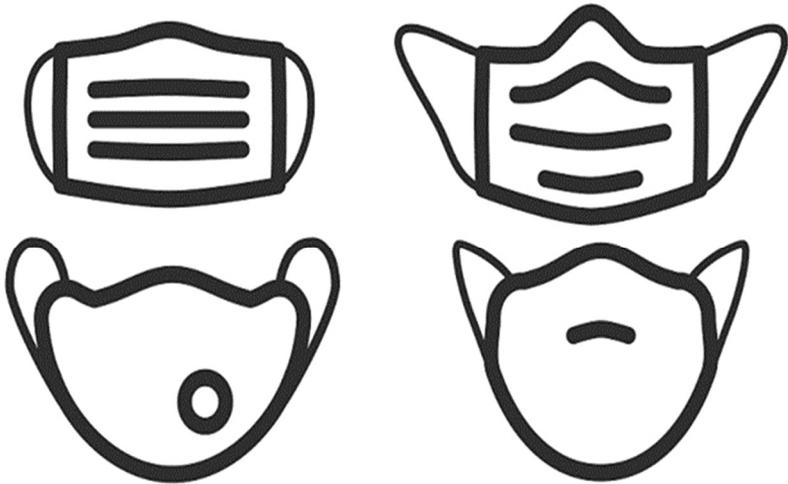


# CRATFIELD NEWS

August 2020



A warm Cratfield welcome to Holly and Hayden who, with their little 'Frenchie', have recently moved into Poachers Cottages.

### **BOTTLE BANK**

Just a reminder, when you drop off your bottles, please could you take home the containers in which you brought them. Some tidy minded person has put a black dustbin by the bottle bank, but it is within no-ones remit to empty these, hence they are full and bags and boxes are being left on the ground.

### **DOG THEFT**

I am sure most people are aware that the theft of dogs is rising rapidly around the country. Yet another spin off of lockdown, people at home more and wanting company. The cost of dogs has risen exponentially, who would believe you could be asked to pay £900 for a Jack Russell, (the one we had many years ago cost £12!) or £2,000 for a Cockapoo, hence opportunists wishing to make quick buck can provide one much more cheaply via theft. Unmarked vans acting strangely have been seen on more than one occasion in the village and a wire garden fence has been cut through. There is also talk of houses with dogs being marked up for targeting at a later date. This is not just village gossip or local hysteria, the police are asking people to be vigilant, especially if they have a garden adjacent to the roadside. If you have any information which you feel may be of use please contact Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator, Nick Eade 01986 798725, who will forward it to the relevant Police Authority

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## NEWFOUNDLAND part 2

Andrew's grandfather, as a young parson-in-training, worked in Newfoundland between 1907-1910. He married there, bringing his wife and a young child back to the UK in 1910. Following his late grandfather's memoirs for guidance, Andrew and his father went to Newfoundland in 1993 to discover further family history. We pick up the story with Andrew and his father in the Maritime Records Office at St. John's: they are trying to find out more about the S.S.Ethie, a coastal steamer that his newly-wed grandparents sailed on the 1909 for their simple honeymoon. The receptionist helping them had just said. "I think you two gentlemen need to sit down!"

The story continues...

She took us to a quiet part of the office...

It was December, 1919 (10 years after my grandparents were on the boat for their honeymoon) and 'The Ethie' was getting ready to sail. It was the last sailing of the season and the 45 passengers were all geared up for a Christmas break.

The Captain was very uneasy about sailing, because the weather outlook was not good. He would normally delay – but all the passengers were on board, with their Christmas presents at the ready for their loved-ones on the other side of the island: he felt there'd be a riot if he didn't sail.

Reluctantly, he set off. *(The following 2 paragraphs are written with the aid of the ship's log which I've found on the Internet:-)*

The journey had a good start with a calm sea, and scheduled stops were made without any problems – but when they reached a place called 'Cow Head' on the west coast, the sky had turned black and the wind was increasing. After taking on freight, they left at 8pm in strengthening winds and worsening seas. By midnight, the winds were hurricane force, with thick snow flurries and they had made little progress. The waves were rolling over the ship and ice was accumulating fast. They had to ditch empty barrels, as the weight of the ice threatened to overwhelm the ship. Overnight, the sailors had to assist the stokers in keeping enough of a head of steam to save the ship... and when daylight came, the winds were fiercer than ever. With coal stocks depleted, and drifting back towards land in "boiling seas", the only decision that could be made was to try and hit land as safely as possible. All passengers were fitted with lifebelts and everyone then waited: now with the rudder gone, the ship got over the reef and closer towards the rocks. At 12 noon she struck, and the rocks "made her shake terribly".

*As Natalie will confirm, Newfoundland dogs are big, strong dogs – and terrific swimmers with (strange though it might sound) webbed paws.*

The Captain had his Newfoundland dog on board, and it swam ashore with a line. This was enough to save the day: some onlookers on the shore picked it up, set up a rescue mission and all lives on board were saved -

including a baby, sent ashore in a mailbag!

Now... this was way back in 1919, so imagine our surprise when the lady in the records office said, "Do you want to see the ship *for real?*"

Our jaws dropped as she said, "...because the shipwreck is still there to this day!"

No wonder she sat us down!!

My Dad and I re-arranged our schedule and, without hesitation, we drove the 400 miles from one side of Newfoundland to the other, to see the wreckage of "The Ethie": the very boat that his parents, my grandparents, had sailed on for their honeymoon in 1909.

The wreck is signposted at Cow Head. There it was. Not much left of it at all. But, sitting out there, were two massive metal bulks that hadn't shifted in all these years, despite the waves crashing around them. (I had no idea what they were: engines perhaps?)

Amazingly, the shoreline was still littered with debris – some of it big, some of it small: to our astonishment, there were still wooden fragments of decking. I guess the weather is so cold and appalling, Newfoundland doesn't have many beach goers! (No need to tidy up the beach then!)

It was very poignant watching my father, himself an old man now, quietly picking up little pieces of wooden decking and putting them in his pocket as a memento. Who knows, his parents may well have walked on that decking, way back in 1909, on their little honeymoon.

I also put some bits and pieces into my shirt pocket, and they are treasured items to this day.

We found a small motel nearby, and stopped for some much-needed refreshments. Our English accents soon attracted the attentions of the proprietor, who then engaged us in conversation: she loved our story of long-lost family, and the detective work which had brought us to Cow Head, all the way from St John's, 400 miles away.

She then said, "You should have been here last year. We met an old lady who had been pacing up and down the shore, and then came here for a cup of tea. She looked very emotional, so we asked her if she was OK. She said, "Yes, I'll be all right. It's just that... the last time I was here, I was a baby... and I came ashore in a mailbag.""

*In fond memory of my fun-loving cousin, Ruth, who died aged 61 on May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020.*

Andrew Weight

While in lock-down, and having been blessed for most of that time with wonderful weather, even if a little more rain would have been helpful, many of us have been spending much of our time in our gardens. Although I love gardens, I am not an enthusiastic gardener, but I have been heavily “persuaded” to spend more time in ours. In this beautiful spring, with the sound of birdsong so much clearer than usual, it has been a delight. Cratfield’s gardens look lovely and even if our hair is unkempt, our hedges have never been more perfectly trimmed!



Another great 20<sup>th</sup> Century poet, and unfairly maligned, was Rudyard Kipling, who wrote in many different styles and on many different subjects. He loved the English countryside and used his Nobel Prize for Literature to create a beautiful garden at his final home at Batemans in Sussex. Here is an extract from his poem **‘The Glory of the Garden’**, which in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic we might see as a metaphor for the England we will rebuild after the crisis.

Our England is a garden, and such gardens are not made  
By singing:- "Oh, how beautiful," and sitting in the shade  
While better men than we go out and start their working lives  
At grubbing weeds from gravel-paths with broken dinner-knives.

There's not a pair of legs so thin, there's not a head so thick,  
There's not a hand so weak and white, nor yet a heart so sick  
But it can find some needful job that's crying to be done,  
For the Glory of the Garden glorifieth everyone.

Then seek your job with thankfulness and work till further orders,  
If it's only netting strawberries or killing slugs on borders;  
And when your back stops aching and your hands begin to harden,  
You will find yourself a partner In the Glory of the Garden.

Oh, Adam was a gardener, and God who made him sees  
That half a proper gardener's work is done upon his knees,  
So when your work is finished, you can wash your hands and pray  
For the Glory of the Garden that it may not pass away!  
*And the Glory of the Garden it shall never pass away !*

**Jeremy Blackham**

MICHAEL OLIVER

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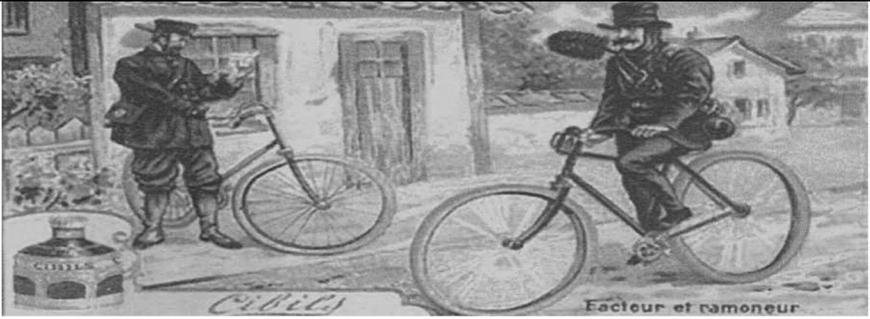
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## Marine 'Geordie' Gates'

I have mentioned before that I was the Diving Officer of HMS Rothesay on the West Indies Station in 1965-6. I had a team of 8 divers, including myself. They were from all departments of the ship and were easy to keep fit and trained and were very enthusiastic. Who wouldn't be, with the warm clear Caribbean Sea and visibility underwater of many yards, beautiful coral reefs and wonderfully exotic fish to be seen. Even our main task of searching the ship's bottom, and doing minor underwater repairs was a small price to pay for such adventures. The star of our team was a Royal Marine. Marine 'Geordie' Gates was a huge but amazingly gentle man, over 6 ft 4 inches tall, very beefy, and with a strong Geordie accent which only his friend, Marine 'Sandy' Powell could really understand, especially on the underwater telephone. So he used to go around with Powell as his interpreter and whenever he was diving, I had Powell beside me on the underwater telephone in an effort to understand what was going on.

Our last port of call before going home to Portsmouth after our 9 month tour of duty in the Caribbean was Nassau, capital of the Bahamas. I decided that we would take this last opportunity to exercise the divers, outboard of the ship on the main jetty of Nassau, before they had to face diving in cold, murky English water. Barely had Gates gone down, when the most excitable gabble I have ever heard was coming from the underwater phone. I looked at Powell. 'Geordie's found a treasure haul, Sir. There's bottles and bottles of booze on the sea bed.' Well, we decided that they needed to be rescued and an hour later we had over six dozen bottles of spirits and liqueurs of all kinds on board the ship, in perfect condition. It was very tempting. They had obviously all been thrown over the side of one of the many cruise ships which visit Nassau. Perhaps someone had needed to get rid of them quickly. Sadly, they all had to be put into bond on board, and landed in Portsmouth only if the duty on them was paid. However I managed to persuade the Captain (who you may remember from his response to the 'dance crisis' in Cayman Brac<sup>1</sup>, was a good sport) that each diver could have bottles up to his Duty Free allowance

given to him on return to UK, provided he declared them to customs and paid the duty on any excess and didn't open them until he got home. Or at any rate onto the train home. Geordie Gates was a teetotaller, and so he missed out on his great discovery<sup>2</sup>.

However, Gates did eventually have the last word. Like several other members of the crew he had bought a parrot in Guyana, and was taking it home across the Atlantic on board the ship. One quiet early evening, about two thirds of the way back across the Atlantic, I was walking round the upper deck to get some fresh air and exercise and came across Gates trying to teach his parrot to speak English (it wasn't as fluent as Ed, the parrot who welcomes you into Patrick's newsagents in Halesworth). But Gates was teaching it some thoroughly impolite words, the sort of words that really only sailors ever use – nautical language in fact. I was a little shocked and asked him why on earth he was teaching it such language. 'Well, Sir,' he said as usual through Marine Powell, 'it's like this, Sir. It's a present for my mother-in-law.' I didn't really feel I could answer that.

## **Jeremy Blackham**

***Perhaps I should say, in case there is any doubt, all these stories are true.***

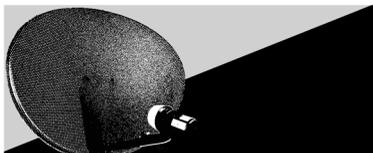
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<sup>1</sup>Cratfield Magazine June 2020

<sup>2</sup>By a strange coincidence, Nassau was also one of the last foreign ports I visited some 27 years later when commanding HMS Ark Royal. Sadly there were no free bottles of spirits that time, although there were many other compensations. But I have promised never to mention those to anyone.

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## VILAGE HALL UPDATE – AUGUST

I am afraid we are still unable to offer any details as to when or in what format any event's may start up again, as soon as we have clear information / government guidance we will let you all know – meanwhile keep an eye on the Cratfield Village Facebook page for any updates in case the situation changes before the next magazine is out.

### **Photographic Competition –**

This was due to be held in October (originally scheduled for Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October) and will still happen, but the date may be put back. You can enter as many times in any or all of the categories as you want – the photos must be either 12"x 8" or 8"x 6" and can be either portrait or landscape. Entry is £1 per photograph and as soon as we have a confirmed date the entry forms will be sent out through the village magazine. (Please note we unfortunately cannot accept any other size of photos as we are restricted by the size of the mounts we have). The 4 categories are -

### **Suffolk Transport –**

Photography tips - Cars are probably the first mode of transport that comes to mind when you think of transport photography but there are plenty of other subjects that are worth a shot or two. Bikes, trains planes and boats can be slightly more challenging to capture but can produce good results. Trains are predictable as they have to follow a track, leave and arrive at certain stations and have a schedule they have to follow. Finding a spot to shoot from should be quite simple then all you have to do is perfect your technique – the brilliance of taking photos on phones and tablets alongside digital cameras is you can click away taking plenty of shots and delete any that are not required, and instantly see the results.

### **Black & White Cratfield –**

Photography tips – A good black and white photo is one where you want to emphasise shapes, lines, texture and structure. You want to remove the distraction caused by colours. Good black and white photography should have contrast between light and shadow. Some good subjects could be man made structures like farm buildings, house details, roads, bridges etc alongside nature – close details of hedgerows, wildlife and so on.

### **Suffolk Skylines –**

Photography tips – These shots are all about finding the right location - start by identifying vantage points that could give you a good view. Keep in mind that if want to capture a wide photo of the skyline you will need to be a fair distance away. Anything goes – for dog walkers there may be a stunning sunrise or sunset over the countryside that you can capture, for drivers there may be a bridge, town or city skyline you see on your way to and from work that makes an interesting shot.

### **Fun category – Suffolk Seaside –**

Photography tips – Don't just head straight for the beach – think 'outside of the box' lighthouses, arcades, shells and driftwood, dog walkers, picnics, sunbathers (with their permission!) sandcastles, beach huts, ice cream eaters, - it doesn't have to be a scorching summers day either – think wet and wild and out of season when the sea-

side is deserted too.

### **Other Events....**

We also still have Jeremy & Candy Blackham's postponed photographic talk and food evening on 'The backroads of Northern Spain' along with the next acoustic night, another planned food evening and we are keeping our fingers crossed that we might be able to hold another successful Christmas Fair.

### **Cratfield's Crafty Crooks - (A tale of drunken misdemeanour )**

Reported in the East Anglian Times April 1892 under the heading "A midnight adventure." The story of a dastardly crime carried out in Cratfield.

Three Cratfield labourers left the Swan public house at 10 pm. Their crime was to be discovered the next day. A local farmer found out that he was missing "7 fowls and a pair of worsted stockings." A trail of feathers and footprints led from the yard and across a ploughed field to the hen-house. When the three men returned home at 1.00am they each carried large bundles. One of them told his housekeeper to, "light the fire and put the saucepan on." He then proceeded to pluck two hens that he took from his bundle. These were then cooked and eaten. The heads and feathers were thrown down the W.C. The remaining bundles were hidden until Thursday when he retrieved them and ate them with his neighbours. The heads and feathers of these chickens were buried in his allotment along with the stockings.

When a police constable from Laxfield examined the henhouse, he found footprints which appeared to be of three different people. He also found a trail of feathers which led to the Swan P H. He searched one of the men's homes and found the heads, wings, feathers and entrails of freshly killed hens in the W.C. Their secret was out. All three men admitted being drunk and pleaded guilty. They received three months hard labour.

At the Halesworth Petty Session where the prosecution of the 3 defendant's case was conducted, the wife of one of the defendants was asked about the stockings she replied that her husband was not in the habit of burying stockings, to which there was much laughter.

The moral of this story is, in Cratfield lock up your fowls and your stockings, especially on pop up pub night!

Mark Askew

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## The Fruits of Paradise

I once chatted to a Columbian lady visiting Britain for the first time – her daughter had married an Englishman and was living in Essex. She was bemused by her visit to a large supermarket.

‘You have all the fruits and vegetables we get at home – avocado, papaya, banana, mango, tomato. They look just the same. But the taste...’  
She pulled a face. ‘They don’t taste of anything...’



It is understandable that after a journey of thousands of miles, and the necessity of fruit and vegetables having a long shelf life, taste and smell are casualties. If that Columbian lady had to live here permanently her life would be a poignant exile from the flavours, textures, and aromas she had grown up with. For her it would have been like living in a maddeningly fallen world – able to buy what looked like the fruits of tropical paradise but forever unable to taste them. Lucky for her taste buds that she was just over here for Christmas.

Lockdown life in Cratfield where our world has necessarily been shrunk down to the confines of our garden has made me think of the lady from Columbia. We have been eating its produce for weeks. Lettuces, delicately crunchy – green as a Suffolk country landscape, fresh every day. They bear little resemblance to those store-bought Little Gems that stay green for days in the fridge, would probably survive a nuclear attack, and taste of nothing at all.

We have picked redcurrants that hang like rubies on the bush and explode with flavour when you eat them. We have been feasting on early crop new potatoes – Suffolk soil transmuted into creamy, earthy perfection. We have enjoyed the tenderest, greenest, broad beans. The fragrance of our beetroot freshly boiled and peeled, and ready to be doused in vinegar fills our kitchen like incense. A Cratfield garden is no tropical paradise but has a little touch of heaven in it, nevertheless.



Compared to the produce we have had from our plot most of the fruit and vegetables we have bought in the past bear scant resemblance to real fruit and vegetables fresh from the garden. They might have been made from painted wood or wax.

And that is why I thought of the Columbian lady. She yearned for the lost taste of the fruits of her tropical land. Eating our garden produce reminded us of all the smells and flavours food we have lost in our modern reliance on supermarkets.

Unlike so many people in this country we are incredibly lucky to have a garden. It has been a great refuge in a difficult time. It is tempting to think of it as a perfect refuge of safety and order in a challenging world.

And yet, as any gardener will tell you death, destruction, failure, and disease are as common in gardens as they are in the world. This year has been terrible for our onions, our sunflowers grew gnarly and deformed – the silver peach tree, the pride of our front lawn that cropped so well last year looks terribly stressed, lost most of its leaves and fruits and looks as if it might be mortally ill. But we take a positive view of our garden, we enjoy it, revelling in the lovely things and trying not to dwell on the negative aspects. Even in tough times gardens are for optimists.

## **Nigel Cousins**

---

### **Orchids**

During the hot weather in mid June I had just reached the seat at the end of the 'cherry tree walk' in St Mary's churchyard, and was about to head home when a pink flower head caught my eye in the long grass. I looked more closely and spotted one, then another .... Orchid, and yes they just had to be 'Pyramidal Orchids' from their distinctive shape. A delightful sight on a warm summer's day.

After some research I discovered the following:

Pyramidal Orchids are one of the later Orchids to flower. They have an abundant supply of nectar which attracts butterflies and moths. Their seeds are like fine dust, easily blown by the wind, and when they settle they need a soil fungus to enable them to germinate. Pyramidal Orchids are 'winter green' i.e. they have new leaves from autumn onwards through the winter. It was interesting to discover that the mowing time for a meadow with these Orchids is important: cutting should be left until early September to allow the seed to set, and the hay removed to keep soil fertility low; also a spring cut should be avoided if possible to prevent damage to the 'winter green' leaves.

I would be interested to know if anyone remembers seeing these Orchids in the churchyard in previous years?

Alison Wood

It has been many months since I last had a chance to fill a bit of space in this rather glorious little mag of ours, you others have been so productive in content, you've left nothing for me (I'm sure Sue does it on purpose!) well I have been thinking of all this spare time many of us have had (please think of us poor essential workers!) and that explains all the extra content, none of you have had anything better to do (keep it up though local, contemporary content is much better than "ancient history", unless it's funny (drunken chicken theft!)) brings to mind a status from a friends Facebook feed: **"I always said that if I had more time I would tidy the house properly, sort the garden, learn an instrument or language, get a new qualification and write a book. Turns out lack of time wasn't the problem..."**

Also this: because it's so true, we need more memes in the Cratfield News and I wanted to get the first one in! If it's not too small.

Feel free to send loads in (keep them clean and inoffensive), Sue will love them!

Mostly everyone: inside  
isolating themselves from  
the rest of society

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**Mace**

It has been galling seeing the shops open, then the pubs, but not the churches. On our TVs we have seen relieved shop owners with broad grins getting their stock ready and unlocking their doors. They need to start selling again so that they can provide for themselves and pay their employees. So too the pubs and now, at last, so too the churches.

We need to open our doors once more to bring services to all and not just to those who can tune in online. Just like the shops and pubs we need to pay our bills and there is an urgent need to do this. The church is present for all people, not just Christians, and of course we want to keep our churches alive and active, and as many of our buildings open as we can. We want to keep the fabric in good order and make sure it is clean and tidy for when people visit.

This year, our own diocese predicts it will be two million pounds in the red, Norwich diocese three million, and this situation is repeated all through the country. Unfortunately, the national church is unable to bail everyone out – it may be asset rich but has little, if any, spare cash. These are not inconsiderable sums and the main cause is the lack of money in the collection plate.

We are unable to hold fundraising events at the moment, and as you know we haven't been able to hold services since the middle of March. Last month I explained the cost involved in running our churches. I know that many people give most generously of their time and money, and we are extremely grateful for it, but now I need to ask for even more help.

The obvious and simplest way is to pay a little a month by standing order. If, for example, every household in the benefice paid £5 a month to their church we would be able to pay our way and be open for anyone who needs us. That was only an example, and of course I can think of many reasons why this may not be an option for some. We know that our church activities and our church buildings are important to many of our villagers, and we want to be able to continue a church presence for all.

There are other methods coming to make it easier to pay. Laxfield is getting a card reader, and some of the parishes are joining the parish giving donation scheme. This is a safe, confidential, tax efficient way for parishioners to support their parish church. Regular monthly or annual donations are made by direct debit. Each donation is restricted to a chosen church and cannot be used elsewhere. Donations can be anonymous if preferred. This alleviates the need for handling cash in church during these difficult times. If your parish church is important to you, or maybe you have expressed an interest in the church by signing up to the electoral roll, you might feel able to think about helping in some way.

Please help if you can by contacting the treasurer whose details are below:

Thank you very much for any help you feel able to offer.

**David**

Church treasurers	
Bedfield—Jenny Hinchey	<a href="mailto:hincheypj81@gmail.com">hincheypj81@gmail.com</a>
Brundish—Tim Gillingham	<a href="mailto:timgillers1@gmail.com">timgillers1@gmail.com</a>
Cratfield— Anne Bedford	<a href="mailto:anne.bedford06@gmail.com">anne.bedford06@gmail.com</a>
Laxfield—Richard Simmonds	<a href="mailto:simmonds345@btinternet.com">simmonds345@btinternet.com</a>
Monk Soham—Geoff Artiss	<a href="mailto:geoffartiss@outlook.com">geoffartiss@outlook.com</a>
Tannington—Chloe Cross	<a href="mailto:chloe.cross@kiteconsulting.com">chloe.cross@kiteconsulting.com</a>
Wilby—Andrew Pilling	<a href="mailto:ampilling@btinternet.com">ampilling@btinternet.com</a>
Worlingworth— Nick Westwood	<a href="mailto:westwoodlans@btinternet.com">westwoodlans@btinternet.com</a>

## **Four Rivers Benefice**

Our churches are now open at times for private prayer and the Government has announced that churches will soon be permitted to open for services, but with restrictions on numbers and strict procedures to follow.

**We will continue with these Zoom services even when church services start to take place.**

If you would like to join our online Zoom services, simply send your email address to Chrissie at [christinesmart@aol.com](mailto:christinesmart@aol.com) and we will send you instructions, a link and a service sheet.

### **August Services – Everyone welcome!**

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August Family Service led by the Bedfield team  
 Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August Holy Communion led by Rev'd Ron Orams  
 Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August Family Service led by Sandra Apps  
 Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August Holy Communion led by Rev'd David Mulrenan  
 Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August Benefice Harvest Songs of Praise

Prayers can now be said inside St. Mary's. Regular prayers will be said for the Parish of Cratfield.

If you or anyone in your family needs prayer, please contact me in confidence - Margaret Thompson 07906509303

# DIRECTORY:

Doctor's Surgery	Fressingfield	01379 586 227
	Stradbroke	01379 384 220

## Local officers:

Church Rev. David Burrell		01986 798 136
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'The Vicarage, Noyes Avenue, Laxfield

[theparsnips@googlemail.com](mailto:theparsnips@googlemail.com)

## Church Wardens:

Andy Edmunds		01986 798523
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Lay Elder for Cratfield - Margaret Thompson		07906 509302
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Parish Council - Lotty Barbour		01986 798099
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PC Clerk Sally Chapman		01379 855486
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PC Website	<a href="http://www.cratfield.onesuffolk.net">www.cratfield.onesuffolk.net</a>	
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Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator - Nick Eade		01986 798725
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## Village Hall:

Chair Person - Natalie Lloyd-Evans		01986 798790
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Vice Chair - Richard Turberville		01986 798346
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Bookings - Jo Nunn		01986 799181
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Laxfield School Head of School- Mrs Minns		01986 798344
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Nova Group - Heather Hargood		01986 798180
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[peter-sparrow@outlook.com](mailto:peter-sparrow@outlook.com)

All information must arrive by 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Advertising rates p/a: Full page £60; half page £30; quarter £20; eighth £10; directory £8; flyer £10.

Please contact Sue, Graham or Peter for more information