

CRATFIELD NEWS

December 2023



CRATFIELD CHRISTMAS FAIR

Sunday 3rd December
10 am - 1 pm

**OVER 15 STALLS OFFERING..
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CHRISTMAS CARDS, BOOKS, STAINED GLASS,
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AND MUCH MORE!**

Cratfield Village Hall - Manse Lane

HELP

I received the following email recently and am hoping by publishing it in the magazine someone maybe able to help. If you have any information which might be useful perhaps you could send it to me and I can forward it to Tony to help him with his family research. Sue (Ed.)

"I am researching my family history and wonder if someone in the local parish / community might offer any pointers - Although much research can be done online, inevitably it's useful at some point to visit the places where ancestors once lived. However, this is awkward as I've been living in Portugal for the last 30 years and have no surviving family/relatives in the UK. An only child, now in my 60s, my parents are deceased and my grandparents died before I was born. So I'm starting from scratch and, as far as I'd always been aware, all my family hailed from London (I was born in Clapham)... But I've been surprised to learn that my great grandfather moved to London as a young man in the 1880s from your locality. His was a family background of farm labourers, I imagine a hard and poor life (perhaps why he moved away). Even more surprising, I discovered that no less than three generations of forefathers all lived together at one time in your parish. All had exactly the same name: James Elwood (without even a different middle name to distinguish them – very confusing!). But they are each registered in the Census of 1861 as living together at the same place: North Green, Cratfield. This was - James Elwood – my 3rd great grandfather, age 67 (Born 1794/5 in Stradbroke; died 1872 at place unknown but perhaps Cratfield) with his son - James Elwood - my 2nd great grandfather, age 36 Occupation: agricultural labourer (Born 1825 in Cratfield or Stradbroke; died 1908 in Hartismere) Also recorded is his wife Mary Ann (maiden name Cole) and several children, including a son - James Elwood – my great grandfather, age 7 (Born 1853/4 in Cratfield or Metfield; died 1934 in Lewisham, south London) As a possible further clue, the same Census also records that they were living in the same place with another family - James Tacon, age 60 (occupation: agricultural labourer) Elizabeth Tacon (wife), age 57 Mary Tacon (daughter), age 16 Indeed, the Elwood and Tacon families were still living in North Green ten years later, recorded in the following Census of 1871. I've studied Cratfield/North Green on Google Earth and it's a small area with few properties.... So my enquiry boils down to: Is there some way I might trace the exact property where the Elwoods lived during this 1861-71 period? What were the farms' names in that time? Who were the farms' owners, who might have employed my ancestors? Would there be any local records of this? The Suffolk County Archive in Ipswich is certainly the place to visit when I make a fact-finding trip. But it also seems to me that the Cratfield/North Green area was/is such a small community, there may be some local knowledge (at least anecdotal) that I might tap into? If so, how would you suggest I go about this, before actually visiting the locality? I'd hope to do so, perhaps next summer, but anything I can do beforehand to narrow

down my investigations, make my path less random, would be hugely useful.

With kind regards,
Tony Elwood"

**Carol Singing around the village
Thursday 21st December
Meet at Sue & Tim's, Corner Cottage
5.45pm for a 6.00pm start
All welcome**

**WANTED
Garage or barn space required for storage of classic car. Must
have power for battery trickle charger and be dry and secure.
Happy to discuss weekly or monthly cost. Many thanks
Jon Walford 079311 33462 or 01986 798186**

THANK YOU

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who made such a difference to us during our 'scary' bout of Covid. For those who travelled up to us with shopping, soup, trifle and treats, all just left on our doorstep a special thank you. Thank you to those who checked in on our daily progress and all of you that sent messages of support and offers of help, they meant so much. In one day we had an unbelievable 22 messages! So if we were ever in any doubt as to how much we were loved in this village there was our answer. That's real community working at its best and we will be forever grateful.
Ian & Margaret Thompson

COMMUNITY SOUP LUNCH

A very big thank you to everyone who contributed to the Lunch. Thank you to the soup makers and cake bakers of Cratfield and all those who came to enjoy lunch and a chat with their neighbours and friends. Thanks too to Dan & Linzi who helped set up and worked in the kitchen. Of course the special thank you goes to Margaret, whose idea it was and like many events in the village was behind the scenes organising and promoting, very ably assisted by Ian. All very much appreciated.

An excellent total of £242 was raised, £162 donations for the lunch and £80 for the raffle.

All of this will go to The Banyan Tree charity based in Kerala, South India. As money goes further there the amount raised will pay for eight of the fortnightly visits from the doctor to our health centre.

Watch the Cratfield News for forthcoming events ...including a quiz and another Community Soup Lunch later in the winter.

Peter & Sue

ANOTHER THANK YOU

Doug from the Air Ambulance gave a very informative and educational session on CPR and using the Defibrillator on 25th October at the Village Hall. Sadly only five villagers attended, but I accept that it was not advertised widely enough.

We had model bodies to practice our chest compressions on which lit up the main arteries beautifully when done properly and then all had a go with the defibrillator.

Doug stressed the importance of starting CPR as soon as possible and this with the Defibrillator can make a difference in saving lives. I hope that more of us can be encouraged to attend next time!



JOIN US FOR AN ADVENT WALK

ON

10 DEC AT 2.45 PM

FOLLOWED BY BONFIRE AND MINCE PIES AND
CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON AT 1600 HOURS
ALL BEING WELL NEW CRATFIELD RESIDENT DAVID SEAGER
WILL BE ADDING SOME FESTIVE ATMOSPHERE WITH HIS
STREET ORGAN



CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT CRATFIELD ST MARY'S

*Candlelight Carol Service at 6.30.pm
on Friday 22nd*

followed by mulled wine and mince pies

Our Christmas Day Service will be a Village Worship Service for Christmas at 10.00 am.



THE MIDNIGHT WALK

Setting off after midnight I walk with my dog
Down to Cratfield village through the drifting fog,
Down past old Mill House and over Bell Green,
Past the old Poachers pub where people were once seen.



Past The Old School where teachers once taught,
Past old School Farm where eggs can be bought,
Past the Church where the old residents reside
With stories of weddings and people who've cried.

Along down the hill to Swan Green Lane
Where an owl flies past and hoots with disdain
At our interruption of his hunting time,
Past old withered trees and stumps covered in vine.

The mist starts to clear and the moon shines bright
What a beautiful place to walk in the night
To hear the sounds in the dark from all around,
We carry on in silence not making a sound.

The dog ever silent stops very still
Then off at a trot, back up the hill,
Past Rookery Farm and down Manse Lane
Along the lanes of Cratfield and home again.

The Moonlight Poet



MICHAEL OLIVER

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Cratfield Parish Council

Please help keep your village clean & tidy

Cratfield Parish Council has litter picking equipment which can be borrowed anytime.

Your help & support would be greatly appreciated!

If you would like to litter pick please contact:

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

No Hoppers

During my stint as an MoD desk officer in the Directorate of Naval Plans between 1980 and 1982, there were ten of us desk officers, all Commanders of different specialisations, except for one Royal Marine Colonel called Alan Hooper – like all RMs a first-class chap. There was also one civil servant whose job I never quite understood – perhaps a political commissar?!

On quiet Fridays at about monthly intervals (there were such things in those days), we would assemble in a wine bar in Covent Garden for what we called a “Desk Officers’ conference”, where we would chew the fat, complain about our bosses, lament the terrible state of the nation, and other useful things, before going home for the weekend. In due course we persuaded Joan, the secretary of the Director of Plans, Captain Sandy Woodward, to actually publish our lunches (sorry, conferences) in the weekly Plans calendar, by the promise of inviting her to be the minutes secretary at one in due course. She was something of a dragon, fiercely loyal to the Director of Plans *pro tem*, and she generally regarded desk officers as “below stairs” staff, even though several of us had already commanded frigates. However, she was slightly taken in by the word “Conference” and this was a great coup, which gave the lunches a more or less official status which no-one ever questioned. Who amongst our immediate bosses, the Assistant Directors (all Captains) was brave enough to take on Joan? So, a good time was had by all.

Now, it happened that on one particular Friday Colonel Alan Hooper was unable to attend – work or some other trivial reason prevented him. We therefore asked Joan to publish an item on the calendar for that Friday which said “Desk Officers’ Conference (No Hoopers). But when it came out there was a typo – at least we assumed it was, even though Joan never allowed us to leave any typos in papers we submitted to the Director. The entry actually read “No Hoppers.” Perhaps Joan knew something about us of which we were unaware.

Naturally, this caused great glee. We all told Joan that we were by no means hopeless – apart of course from Colonel Hooper - but even so we felt aggrieved that she felt it necessary to tell the world what the Director thought of us all. Alan himself went to Joan’s office in feigned distress and complained that, although he realised that the Director might have decided that he had no future, he was very upset that his failings were being publicly decried in this way, and was considering resigning and joining the Foreign Legion (I should perhaps say that

Alan was actually one of the Royal Marine's rising stars, and later duly rose to stellar levels). Joan was of course absolutely mortified, not because she might have slighted one of us (of course we all acted up to that) but because she had been caught out perpetrating a typo.

Naturally, in the end, we couldn't keep straight faces and burst out laughing. Joan proved to be a better sport than we had thought and our relationship with her was transformed. Thereafter she was much kinder to us and would warn us if trouble from the Director was coming our way, and she even helped us get submissions past the Director. In due course she attended one of our lunches, proved to be good fun and was made an honorary "No Hoper"! From that time on the lunches changed from being "Desk Officers' Conferences" on the weekly calendar and became formally "No Hopers' Lunches" and so even the Director, who often seemed to live on a loftier intellectual plane than the rest of us, accepted the idea, as long as it never interfered with the work of the Division.

In due course we all moved on to our next jobs, but when I returned as the Director of Plans in 1989, I soon found out that "No Hopers' Lunches" continued, although Joan had by then retired. However, none of the then desk officers knew where the name had come from. Indeed, "No Hopers' lunches" had become an entrenched tradition of DN Plans, even when the name of the Division changed to some more modern "management speak." When I last looked, in the early "Noughties" of the 21st century, the tradition continued although by then its origins had long been completely forgotten.

Jeremy Blackham

Sign up to Sing up

Fancy giving your vocal chords a work out? You are not alone so look out for sign up sheets at the village hall and in the back of the church or turn up for an exploratory meeting on Monday 4th Dec at 6.00pm at the village hall (provisionally) to share ideas for getting a singing group started

We won't be as grand as to call it a choir and you certainly won't be put on the spot to audition, just some singing for fun.

Cratfield Quiz Bugs, Bugs, Bugs

1. Whose backing band was the Spiders from Mars?
2. In the film Bug's Life, who is the voice of Hopper?
3. In the song The Ugly Bug Ball, who sat and cried?
4. What is the most abundant insect in the Amazon rainforest?
5. A Dinky Skipper is a type of which bug?
6. What is the most venomous spider in the world?
7. What are male bees in the hive called?
8. How many legs does a stick insect have?
9. An Orchid. Violin and Ghost are types of which bug?
10. What is the biggest spider in the world?
11. La Sauterelle is French for which creature?
12. How many stomachs does a bee have?
13. Which female saint does the lady in ladybird refer to?
14. What is the largest snail?
15. What is the strongest bug in the world?
16. Which bug can famously live for up to a month without a head?
17. The garden variety of this species can have up to 14000 teeth?
18. What is the name of someone who studies insects?
19. How many plagues in the book of Exodus were caused by insects?
20. What were the first living creatures that were sent into space?

Answers on p18.

CRATFIELD VILLAGE HALL 100 CLUB – DECEMBER

The Winners are...1st prize (£15) number 37 - Mary Powell; 2nd prize (£10) number 61 - Bryan Leveratt; and 3rd prize (£5) number 12 - Sara Vass. Draw taken by Diane Britton
Congratulations to all winners!

VILLAGE HALL FOR HIRE

**Don't forget our hall is available for hire for a very reasonable price!
We are also able to hire out tables, chairs and crockery too – so if you are having a large party why not consider hiring everything from the village hall – or the hall itself?!**

For any future booking enquiries please contact us on cratfieldvillagehall@gmail.com or Robert King on 01986 798975

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VILLAGE HALL UPDATE – DECEMBER

VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE – UPDATE

At our recent AGM on the 9th of November we had several changes to the committee.

Rebecca Sannick stood down – having joined the committee in 2012 and was Chair until Natalie Lloyd-Evans took over in 2018, after which she stood as Vice Chair until 2022. We owe a huge amount of thanks to Rebecca for her long and dedicated service (and Bob for assisting her all the time behind the scenes!) Rebecca steered us through many grant applications and improvements to the village hall structure and ran events such as the dog show which helped meet the running costs of the hall.

Carolyn White has also stood down as Treasurer, having taken over from her late husband Bob in 2015. She has always had a float ready for any event, counted pennies late into the night, balanced the accounts, chased receipts & invoices and was instrumental in helping us switch from a building society account to a bank account – enabling us to take card payments. Natalie Lloyd-Evans stood down as Chair after 5 years – having got the hall through lockdown – which resulted in a huge drop in income. Never afraid to roll her sleeves up, long after people have left the Pop Up Pub, Natalie is often the last one locking up, sorting the empties and clearing up and has also been responsible for the ongoing grant applications, maintenance and improvements that will see the Village Hall well into the future.

Natalie and Carolyn remain on the committee and our new Chair is Andy Barringer, supported by Jo Cerullo as Vice Chair with Graham Nixey as Treasurer.

POP UP PUB – FRIDAY 1ST DECEMBER / FRIDAY 5TH JANUARY – DOORS OPEN 6PM

What a great turn out we had for November's Pop Up – we drained the barrel and apologies to Judith's husband Chris who turned for supper up to find we had also sold out of food! We receive such lovely feedback about what a great community event this is and we look forward to seeing you on the first Friday of every month in 2024!

CHRISTMAS FAIR – SUNDAY 3RD DECEMBER – 10AM – 1PM

Keep an eye on the village Facebook page where we will promote each stallholder in the run up to the fair – we have sold out of stalls and have a waiting list. Richard will be serving his big breakfast baps again, you can buy or win a locally grown Christmas Tree and we have a huge range of new stallholders offering gifts, decorations, candles, jewellery and wreaths/table decorations.

PIE & PUD – SATURDAY 16TH MARCH 6.30 FOR 7PM

Back by popular demand! We were unable to provide a food night during 2023, so are really pleased to be able to put on the ever popular 'Pie & Pud' night again! A range of delicious pies followed by a hot steamed

sponge pudding. **Put the date in your diary now!** Booking information to follow next month.

CRATFIELD DOG SHOW – SUNDAY 12TH MAY

Another event we missed in 2023 and back by popular demand. More details to follow – but pop the date in your diary now. Even if you do not have a four-legged friend (or fiend!) come along to watch the fun categories such as ‘best sausage catcher’ or bring your friends or family who do have a dog or two!

TABLE TOP & CAR BOOT SALE – PROVISIONAL DATE – SATURDAY 22ND JUNE

Thinking about having a good spring clean in 2024? Fed up falling over things you no longer need in your shed / garage or loft? We are looking at holding a ‘Table Top & Car Boot Sale on Saturday 22nd June (with Richard’s big Breakfast bap’s again) Places will be limited to 10 tables inside and 10 car pitches. Register your interest / reserve a place now via cratfield-villagehall@gmail.com

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION 2024!

Many thanks to everyone who suggested categories for the next Photographic Competition – at the last committee meeting these were all reviewed and we are pleased to announce the categories for 2024! **These are – Cratfield Hobbies, Suffolk Street Scenes & All Suffolk Creatures Great & Small.** This year we are also changing the event slightly – we will have the open evening but the hall will also remain open for the weekend for viewings – along with serving tea, coffee & cake. We are also going to have a ‘People’s Choice’ award where everyone who views can vote for their favourite photo – in addition to the judges’ choices.

INDOOR BOWLS – ALTERNATE TUESDAYS

12th December / 23rd January / 6th & 20th February

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.

Village Hall Meetings Committee Meetings – Thursday 8th February / 9th May / 8th August with AGM & Committee Meeting 21st November

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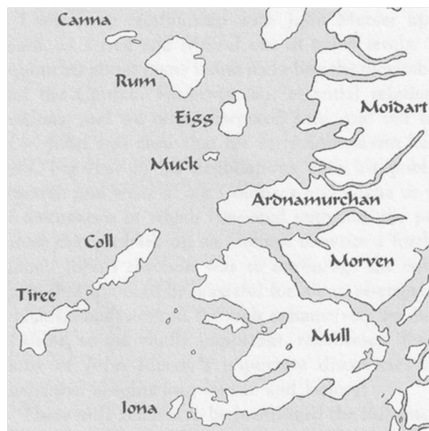
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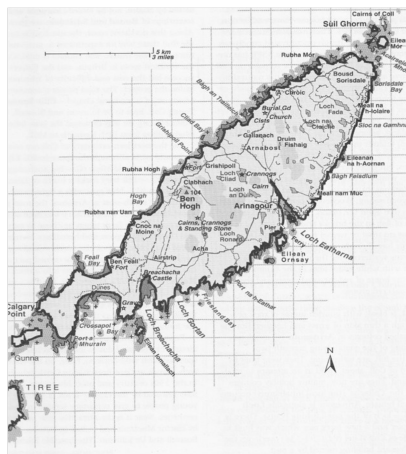
Coll is located 6 miles to the west of Mull, though the ferry is taken from Oban on the mainland and takes 2½ hours. A short distance away is Tiree, and the two islands are often regarded as a pair, as they are inextricably linked by the ferry - which goes to both before returning back to Oban. (*Not that long ago (in geological terms) they were both actually one island.*) Both islands are low-lying and, from the ferry, they first appear as low, long areas of unevenness on the horizon. The ferry deposits its passengers at Arinagour, which is the principal settlement on

Coll; it has clean, whitewashed cottages, which were built by Maclean, laird of Coll, in about 1800. Nearby is the Isle of Coll Hotel – owned, at one time, by a master of the Magic Circle! (Perhaps, if you asked nicely, he could make your bill disappear!)

Like many of the islands, Coll has had a violent past. Several invasions were launched by the MacLeans of Duart (ie Mull) against the MacLeans of Coll and in 1583, a battle was fought in which the Coll clan defeated the Duarts: they chopped off their heads and threw them in the stream, which is known to this day as "*the stream of the heads*".

By the late 1700s, the island supported about 1,000 people, but the collapse of the kelp market, followed by the Highland Potato Famine – and a new owner who raised the rents - lead to a mass migration to Australia, Canada and S. Africa.

The island has only two roads of significance and, driving around, one is struck by the utter isolation of the place and the lack of interesting features: there seem to be hardly any amenities and there is not a single tree to be seen. Nevertheless, thanks to the Gulf Stream, the climate is mild and the machair (coastal wild flowers, growing in sand and shell fragments, which fill the air with a heady perfume) are plentiful – and there was once an attempt to grow tulips in competition with the Dutch; only the cost of transportation defeated the project. In 1939, botanists were surprised to discover the Irish Lady's Tresses orchid growing on Coll. It grows



sporadically in Ireland but is actually a native of North America. Could some seeds have come over, stuck to an Irishman's boot? (They invaded in the 6th Century!)



Other items of interest are the beautiful sandy beaches - and the very rare Corncrake, which can be found on Coll & Tiree. Coll also has several crannogs (artificial islands made for defensive habitation) located in some of its lochs – thought to date from the Norse period (790 – 1066 AD). Although the attractions I've described would be best viewed by spending a few days on the island, nevertheless, my abiding memory is that it's one of those, "Is that it?" islands. It has one significant building: Breachacha Castle. It rises so dramatically from the low-lying land that it is almost incongruous: it is stark, in both size and in its shoddy, weather beaten

condition. It was for sale at £450,000 in 2017, undoubtedly needing a lot of money spending on it. (The owners had completely abandoned living on the ground floor...) Was someone out there, in 2017, who had the funds to do this and then be prepared to live on this rather stark, featureless island, a 2½ hour ferry ride from the nearest town? I think it was a big ask!

Next month: Tiree
Andrew Weight

Quiz Answers

1. David Bowie 2 Kevin Spacey 3 A lonely caterpillar 4 Ants 5 Butterfly 6 Brazilian Wandering Spider 7. Drones 8 six 9. Praying Mantis 10. Goliath Bird eater 11 Grasshopper 12. Two 13 Mary 14. Giant African Land snail 15 Dung Beetle 16 Cockroach 17 Snail 18 Entomologist 19 Three 20 Fruit Flies

Cratfield Parish Council
Meeting Dates 2023
Cratfield Village Hall

Tuesday 10th January 2023 at 7.30pm
Tuesday 14th March 2023 at 7.30pm
Tuesday 9th May 2023 at 7.30pm
Tuesday 11th July 2023 at 7.30pm
Tuesday 12th September 2023 at 7.30pm
Tuesday 14th November 2023 at 7.30pm

~ Planning meetings are arranged when required ~
All Parishioners Welcome!

The agenda is displayed 3 days before the meeting on the noticeboards & website. If you would like to add anything to the agenda please contact the Clerk 7 days before the meeting.

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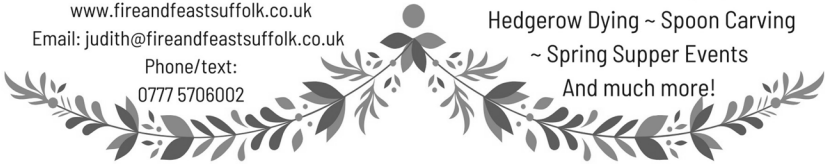
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Letter from the clergy

So, the National Trust is under fire for excluding Christmas and Easter from their 2024 calendar because they consider Britain is no longer a Christian country! Now there is food for thought when many across our benefice have been working hard to try and increase the number of Christian disciples.

The Alpha course has been running successfully over the past few weeks in Worlingworth, Laxfield and by Zoom. Whilst it has attracted many people who have a firm faith, it has been a joyous opportunity to explore this one with the other. This course finishes at the beginning of December and we will be looking together in early January 2024 at how we can take forward the insights we have discovered. Watch this space in February next year! Messy Church (yes, I know many don't like that title!) but that is its trademark. Do take a peek at its website - <https://www.messychurch.org.uk/tags/resources> Some events will be taking place in Wilby, Bedfield, Laxfield and Worlingworth before Christmas. The title is 'Joy to the World' and is being led by Reverend Enid and a team from across the benefice.

Then there is the collective worship in our schools where the story of Christmas will be explored and each child given a Free Trade Advent Calendar which includes the story of our Lord's birth, again led by Reverend Enid and supported by myself.

Oh! And before I forget.....the Four Rivers Benefice Lightwave Discernment Group has chosen 'The Bridge' as the title for the projects that will be rolled out in 2024. More about this in the January newsletters!

This just leaves me to wish all a blessed Christmas and a happy new year on behalf of all the clergy team and lay elders! **Reverend Chrissie – 07803 134 301** rev.chrissiesmart@gmail.com

CRATFIELD SERVICES FOR DECEMBER

FRIDAY 22ND	CHRISTMAS DAY
	Isaiah 9:2-7 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14, 15-20
6.30pm Carol Service	10.00am Village Worship Reader Sidesperson

Benefice Services for December 2023

Dec	3rd	10th	17th	24th	25th	31st
Bedfield	10.30am Festival of St. Nicholas CS	3.00pm Carols by Candlelight CS		11.30pm Midnight Services CS		
Brundish	6.00pm Advent Carols CS			6.00pm Lessons/ Carols CM 11.30pm Midnight Mass EP/CM		
Laxfield	10.30am Celtic Ser- vice LE/ EP	10.30am Morning Praise CS	10.30am Holy Com- munion EP	4.00pm Carol Ser- vice EP	10.00am Family HC EP	10.30am Said Holy Comm EP
Monk Soham	11.00am Family Ser- vice RA		2.30pm Carol Ser- vice RA		10.30am Family Service HC RA	
Tannington	11.15am Holy Comm CS		Friday 22nd 7.00pm Carol Ser- vice			
Wilby	10.30am Village Wor- ship SP	10.30am Holy Com- munion EP	6.00pm Carol Ser- vice EP		10.00am Family Holy Comm CS	
Worlingworth		11.00am Let's Cele- brate CM	4.00pm Carol Ser- vice MS	3.00pm Crib LE 9.30pm Holy Comm RO		

Zoom Services Celtic Prayer 9.00am Fridays

To join us email rev.chrissiesmart@gmail.com for details

When visiting St. Mary's in November you may have been caught unawares by the spectre of the soldier standing watch inside the Church, He also stood stoically outside the Church in the wind and the rain during the week before Remembrance Day. Thank you to Dan and Linzi for creating this moving reminder of those who have given their lives in the service of their Country.

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 Natalie Lloyd-Evans 01986 798790

Vice Chair Andy Barringer 01986 798346

Bookings Robert King 01986 798975

Laxfield All Saints C of E Primary School

Head of School Mrs Minns 01986 798344

Doctors' Surgery

Fressingfield -1379 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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