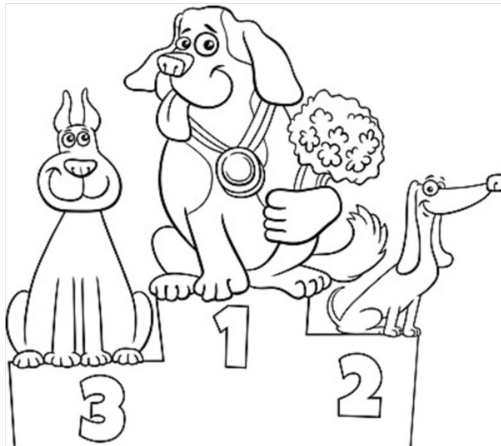


CRATFIELD NEWS

May 2024

CRATFIELD COMPANION DOG SHOW SUNDAY 12TH MAY



PEDIGREE JUDGING BEGINS - 10.30AM

FUN CLASSES START – 1.00PM

BBQ – RAFFLE -TEA/COFFEE – CAKES – BAR – ICE CREAM

SCHEDULE ON VILLAGE HALL NOTICE BOARD

WELCOME

A very warm welcome to Cratfield to Caroline Hay Davison and Alan Simms who have fairly recently moved into Poachers Farm. We hope they'll soon settle in, they've already made a start by joining us at the pop-up pub, so that bodes well!

OPEN GARDEN

Saturday June 1st Church Farm House
11.00am – 5.00pm
Entry £3.00
Tea/Coffee and cakes
Plant Stall

CRATFIELD CONCERTS

**Dates June 30th, July 14th, July 28th, August 11th, August 25th
and September 8th**

Could you Help?

Cakes are needed. Also help to serve the tea and cakes, take the money and clear away on these Sunday afternoons. Plus, if you so wish, you can enjoy the music.

Cratfield Concerts are famous for the delicious cakes made by members of our village. The concerts start at 3.00pm and refreshments are served at the interval which is usually 3.45ish.

If you think you could help on any of the above concert dates we would be most grateful.

Team leaders who can be contacted are Sue Ackerly, Caroline Marfleet, Maisie Lister or Clive Mobbs.

THE 100 CLUB

YOU HAVE TO BE IN IT TO WIN IT!

Subscriptions for the 100 Club are due for 2024/2025 year and the entry forms will be coming out in the June Magazine.

What is a 100 Club? It is a form of private lottery, for a monthly amount you are entered into a draw to win one of three prizes each month - £15, £10 or £5

How much does it cost? Just £1 a month - £12 per person for the whole year!

Can I enter more than one person per household? Yes. Carry on with more details on the reverse of the form. So, if you are a couple, you have double the chance of winning – or why not enter everyone in your family?

How do I pay? Cash, Cheque or BACS (Bank Transfer - details on the form) Cash or BACS preferred by our treasurer!

Can I sign up part way through the year? Yes – but the more months you are signed up for, the more months you stand a chance of winning! Signing up part way through the year is ideal option for anyone who has moved into the village.

How do I enter? Return the form that will come out in the **June Magazine** to Helen Jerry at Yew Trees – Bell Green. If paying by cash or cheque, you can include this in the envelope. If you are paying by BACS you can indicate this on the form, please ensure you use the same surname as on the form in the payment reference section when setting up the bank transfer.

Memories

By Evan Sparrow

Chapter 1

I stride through the well-trodden dirt of the path through the woods. The dense canopy shielded me from the soft sun of the beginning of Spring. I felt the faint chill of winter lingering in the atmosphere. I came across a small stream, too deep to walk through. The glistening, cerulean water carried a few, small, blush petals. There was an old, precarious log placed dangerously over the clear water. However, I had done this many times. I effortlessly leapt across the chestnut wood.

A few minutes later, I came across the glade. After settling down on a log, I unpacked my lunch and bit into a crudely made ham sandwich.

The birds sang lightly and the breeze whistled through the beech trees. Emerald grass carpeted the area. A small deer ran along the other end of the glade. My hair blew lightly in the breeze. I sprang up and caught the sun-bleached, baby blue disk. Immediately I tossed it to my brother, who caught it easily.

After another half an hour, we sat down for food, on a small log. It was some crimson, strawberry jam squeezed between two soft slices of white bread.

Thank you Evan for this excellent contribution, a young author in the making. Looking forward to chapter 2. (Sue ed.)

USELESS INFORMATION

Why do we say *Bald as a Badger*?

Unlike the expression 'bald as a coot' - whose inspiration is obvious as coots look bald – this one takes a little more explanation. Badgers' heads do not look noticeably balder than other animals'. But that is not the part of the anatomy in question. The longer expression is 'Bald as a badger's bum'. There was once a widely held belief that bristles for shaving brushes were plucked from this area.

History in Stitches returns to Cratfield.

In the 1960's when the Cathedral at Bury St Edmunds was extended a project was launched to stitch 1000 kneelers for the remodelled cathedral. It was decided that if each parish made two kneelers each then the target could be reached.

So that there was some coherence each kneeler was to have a 'large Y' cross worked in red and gold starting at the bottom centre and reaching to the two top corners. This is an early Christian symbol. The rest of the kneeler was to be blue, a traditional colour of Suffolk cloth, Each parish was invited to choose a symbol to reflect their location, either linked to the dedication of the church or a local landmark. Finally, the name of the parish was added to the bottom of the kneeler.

The aim was for the project to be self-supporting. The cost of the materials for one kneeler was one guinea and most of the stitchers covered their own costs. The canvas used was a French type with fourteen threads to the inch. The wool was 'crewel', a fine wool with several strands used at once. The individual stitchers were able to choose their own stitches and how they worked their design.

The kneelers were dedicated at a service on 25 July 1970. Since then, they have been used and admired by countless visitors and worshippers at the Cathedral.

In 2024, the Victorian pews in the nave of the Cathedral are due to be replaced with chairs and after over 50 years half of the kneelers are no longer needed. As there are two kneelers from each parish it was decided that one would remain in the Cathedral and the other would be offered back to the parish.

The Cratfield kneelers were stitched by Mrs James who used to live in Tye Cottage in Manse Lane and her kneeler, depicting a Crown and an "M " for St Mary's is being returned to Cratfield and will be in the sanctuary or at the priests' prayer desk should you wish to search this little bit of history out.

(At the time of going to press the kneeler has not yet arrived in the church, but don't stop checking!) S.E.

MICHAEL OLIVER

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Cllr Dan Elford Tel: 01986 798649 - Village collection

Cllr Richard Chivers Tel: 07900 187350 - Silverleys Green collection



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ICS

REGISTERED MEMBER OF THE INSTITUTE OF CHIMNEY SWEEPS

April 1985 – Leaving HMS Nottingham and After

My sudden departure from HMS Nottingham was both unexpected and very unwelcome. We were on the way home from the Gulf, enjoying a brief R and R stop in Athens, when something which had been bothering me for several weeks became more serious and I was flown home to the Naval Hospital at Haslar in Gosport, there to be diagnosed with testicular cancer and to spend the rest of the year having surgery followed by a long chemotherapy course which in those days was fairly crude, rough and altogether unpleasant. But it worked.

However, I had sadly missed a year of my time in Nottingham and instead had some very interesting shore time. First of all I spent a year at the Royal College of Defence Studies, an international senior level course involving lectures from senior people in industry, diplomacy, economics and from political leaders from all over the world – for example King Hussein of Jordan, himself a graduate of the course, lectured us. There were 80 students of Brigadier General level or equivalent from the military, the various civil services and industry; 40 from UK and 40 from all over the world. We even had one Zimbabwean Air Commodore who had fought in the bush during the war in what was then Rhodesia and had never flown an aircraft. We each made a 30 day tour abroad in groups of ten (I chose the Middle East – Israel, Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia), spent some time in Germany, still then split with a NATO/Russian hard border through the middle of Germany, and did and learned many other fascinating things.

This was ideal preparation for my next two jobs. The first was as Director of the Royal Naval Staff College, then based at the then Royal Naval College in Greenwich, where I was responsible for running mid-career courses for students from the RN, and a mixture of Army, RAF and a number of foreign and Commonwealth students. It was a fascinating experience, preparing mid-seniority officers for work in the Ministry of Defence and higher headquarters, and persuaded me that we should combine the three service Staff Colleges into a single joint college, which happened in due course at a fine purpose-built site at Shrivenham near Swindon in Wiltshire and is a great success. Well, there have to be some successes.

This was followed in 1989 by an appointment as the Director of Naval Plans in the MoD. I have written before about this organisation which no longer exists in the same way. I don't think that this is necessarily because there are no plans any longer although, looking around the contemporary political and official world, one could easily be forgiven for thinking that. Today, almost everything is done either by joint tri-service

organisations where the business concerned is military, or frequently by the private sector where that is thought to be appropriate. Political correctness prevents me from offering you an opinion on some of the business which is now handled that way, although some is certainly better done by civilian contractors.

As the Director of Naval Plans, I found myself once again participating in a defence review. These exercises are rarely carried out by deciding on national commitments and then allocating a suitable budget to meet them, but rather the other way round by trying to squeeze into an inadequate budget all the things the government said it wanted to do. Any readers who have worked in the Home Office, the Departments of Health, Transport or the Environment will be very familiar with this curious way of going about really quite important business, whilst simultaneously drafting statements for Ministers to say that everything in the garden is lovely. Fortunately, it has its amusing and even occasionally successful moments and by and large the social life in and around the MoD wasn't too bad if you enjoyed late night sipping of sherry whilst tackling piles of paper before the weekend!

However. I didn't feel that you would really want to read the detail of all this sort of thing and so I thought that I would move swiftly on in my next tale to my last period of full time sea going, when I had the great privilege, and the great enjoyment, of commanding the last HMS Ark Royal and her air wing of Sea Harriers, Sea King helicopters and occasional passing aircraft looking for a branch to perch on.

Jeremy Blackham

The letter K is all that makes a difference between the non believer and the believer:
No hope – Know hope

You can't climb the ladder of success with your hands in your pockets.

Don't take life too seriously, no one gets out alive.

The trouble when you reach old age is that you find a lot of your long standing friends are no longer standing.

Poor Man's Potatoes

The other day I got some bargains at Halesworth Market. Three kilos of Norfolk potatoes covered in a nice protective layer of flavour preserving soil for couple of quid, a large bag of slightly odd-looking bell peppers for a pound and some large onions. Poor Man's Potatoes were on the menu that night.

Patatas a lo pobre are as ubiquitous as chips in local restaurants in the mountainous Las Alpujarras – the part of Spain where I have a house. Thinly sliced potatoes, peppers and olive oil simple cooked. No need for expensive meat. It's simple, filling, and delicious. I substituted cold pressed rapeseed oil for olive oil. I think it works well. It's more local to Suffolk - the fields around Cratfield abound with yellow rape flowers. Its relative cheapness is more in keeping with the frugal simplicity of this peasant dish. Spanish cooking has a timeless quality. It transports you to the seventeenth century. The kitchen ware and cooking methods portrayed in Velasquez's painting of an old woman frying eggs are still current today. Food simply cooked in the ancient style – the alchemy that takes place in pot or pan over a single flame. The old cooker that came with my Spanish house had an oven that had never been used!

The secret of Poor Man's Potatoes is to take your time because you don't want the spuds to be crisp – you almost poach them in the oil. Also, of course, season them with care. It's a tasty dish - Spanish cookery writers rhapsodise over its richly delicious savoury flavours. Here's a recipe.

For 4 people

1 kilo of potatoes	1 green pepper	Half a red pepper	1 onion
250ml olive oil	Fine salt	Parsley (optional)	

1. Slice the peppers and the onion thinly. Between three and five millimetres thick.
2. Heat the oil in a frying pan over a medium heat. Add the peppers and onion and cook them gently for ten minutes.
3. Meanwhile peel the potatoes and cut into five-millimetre slices.
4. Add the potatoes to the pan, season with salt and poach them in the oil, pushing them round smoothly from time to time to ensure even cooking, for around ten minutes.
5. Turn the heat down stirring gently once or twice for another ten minutes. Drain off the oil and sprinkle with parsley.

Serve as a side dish with meat or fish. Or do what I did – plate it up alongside fried free-range eggs from Halesworth Market.

Nigel Cousins

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VILLAGE HALL UPDATE – MAY

DIAMOND JUBILEE BENCH

We have sadly had to remove the bench that was put in place around the tree planted to celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee back in 2012 at the Village Hall. After 12 years it had become quite rotten and over the Easter Bank Holiday weekend we found it in a state of collapse, unsafe and with nails protruding so it had to be removed. We will look into replacement options as soon as we can.

DOG SHOW – CAN YOU HELP?!

Are you able to provide a raffle prize (or two?!) - we are also after any volunteers who can assist in putting up and taking down the small marquee and helping out in the refreshment tent on the day - if you can help in anyway please do let us know on cratfieldvillagehall@gmail.com
It takes one huge event like the dog show just to cover the annual insurance costs for the Village Hall - let alone the monthly overheads - so any help is really appreciated.

THANK YOU TO FRAM BROADBAND!

Huge thanks to Oli from Fram Broadband for supporting the Village Hall – we recently had to have a new router to resolve issues with taking card payments at the hall, which they provided free of charge, alongside the free installation and ongoing provision of WIFI at the Village Hall.

CHANGES A FOOT....

Any regular hall users (especially those frequenting the Pop Up Pub!) will be aware how tired and dated the floor in the bar area and back lobby kitchen is. We are really pleased to announce that we have had a number of quotes for new flooring and have successfully applied for a grant from Heveningham Hall Country Fair Trust to pay for this work. This will be carried out in June and we cannot wait for this improvement to be in place. Huge thanks to Heveningham Hall Country Fair Trust – and all the volunteers from Cratfield who come forward to help steward and volunteer at their events.

POP UP PUB – 3RD MAY – DOORS OPEN 6PM / FOOD FROM 7PM

Please note for the May pop up, food service will be slightly later than usual – starting at 7pm. Keep an eye on the village Facebook page for the menu – usually announced the Monday before.

POP UP PUB – 7TH JUNE – PIZZA NIGHT!

We look forward to welcoming a **PIZZA VAN** for our June pop up pub – serving delicious fresh hot pizzas from 6.30pm!

July – Creole night / August – BBQ / September– Oli’s Mexican Night

CRATFIELD VILLAGE HALL 100 CLUB – MAY

The winners for May – as drawn by D Britton are - 1st prize (£15) number 94 – Dennis Rockall; 2nd prize (£10) number 75 – Anne Bedford; and 3rd prize (£5) number 55 – Graham Nixey. Congratulations to Dennis, Anne and Graham!

INDOOR BOWLS – ALTERNATE TUESDAYS

The dates for 2024 are - May 28 / June 11 & 25 / July 23 / Aug 6 & 20 / Sept 3 & 17 / Oct 1 & 15 & 29 / Nov 26 / Dec 10. Do come along and have a go – no experience required – all good fun! Tea & Coffee available and there is a suggested donation of £2 to play. Any queries please contact Nigel 07445351861 or Elliott 07963676207.

CRATFIELD DOG SHOW – SUNDAY 12TH MAY - HAVE YOU SELECTED YOUR CATEGORIES YET?!

The schedule is on the Village Facebook Page and on the Village Hall Notice Board. Pedigree class judging starts at 10.30am and the fun classes start around 1pm – with 16 fun classes to pick from. Even if you do not have a dog – come along for the entertainment – ‘Best Sausage Catcher’ is always a good one to watch!

‘FROM LONDON TO KATHMANDU ON A DOUBLE DECKER BUS’ SATURDAY 27TH JULY 7 FOR 7.30

Come along and hear about a journey made in the mid 1980’s from Central London to Kathmandu on a Double Decker Bus (yes, really!) A wide range of photos, maps, menus and some very tall tales will cover this once in a lifetime journey. Book now via cratfieldvillagehall@gmail.com – places are limited so book early. £6 per head on the door to include a selection of light refreshments. BAR OPEN TOO!

CRATFIELD PHOTOGRAPHIC – FRIDAY 11TH – SATURDAY 12TH OCTOBER

Don’t forget – this is an entirely fun event and many winning photos have been taken on phones and tablets – you do not need a professional camera to take part! The categories are - Cratfield Hobbies / Suffolk Street Scenes / All Suffolk Creatures Great & Small – any interpretation of these categories is welcome! Entry forms coming out in August.

CRATFIELD VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE MEETINGS – 7.00pm

Thursday 9th May / Thursday 8th August / Thursday 21st November (and AGM)

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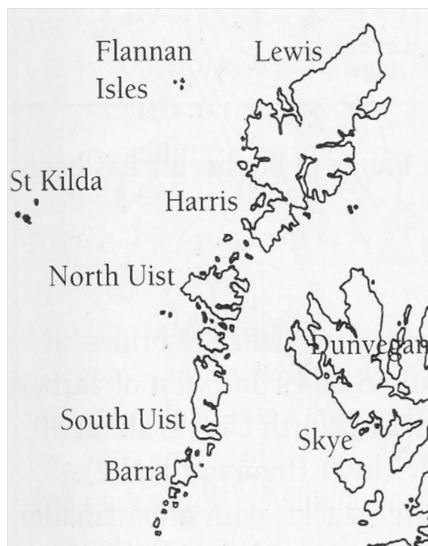
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Exploring the Scottish Islands – with a collapsible bike!
The Uists, Outer Hebrides: North Uist, Benbecula & South Uist –
Part 3



Having landed at Lochmaddy ferry terminal and having followed the circular road around North Uist, my travels then took me southwards down the 'spine' of the Outer Hebrides: first stop, **Benbecula** (pop. 1,200). Sandwiched between North Uist and South Uist, it's connected to both by causeways across the shallow sea. The island is about 7 miles across in all directions and has numerous other small islands, many of them uninhabited, off the east coast: as they can be reached on foot at the right tide, a traditional Hebridean farewell to a departing guest is "*May there be a road.*" Benbecula's main settlement is Balivanich in the northwest. It's the main administrative centre for the Uists,

containing the council offices and bank. An airfield, built during World War II, became, in 1957, the control centre and tracking station for rockets and missiles fired from a testing range situated in South Uist. (The missiles continued to be tracked further out to sea at another station in St Kilda, over 40 miles away.) Now known simply as Benbecula Airport, non-military operations include scheduled flights to the mainland and, due to its central location close to the hospital (*Ospadal Uibhist agus Bharraigh*), the airport is used as a landing site for rescue helicopters and aircraft.

Like so many other islands, the tenanted population were herded off the island by an unscrupulous laird in favour of sheep, which were more financially rewarding than impoverished human beings. Benbecula, in 1838, became the property of Colonel John Gordon of Cluny: he was already accustomed to treating people as slaves (he had 1,383 slaves himself on 6 plantations in Tobago) and he saw the financial advantages in livestock farming. In 1851, he evicted 3,000 people from North and South Uist, Benbecula and Barra (all of which he owned) and they were sent to Canada. Their removal was ruthless and with little notice, sometimes even dragging them to the shore in handcuffs wearing little more than their undergarments. The crofters were replaced with sheep. Despite his behaviour causing a

national outcry, this practice was continued by the widow of his son, well into the early 20th century. (*This was possibly only exceeded in notoriety by F.W. Clark, who owned Ulva and Gometra (off Mull). The population consisted of sixteen townships, with boat builders, merchants, carpenters, shoe makers, tailors, weavers and blacksmiths. He destroyed everything by setting fire to thatch and burning his tenants out of their homes...*)

There are relics and ruins to be viewed (eg Borve Castle) – also a hill to climb and some fantastic beaches - but it's easy to pass Benbecula by, en route to South Uist, and leave it behind almost before you realise that you're on the island!

Continuing southwards, we reach **South Uist** (pop. 1,755). It is known to have been a thriving Neolithic community and later in the Bronze Age (c. 1600 BC), a man was mummified and placed on display at a place called Cladh Hallan (where the remains of ancient roundhouses can still be found); he was later joined by a female who died c. 1300 BC. (ie at about the same time as King Tutankhamun). *These are the only known prehistoric mummies in the British Isles.* In the 9th century, Vikings invaded South Uist, along with the rest of the Hebrides, and established 'The Kingdom of the Isles' – ie the Isle of Man, the Hebrides and the islands of the Firth of Clyde (*the 2 largest being Arran and Bute*) from the 9th to the 13th centuries AD. Norwegian overlordship was also established when Magnus Barefoot took Orkney, the northern Scottish mainland and the Hebrides, where he "died his sword red in blood" in the Uists.

The machair (sweet-smelling coastal wildflowers) is profuse and it fills the air with a heady scent on a summer's day. The Lesser Spotted Twitcher (*Twitcherus Railway Timetable Sandal-and-Socks Binocularis Vulgaris*) is spoilt for choice with numerous rare birds to twitch at, many of which are waders – and the many fresh water lochs flower with white and yellow water-lilies, now a rare sight in the wild.

Almost at the bottom end of South Uist, you reach Lochboisdale – once a major herring port, but now a ferry port with a village population of 300 (about the same as Cratfield). In these islands, it's easy to stay in the car, pass everything by and then ask, "Is that it?" It's fair to say that there are perhaps more visually-appealing, more exciting islands to move on to, and so it's easy to leave the Uists behind in your tyre tracks. To properly explore the Uists, you need (i) to be interested in what they have to offer, and (ii) to have made the decision to stop and explore; otherwise, you will steam on to further islands and sights & sounds, just as I did. After all, there is a lot to take in, in this part of the world.

Next month: Eriskay
Andrew Weight

Cratfield Parish Council

Meeting Dates 2024

All meetings are held in The Village Hall, Manse Lane Cratfield, IP19 0DJ

- Tuesday 12th March 2024 at 7.30 pm
- Tuesday 14th May 2024 at 7.30 pm
– Annual Parish Meeting & Annual Parish Council Meeting
- Tuesday 9th July 2024 at 7.30 pm
- Tuesday 10th September 2024 at 7.30 pm
- Tuesday 12th November 2024 at 7.30 pm

*The agenda is displayed three days before the meeting in the village noticeboards and on CPC's website: www.cratfield.onesuffolk.net
Planning meetings are arranged as and when required and extra meetings may be scheduled if necessary.*

~ Members of the public are welcome to attend the meetings ~

For further details contact the Clerk email:
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- 18th: Foray & Fire Cooking with Vivia (from Sciapod Foray)

June:

- 8th: Hedgerow Dyeing Workshop - The Woodland Haberdasher
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Mace

Letter from the Vicar

Dear friends

By the time you read this, I suspect that the Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCMs) will have been completed, churchwardens appointed, and all are ready to support people of faith and also bringing people to faith perhaps for the first time ever. Now is a good time to look back over the last year and to think about the lessons learned and the opportunities for the next year. I cannot help but wonder how our churches might rise to the question of Eco congregations and am mindful of the progress being made in Laxfield. Parishes are at the forefront of answering to the need for us all to respond positively to the challenges of the pressures that humans put on the environment on which we all depend – God’s wonderful creation.

Many of you attended the Requiem Mass for the late Michael Spencer at St Lawrence’s church in Brundish on 17th April; a moving tribute to a truly gifted musician, leader and visionary.

And finally, I am sure you will join with me in praying for Rev Enid’s return to good health.

God bless. Rev Chrissie – Associate Priest, The Four Rivers Benefice – 07803 134301.

FUND RAISING

Fundraising events for St. Mary’s will include Church Farm House Open Garden (see page 2) and the ever popular Cratfield Concerts. A Harvest Supper and a Games Evening are also planned with dates yet to be arranged. So watch this space!

May Cratfield Church Services

Sunday 12th	Sunday 26th
Acts 1:15-17,21 1 John 5:9-13 John 17:6-19	Isaiah 6:1-8 Romans 8:12-17 John 3:1-17
9.00am Village Worship CS	9.00am Holy Communion CM

May	5th	12th	19th	26th
Bedfield	10.30am Holy Communion CS		10.30am Family Service CS	
Brundish	9.00am Village Worship CS			9.00am Holy Communion RA
Laxfield	10.30am Celtic Service LE	10.30am Morning Praise Laxfield Team	10.30am Holy Communion CM	10.30am Fourth Sunday FS team
Monk Soham	11.00am Family Service RA		11.00am Holy Communion RA	
Tanning- ton				
Wilby	10.30am Village Worship MP	10.30am Holy Communion CS	10.30am Village Worship SP	10.30am Morning Prayer CS
Worling- worth	11.00am Morning Pprayer BS	11.00am Let's Celebrate BS	11.00am Holy Communion RO	11.00am Morning Prayer RA

Zoom services Celtic Prayer – 7.00pm Wednesdays, 9.00am Fridays

To join us mail rev.chrissiesmart@gmail.com and you will be sent details

DIRECTORY:

Local Officers:

Church:

Priest in Charge of the Four Rivers Benefice
Rev. Enid Pow revenid4rivers@gmail.com 01986 743093
The Vicarage, 15 Noyes Avenue Laxfield IP13 8EB
Assistant Curate Rev. Clive Mobbs 07340 838639

Parish Council:

Chairperson Lotty Barbour 01986 798099
Parish Clerk Sally Chapman 07774 734411
Parish Council Website www.cratfield.onesuffolk.net
Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator Nick Eade 01986 798725

Village Hall:

Chairperson Andy Barringer 01986 798346
Vice Chair Jo Cerullo 01986 798656
Bookings Robert King 01986 798975

Laxfield All Saints C of E Primary School

Head of School Mrs Minns 01986 798344

Doctors' Surgery

Fressingfield 0379 586227
Stradbroke 01379 384220

Cratfield News

Editor Sue Eade 01986 798725
suecratmag@aol.com
Treasurer Graham Nixey 07748 907099
Production Manager Peter Sparrow 01986 888505
peter-sparrow@outlook.com

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