEAM MEMBER FOR
INFO**

**BOOK SWAP RACK
IN THE VH FOYER**



A café for the community – a warm welcome for everyone

Painswick Community Lunches

Painswick Community Lunches are organised by Painswick Community Support in conjunction with Painswick Community Groups (detailed on the poster below) and Painswick Parish council.

The lunches will be held in the Town Hall on Mondays during winter. The first tranche of lunches will be running from the 1st Monday in January to the 1st Monday in March between 12.00 - 1.15pm.

Painswick Community Support
presents
Community Lunches

2025 dates

6th January	Painswick Conservation Group
13th January	Friday Club
20th January	Our Lady and St Therese Catholic Church
27th January	Yew Trees WI
3rd February	Croft School Yr 6 Class
10th February	Croft School Yr 6 Class
17th February	Churches Together Around Painswick
24th February	The Falcon Bowling Club
3rd March	Dog Training Club

When Mondays 12 - 1.15pm
What Homemade soups, cheese, bread & butter. Tea and Coffee available
Where Painswick Town Hall

Served by community groups

Pay as you feel
(Cash only please - all donations for charity)

In association with Painswick Parish Council

You will be served some yummy homemade soups, bread, cheese and tea/coffee.

Everyone is welcome young and old so please do pop in and enjoy meeting your fellow neighbours and villagers.

Payment is "pay as you feel" and will be donated to charity.

Brimpsfield & Mid-Cotswold Garden Society



When we think of scent in the garden, we tend to imagine flowers such as roses and other summer blooms; but you may have noticed how many winter-flowering shrubs have scented flowers, all the more welcome for helping to cheer us up at this chilly time of year. Scented plants are the subject of our February talk, at the coffee morning on Saturday 1st February in Brimpsfield Village Hall; as always, there will be coffee and home-made cake on offer at a modest cost from 10.30am, with the talk starting at 11.00am. Everyone is welcome, and we look forward to seeing you there!

Wisteria and buddleja are two common scented shrubs in gardens, and although they won't flower until later in the year, this is the season to prune them for maximum flower power. Wisteria tends to make long shoots with multiple flower buds (they are the rounded fat buds, often in small clusters, not the single little brown leaf-buds), and it will flower better if each shoot is cut back to 2-3 buds. Remove any dead, damaged or unwanted growth at the same time, and if you didn't prune the plant in late summer, check that none of the long shoots are climbing into your gutters and fascias, and cut them off if they are. Buddleja is simpler to prune: cut everything off above about a foot from the ground, or just above the lowest point with new leaves showing. It will make new growth quickly, and the prunings make good beanpoles or pea sticks depending on their length.

Home-Start Stroud and Gloucester are a local charity supporting families with young children within the community experiencing a time in their lives when they need a little extra help and support, practically and emotionally. Parenting is not always easy, but with the support of a trained volunteer, together we can really make a difference. Our volunteer training provides people with the skills and confidence to share their parenting experiences to help make that difference when it's needed the most.



If you are thinking about volunteering and have as little as 2-3 hours a week spare, please visit our website for more information and to apply www.homestartsd.org or call 01453 297470 for a chat.

Cranham School

MONTY'S MARVELLOUS MECH

Thursday 12th December 2021

On Wednesday 11th December, Monty Crump won the world-famous competition for building a new all-terrain machine.



Monty entered after watching on TV the adventures of two

explorers who could not cross in their current vehicle, an F1 car.

The design for the mech was huge. The design itself was the size of a small sperm whale.



Neville Longbottom, who also had the Monster Whale, which was the size of a killer whale said, "My Monster Whale is

tiny compared to Monty's mech!"

The mech itself is the size of a blue whale. Its name is Monty, and it can jump from England to America! It's as long as a human.



Could this be the future? Is this the biggest machine?

Monty
Year 4

Holiday Arrangements

We're planning a summer getaway to Greece and I'm worried we'll forget something important, which could ruin the holiday. What steps can we take to make sure we're fully protected and prepared if anything goes wrong?

Booking a holiday can be overwhelming, especially if it's been a while since you last went away. It's unlikely anything will go wrong, but we've prepared a simple checklist to make sure you can relax into your holiday knowing you're protected from the unexpected.

Check your passport is in date - especially for EU travel

Renewing your passport can take several weeks and isn't something to leave until the last minute. Check the validity of your passport for your trip on GOV.UK by finding out the entry requirements of the country you're travelling to.

If you're heading to Europe, bear in mind EU countries don't accept passports more than ten years old. This includes passports issued pre-Brexit, which may have longer expiry dates. Just remember, the golden rule for EU travel is: if your passport was issued over ten years ago, you'll need to get it renewed.

Know your rights if something goes wrong

If your flight's delayed long enough - usually two to four hours, depending on the journey - your airline must provide access to food and drink vouchers, phone calls and emails, and accommodation if you're delayed overnight. If it's cancelled, you're legally entitled to a full refund or replacement flight to help you get to your destination. You're also entitled to compensation if your airline delays, loses or damages your checked-in luggage.

Get travel insurance

Although it's an extra expense, travel insurance can cover many of the things already mentioned, like flight delays and lost luggage, but also things like a holiday cancellation and medical emergencies.

Citizens Advice recommends getting insurance as soon as you book a holiday to make sure you're covered right away - but always check first to see if an existing insurance policy, or your bank account, covers what you need for your holiday. There's no need to double up if you're already covered!

The chances are your holiday will be problem-free, but early planning and preparation can make all the difference. If you need advice on a consumer problem, head to the Citizens Advice website (www.citizensadvice.org.uk).

Cobalt

Cobalt is making a difference across Gloucestershire, and you can help! Whether you host your own event or join one of ours, your support changes lives.

Make A Will Month – April 2025

Ensure your wishes are clear and support Cobalt this April. Partner solicitors are donating their time to write or update straightforward wills in exchange for a suggested donation:

£150 for a single will or **£200** for joint mirror wills

In 14 years, this initiative has raised over £130,000 for vital services and equipment. While leaving a gift to Cobalt is optional, even a small gesture makes a big impact.

Places are limited - don't wait! Visit our website or contact us at **01242 535922** or **helen.tomes@cobalthhealth.co.uk** for more information. Special thanks to Willans, Davis Gregory, Langley Wellington, Dee & Griffin, and Sewell Mullings Logie for their support.

Upcoming Events

Join us for these fantastic events and help make a difference! Full details: www.cobalthhealth.co.uk/support-us/supporter-events/

Walk for Cobalt – 22nd March 2025 Explore Cheltenham's history on a family-friendly walk, including tales of a circus elephant! Starts at 10 AM.



Continued on page 25

Quenington Open Garden & Rare Plant Fair – 13th April 2025 Stroll riverside gardens, browse rare plants, and enjoy homemade treats. Entry £8 (cash only). Open 11 AM – 4 PM.

Snowdon Sunrise Trek – 16th May 2025 Climb Snowdon under the stars and witness a breathtaking sunrise, all for a great cause.

Learn More

Discover how Cobalt is changing lives: www.cobalthhealth.co.uk, fundraising@cobalthhealth.co.uk, or call **01242 535922**.

Your support makes all the difference!

Here are some nerdy mathematical facts about this year - 2025

- 1) 2025, is a square of an integer = 45^2
 - 2) It's a product of two squares,
viz. $9^2 \times 5^2 = 2025$
 - 3) It is the sum of 3-squares,
viz. $40^2 + 20^2 + 5^2 = 2025$
 - 4) It's the first square after 1936 = 44^2
 - 5) It's the sum of cubes, of all the single digits, from 1 to 9,
viz. $1^3 + 2^3 + 3^3 + 4^3 + 5^3 + 6^3 + 7^3 + 8^3 + 9^3 = 2025$.
 - 6) It is also the Square of the sum of all single digit numbers from 1 to 9, meaning $(1+2+3+4+5+6+7+8+9)^2 = 45^2 = 2025$.
-

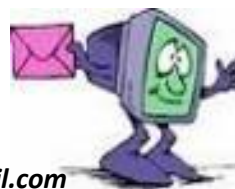
*All articles or enquiries with regards to the **Cranham Magazine** only should be emailed to:*

All general articles: cranhammagazine@gmail.com

All church articles: cranhammagazine@gmail.com

Advertising enquiries: advertisingcranhammag@gmail.com

Distribution enquiries : distributioncranmag@gmail.com



Cranham Village Lunch

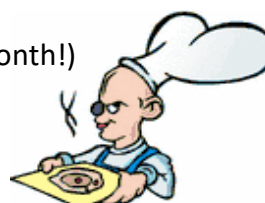
The next village lunch will be on:

Wednesday 19th February

(yes it's on a Wednesday this month!)

12:15 for 12:30 at the

Scout HQ



The menu for this day will be as follows:

Fruit Juice

Shepherd's Pie, Cabbage, Carrots and Gravy

Bread and Butter Pudding and Custard

Tea or coffee

We all look forward to seeing you.

Nicky: 07884 432886

nickyovers@hotmail.co.uk

FUN FACTS ABOUT FEBRUARY

February is mostly recognized for Valentine's Day, flowers, and, depending on where you are, being incredibly cold! Oddly enough, even though it's just another month, there's a lot of history behind this month of romance and love! Read on to find out some historical events which occurred in February, as well as how it came to be the shortest month of the year.



Over time, the length of February kept changing. At one point, it had as little as 23 days. It now fluctuates between having 28 and 29 days per year. The 29th day only occurs every 4 years during leap years. The length of February was finalized when Julius Caesar remade the Roman calendar and assigned the month 28 days and 29 days. In 713 B.C., January and February were the last months officially added to the Roman calendar.

If you were born in February, your birthstone is an amethyst, and your flowers are violets and primroses. The western zodiac signs in February are Aquarius which is until February 18th, and Pisces, which is from February 19th.

In the Northern Hemisphere, February is the third month of winter. Meanwhile, in the Southern Hemisphere, February is the last month of summer. Between the North and South Hemispheres, February is the equivalent of August.

The name of February comes from the Latin word "februum," which means purification. February was named after a purification ritual which was like an early Roman spring cleaning festival.

In Welsh, February is sometimes known as "y mis bach," which means "little month."

The Saxons called February "Sol-monath" which means "cake month," because they would offer cakes to the gods during February.

Of all the words you can misspell, February is one of the most misspelled words in the English language. Even the White House has misprinted the word "February" before in a press release!

February is the only month where it's possible to go the entire time without having a full moon.

Continued on page 28

February has been Black History Month for over 40 years.

The odds of being born on February 29th are about 1 in 1,461. Those born on a leap day can be called a “leaper” or “leapling.” Unless it’s a leap year, February, March, and November start on the same day of the week as each other.

February Anniversaries

2 February Battle of Stalingrad ends (1943) The largest and bloodiest battle the world has ever seen marked the first major defeat for Hitler’s army. The vicious urban conflict cost the lives of around two million.

Idi Amin comes to power in Uganda (1971). Considered one of the most brutal dictators in history, Idi Amin's eight-year reign of terror began on 2 February 1971. It's believed he was responsible for the murders of around 300,000 Ugandans.

4 February George Washington elected the first US president (1789)

After leading the Continental Army to victory against the British during the American War of Independence, George Washington was unanimously elected the country’s first president.

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs is released by Disney (1938)

The ground-breaking animated movie was Disney's first-ever feature-length film.

6 February Elizabeth II ascends to the throne (1952)

At the age of 25, Elizabeth II ascended to the throne after the death of her father King George VI. She was in a treehouse in Kenya with her husband Prince Philip when she received the news of her father’s passing. She went on to become Britain's longest-serving monarch, sitting on the throne for 70 years.

Manchester United players die in Munich air disaster (1958)

British European Airways Flight 609 crashed on its third attempt to take off from Munich-Riem Airport in Germany after slush covered the runway. Onboard was the Manchester United football team, nicknamed the ‘Busby Babes’. Of the 44 on the flight, 23 were killed.

Continued on page 29

8 February Mary Queen of Scots is beheaded (1587) Beheaded at Fotheringhay Castle for her complicity in a plot to murder Queen Elizabeth I, Mary Queen of Scots had spent the previous nineteen years of her life imprisoned.

9 February Princess Margaret dies (2002) Queen Elizabeth II's younger sister, Princess Margaret, passed away after suffering from a stroke at the age of 71.

11 February Margaret Thatcher becomes the leader of the Conservative Party (1975) Upon winning the Tory leadership battle, Thatcher became the first female leader of a major political party in the UK. In 1979, she became the first woman in British history to become Prime Minister. She led the country until 1990.

Mandela released from prison (1990) After 27 years in prison, the anti-apartheid activist and leader of the African National Congress (ANC), walked free from prison. Mandela went on to become South Africa's first Black president and receive a Nobel peace prize.

Charles Darwin is born (1809) The famous naturalist, whose revolutionary theory of evolution changed how we look at the natural world, was one of many notable people from history born in February.

13 February The bombing of Dresden (1945) One of the most controversial events of the Second World War saw the Allies drop 4,000 tonnes of explosives and incendiary devices on the German city of Dresden – a city known for its intellectual culture and architectural beauty, not for its significance as a military target. The resulting firestorm is estimated to have killed 25,000 people.

14 February St Valentine beaten and decapitated (270 AD) Valentine was a priest in the Roman Empire who conducted marriages in secret, an act of direct defiance against the orders of Emperor Claudius II, who wished to outlaw the practice. Authorities caught St Valentine, threw him in prison beat and then decapitated him.

Battle of Verdun begins (1916) It was one of the longest, bloodiest and most brutal battles of the First World War. The Battle of Verdun lasted ten months and saw the French repulse a major German offensive.

28 February Deadliest crash in Tube history (1975) At 8:46am, a train failed to stop at Moorgate station and crashed into the end wall. It resulted in the deaths of 43 people, becoming the worst peacetime accident in the London Underground.

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REGULAR EVENTS

(although all may be subject to cancellation or change, so please check directly with the organisers)

Village Lunch	Monthly on a Monday 12.15 for 12.30pm (Nicky Overs 07884 432886) - Wednesday this month!
Orchestra	Mondays 8.00pm - V Hall (Beryl Berry 813200)
Post Office	Tuesdays 10.00am - 12noon - V Hall
Rachel's Pop Up Café	Tuesdays 9.30am - 2.00pm - V Hall
Cranham Art Group	Tuesdays 7.00 - 9.00pm - V Hall (Lyn Barker 813025)
Choir	Tuesdays 7.30pm - V Hall (Virginia Pittman 07989 712263 virginiapittman3@gmail.com)
Handbell Ringers	Note - Not currently running (Jenny Barraclough 07977 997375 jenny.barraclough@btinternet.com)
Beavers, Cubs & Scouts	Wednesdays - Scout Centre - times as follows: Beaver Scouts (6 to 8 yrs) 4.45 to 5.45pm Cub Scouts (8 to 10 yrs) 5.50 to 7.10pm Scouts (10 to 14 yrs) 7.30 to 9.00pm
Table Tennis Club	Wednesdays 7.30 - 9.30pm - V Hall (Clive Hayden 07833 635762 chayden814@gmail.com)
Cranham Ramblers	First Thursday (meet at car park above Witches Tump at 9.45am) (Joan Charman 812708 or 07717 286848)
Cranham Bell Ringers	Thursdays 6.30 - 8.00pm - Church (Rob Garratt 07703 503547)
S'Combe Bridge Club	2nd and 4th Thursdays 7.00pm - Sheepscombe V Hall (Contact Joy Edwards 812588)
Rachel's Pop Up Café	Fridays 9.30 - 12.30pm - V Hall
Parent and Toddler	Fridays 9.15 - 10.45am - V Hall (Contact tbc)
Explorer Scouts	Note - Not currently running Contact Alaric Snell-Pym (explorers@cranham-scouts.org.uk) for info
Garden Club	Brimpsfield , Phone Francis Ellery 01452 862412 for further info

No new people in the village this month!

Welcome!

However, If we have missed anyone, please accept our apologies and make yourself known and we will include you next time.



MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

All articles for the forthcoming month should be forwarded to the editors by email to

cranhammagazine@gmail.com

(preferred option).

Articles should be forwarded as either a WORD or WORKS document and preferably in Ariel or Calibri font size 10 on A5 size paper settings. Articles may also be sent manually typed or hand written.

Please refrain from using ADOBE EDITOR as all articles have to be edited prior to inserting into the magazine.

All hard copies should be forward to **Baggend (at the Knoll)**.

All items to be included within next months magazine will need to be in the hands of the editors by the following dates:

WEDNESDAY 12th FEBRUARY 2025

Magazines will be available for distribution:
on **Sunday 23rd February** or thereabouts.

The date will be confirmed to the distributors by email.

814839

cranhammagazine@gmail.com

CRANHAM DIARY



Forthcoming Events

30	Thurs	CLHS AGM and Meeting	Village Hall	7.30pm & 8.15pm
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FEBRUARY 2025

1	Sat	Garden Society Meeting	B'field V Hall	10.30 for 11.00am
2	Sun	Benefice Service	Pitchcombe	11.00am
		Christingle Service	Churcgh	4.00pm
4	Tues	Rubbish/Food Waste		
6	Thurs	Ramble	Car Park	9.45am
9	Sun	Holy Communion	Church	11.00am
11	Tues	Recycling/Food Waste		
12	Wed	** Magazine Contributions Due **		
		Foodbank Collection	Painswick	10.00am - 12noon
14	Fri	Valentine's Curry Night	Village Hall	6.00 - 8.30pm
16	Sun	Village Working Party	Common	9.30am - 12.30pm
		Evensong	Church	6.30pm
18	Tues	Rubbish/Food Waste		
19	<u>Wed</u>	Village Lunch	Scout HQ	12.15 for 12.30pm
23	Sun	Morning Worship	Church	11.00am
25	Tues	Recycling/Food Waste		

MARCH 2025

6	Thurs	Ramble	Car Park	9.45am
11	Tues	Flicks in the Sticks	Bisley V Hall	7.00pm for 7.30pm
22	Sat	Walk for Cobalt!	Cheltenham	10.00am

For Regular Events -

please see page 38