

GRATIS

The

# CREWKERNE

Flyer

SPRING 2026

THE FREE AREA GUIDE FOR **CREWKERNE** AND THE **HAMSTONE VILLAGES**  
PRODUCED QUARTERLY: SPRING • SUMMER • AUTUMN • WINTER

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## WELCOME TO 2026!



A great deal of water has flowed under the bridge since our last edition – literally and metaphorically! Floods and storms, political and constitutional upsets; world-wide uncertainty. However Crewkerne and The Hamstone Villages still look stunning, and our Spring 2026 edition is crammed full with businesses eager to serve you!

Many of you will recognise our front cover photo – the avenue of trees leading to Hellings Farm in Station Road, Crewkerne.

To help find your way around this edition, we have an index of advertisers on **Page 4**. Then on **Page 18** we have a small “cameo” of the early working life of Manfred Roper, former South Petherton resident.

Across **Pages 26 & 27** we have our useful Town and areas maps. On **Page 28**, you will find a Spring update from Crewkerne in Bloom. On **Page 34**, find news from The Friends of Crewkerne Station. There is great deal happening at South Petherton Church; please read about their Spring events on **Page 36**.

Crewkerne Museum & Heritage Centre bring news and some old postcards on **Pages 40 & 41**.

On **Page 46**, Nikki Copleston again shares with us some views of “Old Crewkerne”.

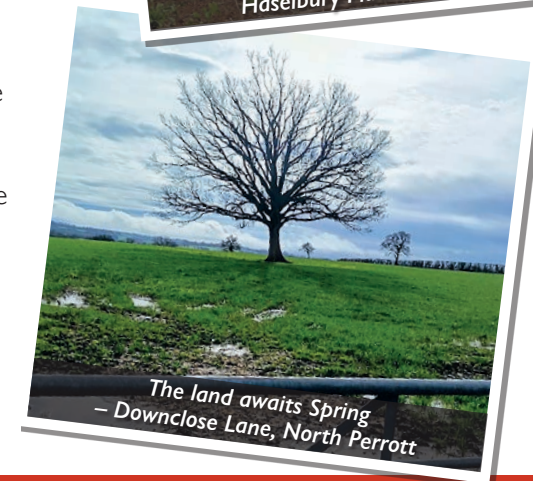
Whether you need help with buildings maintenance, renovations and diy; help with your health, wellbeing and personal care; vehicle maintenance, legal advice, pet supplies; new tv or vacuum cleaner; eating out, or a venue for a celebration; you will find this and MORE all here in **The Crewkerne Flyer!**

With best wishes for Spring 2026,

*Anthony Bucke*. EDITOR.

Email: crewkerne@theantiquetourist.com

Friday 27 February 2026



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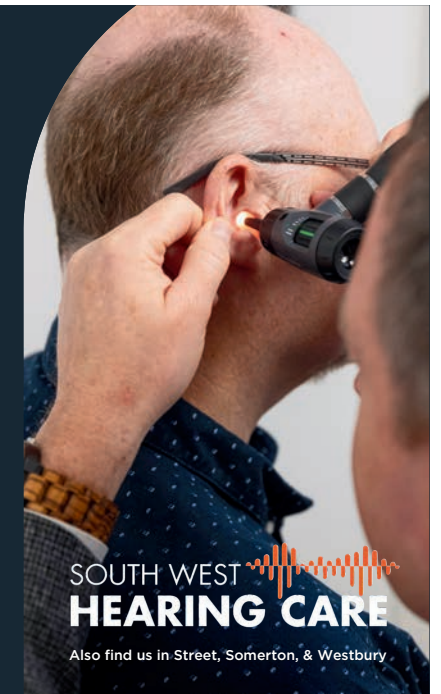
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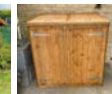
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*Manfred Roper was a former long term resident of South Petherton. He has sent us some fascinating photos of his early years working around Ham Hill.*

From 1955 – 1960 Manfred worked at Norton Fruit Farm. His jobs were very varied, from spraying fruit trees, hauling stone from Ham Hill to create dry tracks in the orchards, to tractor driving and hay-making. The hay was cut in the “cherry orchard” at Little Norton, and hauled back to the farm at Norton.

From the fruit farm Manfred went to work for agricultural contractor Patrick Palmer at Bower Hinton, before moving on to Westlands Helicopters and then to Normalair Garrett, finishing his working life as Superintendent of the Yeovil Cemetery until retirement in 2014.

Anthony Bucke - EDITOR



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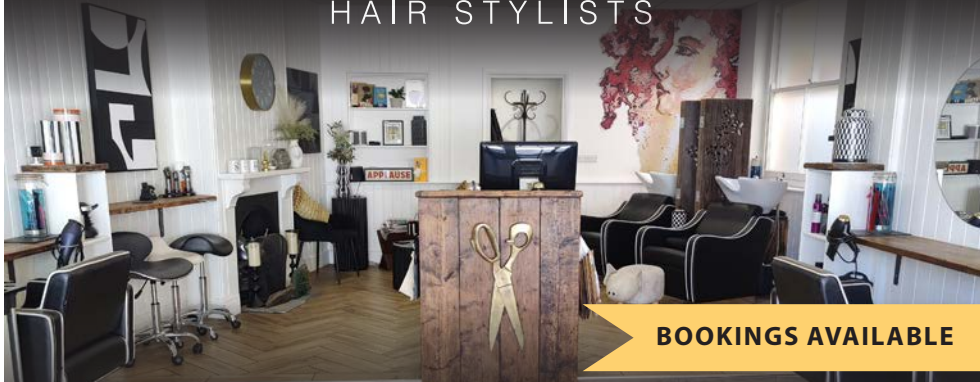
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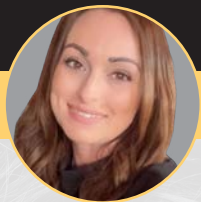
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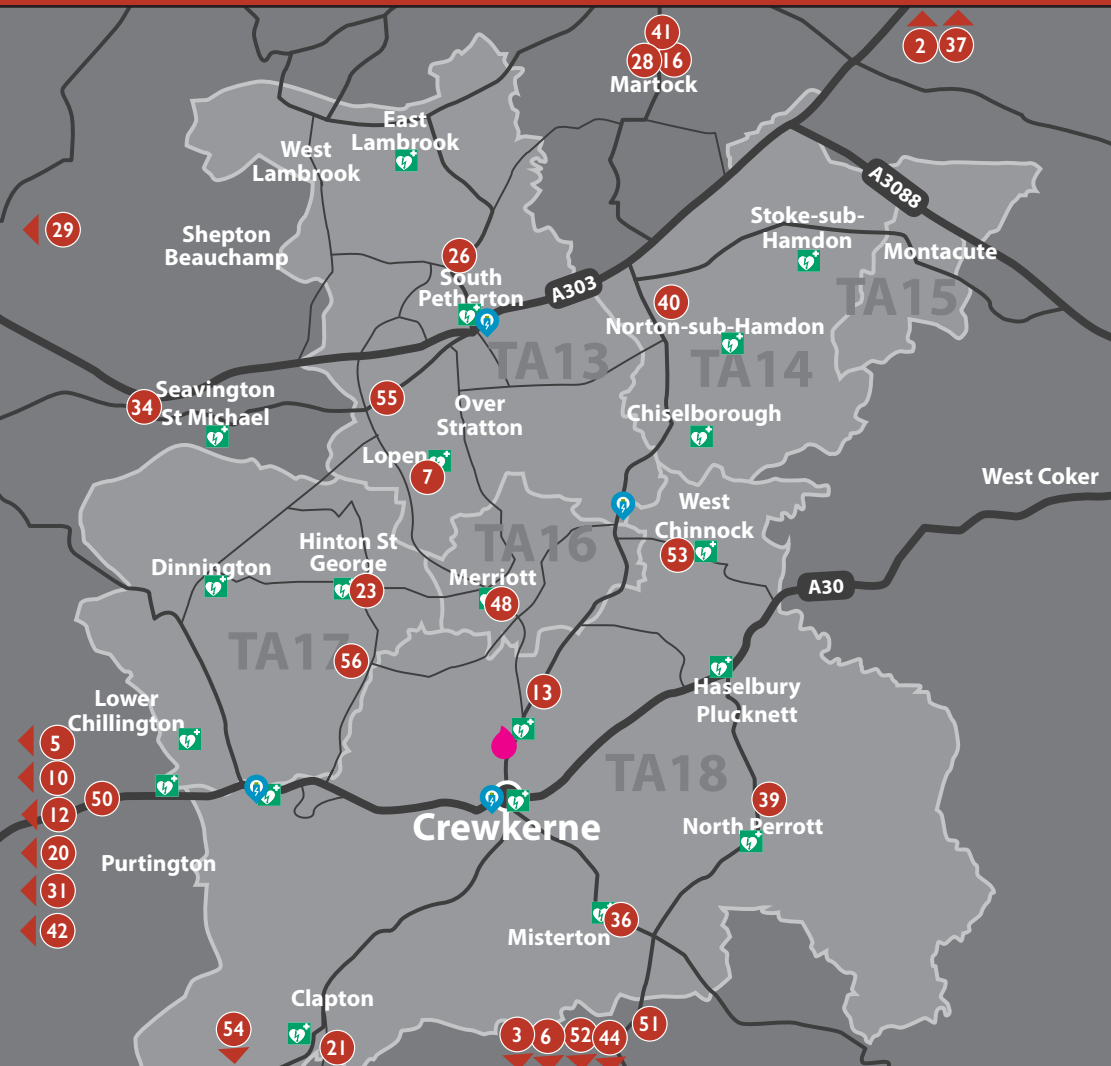


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and have planned another busy year to help keep Crewkerne looking cared for and colourful.

Drought tolerance and sustainability are now priorities for as much of our planting as possible. After the exceptionally wet winter, we are thankful that our rainwater tanks are full to the brims.

main gateway for visitors to town so the area is always a priority for our volunteer working parties.

Watch out for our **Business Window Competition**. Joining in with Crewkerne and District Twinning Association's celebration of 50 years of partnership with Igny and 20 years with Bures-sur-Yvette in Northern France, we have chosen Entente Cordiale as the theme. The competition will be judged in mid-May when our French friends will be visiting.

We're taking a break from our annual Garden Competition but knowing that Crewkerne has so many enthusiastic and creative plant lovers, we have a fun and simple to enter competition. In our **Planted Planter Photo** challenge, we're looking for unusual planted containers that make us smile! Barrow, boot, bidet, pram, pail, pitcher, tub, tin or trunk are just a few ideas - it's up to you!

By popular request, the **Potager** near Waitrose will be filled entirely with veggies. Any flower seedlings we find are being moved to the big bed by the **Rotary Stone**. This is at the



Look out for updates on posters, social media and crewkerneinbloom.org

Everyone can enter and the competition will be judged in May.

*You can keep up to date with our activities on facebook and Instagram and via our website where you can also sign up for newsletters.*



For further information, to volunteer or to offer support in any way, please contact us on **07902 200212** or [hello@crewkerneinbloom.org](mailto:hello@crewkerneinbloom.org)  
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# The Friends of CREWKERNE Station

## Listed Building improved!

The Pumphouse is a beautiful building in itself, and as part of the station listing, it was decided to restore the window to its appearance when it was the Porters' room and an important part of the working station.

Sir William Tite, its architect, is known for his work with stations including the famous Carnforth station of 'Brief Encounter' and also for the Royal Exchange building in London. The photo shows the new window with volunteers Councillor Ashton and one of the banners which usually go on the other side of the Pumphouse. Next task is to smarten up the breezeblock wall underneath. An idea is to have several banners made depicting something different of local or station interest which could be interchangeable. FOCS would like to hear from residents and organisations for ideas and help with pictures which could then be put on to the banners.

Although 2025 was the summer of the soil moisture deficit (SMD), problems have arisen in the winter for the opposite reason - too much water! The railway contractors worked all over a weekend to repair trackside near Axminster when it was washed away. Fortunately there have not been too many other serious problems, unlike the Great Western line which had to be closed or re-routed because of floods. The line from Yeovil to Exeter has always had a tight schedule due to having few passing places but the railway companies are putting together a business plan to put in a couple more so that there will be fewer holdups.

FOCS came first with their South Western Railway Biodiversity entry and have a prestigious plaque which has been put up on the wall of the waiting room. They were recognised for the care of the station environment which encourages pollinators, other



insects and wildlife. The Friends are looking at new ways of encouraging wild flowers and birdlife at the station this year. Last year's sunflowers along the top of the car park bank went down well with residents and birds. Some of the surface vegetation on the banks has been scraped away to spread some wild flower seeds, and all the rain should encourage germination. Photo of volunteers by the Biodiversity winners plaque with new Chair Mark Kibblewhite and station ambassador Ashley Read.

Travelling by train there are several ways to make your journey cheaper. Be more flexible with your timing and aim to go off peak; travelling after midday accesses the reduced fare 'evening out' ticket from Monday to Saturday and a 'Sunday out' reduced fare ticket too. Take advantage of advance ticket offers, and register for cheap ticket alerts from the SWR website. Railcards reduce fare prices by a third and are available for all sorts of people from family to disabled persons railcards.

Spring is coming to the station and primroses and daffodils are starting to appear on the banks. Plants are amazing! A surprise seedling of a Hellebore, Lenten Rose, has appeared beneath the railings on the unused platform just in time for Lent.

Gail Coleshill, Secretary FOCS

The Friends of the Station are interested in all things railway and transport and welcome additional members and volunteers.

Find us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofcrewkerne](https://www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofcrewkerne) or contact us at [focscrewkerne@gmail.com](mailto:focscrewkerne@gmail.com)



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## An update from South Petherton Church

### God at Work in our Communities

Just over 6 months ago I wrote with news of South Petherton Church and the events we like to invite you all to, with the accompanying need for help to organise them. Good news! That is what church is all about in so many ways, and today I can tell you that my request in the Summer edition of the Crewkerne Flyer (and my prayer) brought a lovely response! There was indeed a person who has done 'this kind of thing' as a job who would love to help us raise money to support the wider mission and ministry that church provides to us, our neighbours and friends. Praise God!

Clare has joined us and we're forming a group who can support one another to work with performers seeking a venue to make their music available to residents from the surrounding towns and villages. Some are amateur groups and some are professional musicians or singers. All draw a crowd forming an appreciative audience, making each event a win-win for all.

The first invitation I'd like to make is for **Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7.30pm**, when **The Yeovil Concert Band** will join us with a programme of light music from an exciting variety of genres. We will have refreshments in the interval, a raffle and a fun-filled, toe-tapping time. Our local Fruit & Veg Shop TA13 5BW has kindly agreed to sell tickets and St Peter & St Paul's Church 'Box Office' TA13 5DQ will be selling on Sundays 5<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> April, 11.00-12.00 after the services. You'll find us chatting over coffee to which you are warmly invited. The band will also be selling tickets via their website & contact number 01935 321330.

Not long after, we will be greening up for our **Plant & Eco Fair on Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2pm**. It used to be a plant sale, and we do still have an amazing array of diverse types of plant to sell. We have noticed an interesting gradual change in the popularity of different plants, a reducing interest in annuals and an increase



in perennials and wild flowers. Over time we have also become more aware of the needs of nature and the role of gardeners in supporting biodiversity and soil integrity. We are responding to change by partnering with other concerned local groups and national organisations to offer much more than plants. The last two years have seen church integrating this event with community groups The Shed, and TWiG. The Shed is our local creative hobby group for those interested in woodwork and other skills, who use largely unwanted by-products, saving the waste of quality timber off cuts. They frequently make bird boxes, bug hotels and other items for your garden. TWiG, South Petherton Tree & Wildlife Group, share with our church Greener Futures group to offer friendly and helpful information on reusing and recycling any number of items, and other ways to save money and the planet.

Later in the year we will have more riveting quizzes and other concerts. We are still living in the hope that we might have a new Rector soon. It risks getting boring saying this and we are not alone in waiting a long time for church leadership posts to be filled. It doesn't help that expectations from many parishioners and the church hierarchy are high and somewhat unrealistic. This comes home with greater force when the post is vacant as we try to fill the void as retired lay people, even with support from several retired clergy.

However, we do still live in hope because we have a wonderful Saviour who knows our every need and, when we listen to him, trust and obey him, we see him working in us and the hearts of other individuals, comforting the bereaved, bringing joy to the newlyweds, giving peace to the dying and grace to the suffering. As we anticipate Lent and Easter, the living God assures us as we respond to his invitation to come to Jesus, that we will have his life in us, now and always. Waiting isn't easy but we are never alone! Come and discover more about living the Christian life with others in an informal way over coffee and pastries at **Café Church, every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday at 10.30am**. You'll find a warm welcome.

By Daphne Woodhouse



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# CREWKERNE MUSEUM & HERITAGE CENTRE

Springtime is always busy at the Heritage Centre preparing the museum for the new season, meeting with stewards and planning new special exhibitions.

Our first exhibition will look at Communication which is a popular topic currently. Modern methods using mobile phones, the internet and advertising differ from how we communicated 50 years ago. The exhibition will look at the development of language, how the written word became widely used and communication through the ages. When was the first letter written, where does our language come from, how did people communicate before telephones, internet and television?

The postcard was a popular method in the past when

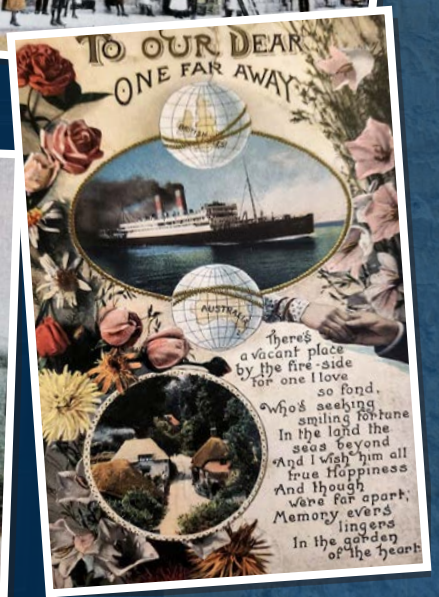
people knew that they could post a message that would arrive the next day. Often photographs were printed as postcards and birthday wishes or messages to loved ones far away were sent in postcard form. The museum holds a good collection, some of which are illustrated here.

Our researchers for these topics include two Duke of Edinburgh students and two volunteers at the Heritage Centre. It is interesting to exchange ideas between the generations and to bring together an exhibition that we hope you will enjoy.

Preparing the museum galleries involves the "Big Clean" when a group of volunteers armed with dusters and brushes sweep through the galleries cleaning as they go. The

old kitchen, Gallery 3 requires extra attention as it needs to be arranged to display objects that will invoke memories of the past. The whole exercise is rewarding when we see how the museum looks ready for visitors from Easter weekend, Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April.

A special Volunteers Day is booked for Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June when we invite the public to join us for free coffee and cake all day and a chance to talk with volunteers. If you have ever considered becoming a volunteer this will be an opportunity to find out what sort of things we do. And, remember, you do not have to be an historian or know anything about the town, there are jobs for everybody.



The Heritage Centre, Market Square, Crewkerne Somerset TA18 7LP  
01460 77079 | [admin@crewkernemuseum.co.uk](mailto:admin@crewkernemuseum.co.uk) | [www.crewkernemuseum.co.uk](http://www.crewkernemuseum.co.uk)

The 2026 season opening times are the same as previously  
Monday, Thursday – Saturday 10am-4pm. If you have any queries please contact us.

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# "OLD" CREWKERNE

Photos kindly supplied  
by Nikki Copleston



**Towt the Ironmonger, corner of  
Market Street and Church Street**

Ironmonger William Towt's shop on the corner of Church Street and Market Street in the 1880s. Francis Coats took over from him in about 1891, and Frederick Jones took over from Francis.



**Market Street from the bottom  
of Church Street**

Newsagent Quick & Taylor also housed, upstairs, the Urban District Council Offices when this photo was taken in the early 1900s.



**Market Street looking towards the  
bottom of Church Street**

Children pause outside Long's Restaurant, curious about the photographer. From the top floor of Fone's the outfitter, maids lean out of the windows to make sure they're in the picture.



**The Red Lion Hotel**

The Red Lion was a family and commercial hotel, offering a motor garage, stabling, and hunters for hire. Owner William Sparrow was from Bower Hinton, where his father founded an engineering works. This postcard is from the early 1900s.

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Email: [thevintageforager2020@gmail.com](mailto:thevintageforager2020@gmail.com)  
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## SUDOKU 1

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   | 2 | 8 |   |   |   | 1 |   |
|   | 3 |   |   |   | 5 |   |   | 9 |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   | 2 |   | 8 |   |   |   |
| 1 |   |   |   |   | 4 | 6 |   |   |
|   |   | 4 | 8 |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   | 9 |   | 3 |   |   | 4 |   |
|   |   |   | 4 |   | 6 |   |   | 5 |
| 6 | 5 |   | 9 | 8 |   |   |   | 2 |

Level: **Easy**  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Start time: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Time to solve: \_\_\_\_\_

## SUDOKU 2

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   |   |   | 5 | 4 | 9 | 2 |   |
| 7 | 4 |   |   | 2 |   |   |   |   |
|   |   | 3 |   | 8 |   | 4 |   | 6 |
|   |   |   |   |   |   | 3 |   |   |
| 1 |   |   | 5 |   |   |   |   | 4 |
| 4 | 5 |   |   | 3 |   |   |   |   |
|   |   | 1 |   |   |   |   |   | 3 |
|   |   |   |   | 6 | 7 |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   | 7 |   | 8 |

Level: **Hard**  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Start time: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Time to solve: \_\_\_\_\_

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### SUDOKU ANSWERS:

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 2 |
| 1 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 3 |
| 3 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 6 |
| 2 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 4 |
| 7 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 1 |
| 6 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 1 | 8 |
| 7 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 2 |
| 5 | 8 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| 5 | 8 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| 7 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 2 |

SUDOKU 2 SUDOKU 1



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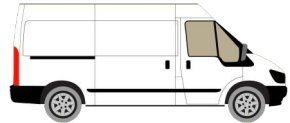
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