

CRATFIELD NEWS

January 2024



Lots of people to WELCOME this month

A very warm Cratfield welcome to....

June and David Seager who moved into Larters Farm in November last year to...the Clemence family who have recently moved into Elder Farm Bungalow

to...Penny, Paul, Freya and Seb now at The Old Post Office and to.... Nicola and Chris Betts who have recently moved into Cratfield Lodge.

We hope that they will all soon settle in and we look forward to them joining us at the pop-up pub and other village activities.

Watch the Village Hall pages in the magazine for future events.

THANK YOU

I'm sure all who received a visit from the Cratfield Elf this year would like to join me in a huge thank you to this little creature who once again under cover of darkness crept around the village delivering gifts which brought smiles to our faces. (If you weren't so lucky, in the outer regions of the village, it's only because little elf legs can't travel quite as far as Santa on his sleigh.)

CRATFIELD QUIZ NIGHT

VILLAGE HALL

FRIDAY 12TH JANUARY 7.30PM

Teams of 4 - £2.50 per person

**Light refreshments included
Bring your own tippie**

Raffle

All proceeds to the Banyan Tree

Family Research

Further to the email I received from Tony Elwood he has been successful, thanks to help from Laxfield museum and Judith Mobbs research and deciphering of Tithe map numbers, in locating the home of his ancestors on North Green, their home in the 1860s was Hall Cottage.

Tony's own research has offered the following:-

The first of the James Elwoods was married to Kezia Bickers (also from Cratfield) and they had eleven children. In the 1861 census this James Elwood was living at North Green with one of his seven sons (the 2nd James Elwood) and his family.

But one of the 1st James Elwood's four daughters has proved to be most interesting. She was Mahala Elwood, born to James and Kezia in 1823. She worked as a farm servant in the locality (Spexhall, Wisset) until, aged 31 and unmarried, she boarded a ship of Mormon converts from Liverpool bound for New Orleans, a two month voyage beset by smallpox and ten deaths. She then took a steamboat up the Mississippi to Kansas City, whereupon she embarked on a 1,300 mile wagon trail convoy across wild native American territories to Utah.... a true pioneer! She was married almost immediately to Thomas Bell, initially living in Salt Lake City, but then in Ephraim, and after in Glenwood as one of the first settlers, She had 6 children but died at just 42 (cause unknown), six months after the American Civil War ended. Her headstone can still be seen Glenwood Pioneer Cemetery.

How's that for a daughter of Cratfield?!

The Mormons keep highly detailed records which even include this photo of Mahala..



The Sheriff of Nottingham

Happy New Year – New Year, new ship!

In June 1984, I was promoted to Captain and appointed in command of the nearly new HMS Nottingham, a Type 42 guided missile anti-aircraft destroyer and the last class of warship built with the traditional sleek destroyer appearance. She had a crew of 280, a Lynx helicopter able to carry anti-ship missiles and anti-submarine torpedoes, an automatic 4.5 inch gun with a range of around 12 miles, the RN's latest anti-aircraft missile, Sea Dart and a number of other sensors and guns. She was propelled by four gas turbine engines, two of which were marinised versions of the engines which powered the Concorde aircraft. The latest and shiniest ship of the day.¹

Once again, I underwent that strange experience of taking over command during an hour of coffee and chat with my predecessor and then finding myself in command of 280 people I didn't know! However, we were soon at sea doing a range of routine tasks before spending nearly three weeks as escort to the Royal Yacht during the Royal Family's traditional summer cruise in the western isles of Scotland. This was a most enjoyable and unusual task, making demands of us in a variety of different ways and producing some lovely stories and fun. Alas, both custom and courtesy prevent me from giving the details.

On returning to Portsmouth, we sent a large party of our crew to Nottingham where we were to receive formally the Freedom of our affiliated city from their very nice Lord Mayor, Mrs Ivy Matthews. This involved a formal parade of the ship's company with an armed guard and allowed us to exercise our new privilege of marching through the city with bayonets fixed, crowds cheering and drums playing; we had borrowed a Royal Marine band for the occasion. It was a fine occasion, with many of the citizens watching us, in our best bibs and tuckers, show off the Navy in the city which is the furthest from the sea of any in the United Kingdom.

In the evening, we were entertained to a splendid supper and ball in the city, at which the Sheriff of Nottingham, an honorary and ceremonial post, occupied on this occasion by a delightful man with a fine sense of fun and a very definite twinkle in his eye, was to conduct the final round of the Miss Nottingham competition which he had proposed, to select a "pin-up" for the ship, whose duties and responsibilities were rather unclear! The competition was to be judged by himself, me as Captain and a sailor elected by his mates.

This had already caused me some angst. I was afraid that it was a rather outdated idea. However, when the competition was announced by the Sherriff, we received quite a number of applications to enter. Then one morning I received a letter from a lady in Nottingham, enclosing a picture of an attractive young lady in a bikini, with the suggestion that we did not need to run a competition since her 14-year-old daughter (picture enclosed) was obviously the best candidate. With thoughts of awful newspaper headlines in mind I replied, tactfully I hope, to her mother and ex-

plained that it was impossible for so young a lady to enter, however beautiful she might be, and suggested that when her daughter was over 21, she might care to apply herself if there were ever another such competition (and I left notes warning my successors that they should think very hard before ever running one!)

In the end, the Sheriff's competition was won by a charming young lady who became "Miss Nottingham" for a year, conducting herself with great decorum and style and visiting the ship from time to time to boost morale, before the title was quietly allowed to lapse, and my successor in command of HMS Nottingham heaved a sigh of relief. The new Sheriff of Nottingham - a rather different sort of chap from his predecessor - was very grateful too when we told him that no further competitions would be needed. By then I had left HMS Nottingham unexpectedly early,² although I had learned at least one useful lesson whilst I was there.

I hardly need say that, 40 years on, with a significant number of ladies serving in all our ships, and indeed commanding some of them with distinction, no Captain is likely to have to face such a dilemma again.

Jeremy Blackham



1. It makes me feel very old to think that all 14 ships of this class have long since been paid off, the last going about 2014.
2. See next story but two.

Quiz Answers

1. **New** York
2. **New**gate
3. **New** Order
4. **New** Forest
5. Brave **New** World
6. **New** Orleans
7. **New**castle United
8. **New**market
9. Ncuti Gatwa
10. Isaac Newton
11. New Kids on the Block
12. **New**quay
13. Gremlins 2: The **new** batch
14. Stephen Mulhern
15. **New** Delhi
16. You make me feel brand **new**
17. The Emperor's **new** clothes.
18. **New** Moon
19. The Herring Bridge
20. Rizz

MICHAEL OLIVER

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Cllr Richard Chivers Tel: 07900 187350 - Silverleys Green collection



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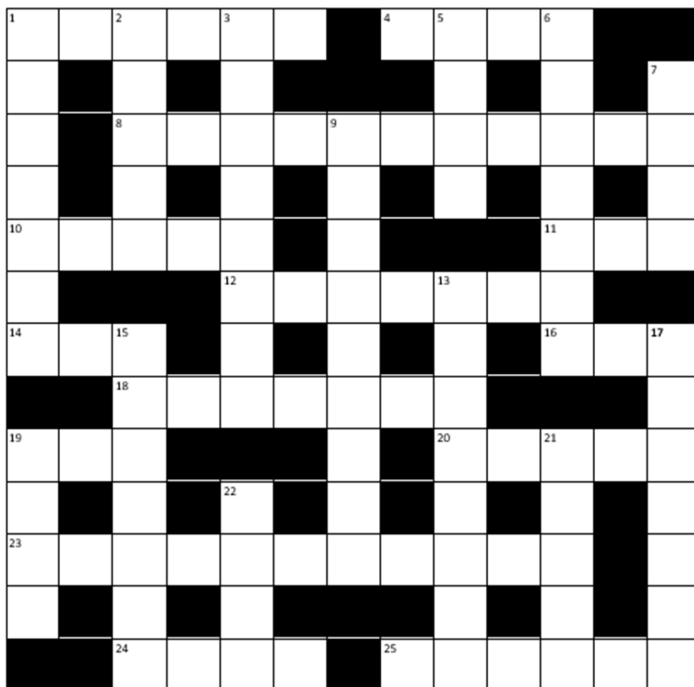
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ICS

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Across

1. Look, was back to front and up and down (6)
4. With start of chill one's able to don one of these (4)
8. Too full of cold? Right, I hope thy ma gets better (11)
10. Peachy pud with caramel bar at the centre (5)
11. Former eastern flower in the west (3)
12. Fermentation shows there's nothing amiss if you include beginning of burning fuel source (7)
14. Point of fountain, for instance, is to be the fifth spring surging visibly (3)
16. Yet by the sound of it you filled out the case for budget (3)
18. Not in a long time due to power losses (7)
19. Heaven commences with your kindly soul's return from the West (3)
20. Bewildered, so started as the sun eventually arose (2,3)
23. Chilled through, like one in a morgue? (6-5)
24. Shadowy boat seen on delta (4)
25. Horrified as Craig cheats Stella regularly (6)

Down

1. Batty northern woman's chilly fella (7)
2. Merman might be a woman (5)
3. Eccentric heat bap left in a series of letters (8)
5. Was Romeo but lost head so that was at an end (4)
6. Atmospheric disturbance came into play (7)
7. Robust verbal greeting (4)
9. They boot gangs out and use them to go downhill (9)
13. Appraising, perhaps, like proverb (8)
15. Youngster who joins violent criminal gang is in minority (7)
17. Comprehensive coverage of suspect joint by phone company (7)
19. Rest solely on foreign aid sources (4)
21. Capital is of build by architectural leader (5)
22. Grass up fallow, for instance (4)

Shawe and her husband, John Lorne Campbell of Canna who I have written about previously. Tiree's earliest known population takes us back to 800BC (thanks to discovered pottery and tools) – but the population dropped, like many islands, due to evictions and potato famines in the late 1800s. From May to September, Tiree is renowned as the sunniest place in Britain – but there is also constant wind from which there's no shelter; it's so windy that every October, Tiree is the venue for the International Windsurfing Championships. Some say that you can tell a Tiree person by their angled stoop from constantly walking against the wind! However, the wind is a blessing as well as a curse, since over 2/3rds of the island has been covered with wind-blown shell sand which has created a fertile and well-drained machair (coastal oases packed with fragrant, wild flowers) – and the fertile land that this created earned Tiree the title of 'Land of the Corn'. Unlike Coll, there is a thriving crofting community here and, like many islands, some traditional blackhouses still exist. These houses had a central hearth, but no chimney: the peat smoke simply drifted through the thatched roof, blackening the interior – and some think that this is how the term 'blackhouse' was coined. At their most basic, the houses were shared with livestock. These dwellings were made from double-rows of dry-stone wall, packed with earth between them – and the outside corners of these houses were rounded to more easily deflect the howling wind around them. The thatched roofs were lashed down, the end of each rope tied around a dangling stout rock, thus anchoring the roof down from being blown away! To this day, blackhouses are a common sight – though many have been modernised and the livestock evicted!

There are older structures to be found on Tiree, including the ruins of brochs (*also called 'duns'*). These are amazingly complex defensive buildings, shaped like modern-day cooling towers. There is a complete broch (minus its roof) on the Shetland island of Mousa which I explored; an experience which felt like time travel back to the Iron Age when these places were built. The walls are 4m thick - and hollow, housing a slowly ascending spiral staircase, which opens up to galleries at various heights. Steps are unevenly shaped, probably to trip up any hostile invaders. These were iron age forts, housing whole communities – and all constructed, amazingly, using *dry stone walling* techniques. As I write about Tiree... I now wish I had visited!

Andrew Weight

Next month: The Outer Hebrides

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VILLAGE HALL UPDATE – JANUARY

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Thank you to everyone who turned up and shopped (and ate and drank!) at the Christmas Fair to support a wide range of local crafters and makers – it was our best one yet!

A massive thank you to Natalie Lloyd-Evans who had to take over the running of the event on the day with very short notice. We had feedback from one 'seasoned' stallholder with 15 years' experience that it was the most organised and best attended market he had ever exhibited at!

CRATFIELD TALKS

A belated thank you to Mary Powell for her talk on the restoration of Lincoln Castle back in November (apologies, the December magazine copy had to be in before the talk!) A fascinating evening where we heard about everything from raising the £22m required to managing every single stage – all supported with an amazing range of site photographs documenting the progress of the restoration. We have 2 talks potentially lined up for next year – one on *International Art Fraud* and another titled *'From London to Kathmandu on a double decker bus'* !!!

POP UP PUB – FRIDAY 5TH JANUARY / FRIDAY 2ND FEBRUARY – DOORS OPEN 6PM

Why not come along and have a drink and a bite to eat? Judith and the team from Cratfield Kitchen provide a range of locally sourced delicious dishes. Doors open 6pm, bar takes cash and cards payments / Cratfield Kitchen takes cash only – keep an eye on the village Facebook page for the menu – usually announced the Monday before.

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 hearty and delicious pies with generous portions followed by a hot steamed sponge pudding. Put the date in your diary now!

Booking is essential as places are limited – e mail cratfieldvillagehall@gmail.com with your order – payment is on the night of £15 per person

One Main per person – (all come with peas, carrots & dauphinoise potatoes)

Steak & Mushroom Pie / Chicken, Leek & Bacon Pie / Vegetable Cottage pie (a mix of vegetables and lentils)

One Pudding per person -

Sticky Toffee Sponge or Syrup Sponge (with lashings and lashings of Custard)

BAR OPEN TOO!

CRATFIELD VILLAGE HALL 100 CLUB - JANUARY

Cratfield 100 Club winners for January are: 1st prize (£15) number 69, Tracey Aryaenia / 2nd prize (£10) number 20, Natalie Lloyd-Evans and 3rd prize (£5) number 37, Mary Powell.

Draw by D Britton. Congratulations to this month's winners!

INDOOR BOWLS – ALTERNATE TUESDAYS

The dates for 2024 are.... Jan 23 / Feb 6 & 20 / Mar 5 & 19/ Apr 2 & 16 & 30/ 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

Another event we missed in 2023 and back by popular demand. More details to follow – but pop the date in your diary now and watch out for more details to come.

CRATFIELD PHOTOGRAPHIC – FRIDAY 11TH – SUNDAY 13TH OCTOBER

The categories for 2024 are.... **Cratfield Hobbies, Suffolk Street Scenes & All Suffolk Creatures Great & Small.** Alongside the winners and runners up selected by the judge we will also host a 'people choice' to be voted on by everyone who attends the open evening.

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

In November I stepped down as Village Hall Chair after five years, and I'm leaving the job in highly capable hands. Thank you Andy Barringer and Jo Cerullo who are the new chairperson and vice-chairperson. Thanks also to everyone on the V H committee who have supported and helped me since 2018. We saw Covid, a Platinum Jubilee and a Coronation. It felt at times like a roller coaster that kept starting up again just as you were about to get off, but I wouldn't have wanted to miss it! I am carrying on my association with the hall as a committee member. A "back bencher" if you like. As we head into a new year I have finally got around to something I've been meaning to do for ages. I am reverting to my pre-married name, the one my parents gave me. I'm doing it officially: passport, driving licence, the lot, and may need regular lie-downs as I grapple with their customer service algorithms. I predict I will listen to "on hold" music to the point of screaming and be shunted between departments until I'm in a state of Orwellian despair. However, I've started so I'll finish. From now on, I am no longer Natalie Lloyd-Evans, I am Natalie McKay, to rhyme with "Hay".

This does not affect my author name of Natalie Meg Evans. She's still busy writing and I won't be offended if anyone forgets who I am now because I shall probably be muddled for few months myself.

Happy New Year to everyone in Cratfield.

Natalie McKay

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A 'New' Quiz

Each of the answers has a connection with the word new.

1. Which city is known as the Big Apple?
2. The Old Bailey stands on the site of which famous prison?
3. Which group was formed with members from Joy division?
4. What is the name of the national park where you will find Lyndhurst and Beaulieu?
5. What is the title of a dystopian novel written by Aldous Huxley?
6. Which city in Louisiana is nicknamed the Big Easy?
7. Which football team are known as the Magpies?
8. The Rowley Mile and the July course form part of which racing venue?
9. Who will play the **new** Doctor Who?
10. Who discovered the laws of gravity and motion?
11. What is the name of the American boy band from Massachusetts?
12. Which town on the north coast of Cornwall is good for surfing?
13. What is the complete title of the film Gremlins 2?
14. Who is the **new** host of Deal or No Deal?
15. What is the capital city of India?
16. What is the title of the 1973 hit recorded by the Stylistics?
17. Which folk-tale tells of a vain ruler?
18. What is the title of the 2nd book in the Twilight series by Stephenie Meyer?
19. What is the name of the proposed **new** bridge in Great Yarmouth?
20. What is the Oxford's **new** word of the year?

Lights on - Lights Off - Lights on again.....

We were not expecting many people to turn out in the miserable weather on the afternoon of the Winter walk and Christmas lights switch on, but a few brave souls turned up determined to go for a walk and tackle flooded roads and driving drizzle. We had to abandon the idea of having a bonfire as everything was so sodden, but we did share a mince pie over a cup of tea and the lights did come on, for a moment, before the penetrating damp shorted them out.

Not to be deterred various attempts were made to dry them out and for a few days the lights were back on - but not for long. By Friday something had eaten through the cable in three places and the tree was in darkness. More repairs but to no avail until Andy suggested that it could be polarity problems and we may need to swap the wires around. At the time of writing the report is that the lights are back on again, but for how much longer!

One thing is clear - the hot dry summers have taken their toll on the Christmas tree and we are going to have to replace it. Most likely we will replant the tree, but with a smaller seedling so that it can grow into its space and become more resilient to climate change in the process. Like most tree planting it is a sign of faith in the future as even with something as relatively fast growing as a spruce it will be several years before it gets to a size where it is not dwarfed by the scale of the church tower.

In the mean time we are searching for ideas as to how we can add some Christmas sparkle to give the church a sense of welcome over the Christmas period - Ideas have included flood lighting the tower, creating an arch of lights at the gate, an outdoor nativity scene or perhaps you may have ideas of what we could do (not that we are competitive but we cant let Laxfield have all the lime light!!!) We have only got just under 365 days to get something planned.

CM

Any Unwanted Reading Glasses?

In February I will be heading off to Africa for a few weeks - or to be more precise I will be travelling to Kagera which is a region in the north east corner of Tanzania, next to Rwanda, just below Uganda and at the bottom end of Lake Victoria. Along with 8 others and Bishop Mike we will be guests of the Diocese of Kagera which has a long standing twinning relationship with our own Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich. I have been invited to go along with six other curates as part of my ongoing training and to continue to build the twinning relationship.

Kagera is a relatively poor region of the country and is experiencing the effects of global warming. For instance their weather patterns of wet and dry seasons appear to be badly disrupted and they can no longer grow some of the crops that they have relied on in the past. You might reflect that our climate seems to be affected too but one difference is that to some extent we have an economy and food system that can withstand some of the changes we are feeling whilst they are not in such a fortunate position - a failed crop means immediate hunger for them. At first I was in two minds about going as it seemed to be counter-intuitive to fly, but also I have to admit that I am not the most adventurous of travellers especially when it comes to climbing on board an aeroplane. Amon, a representative from Kagera, visited us last summer and he was insistent that it was important for us to go and see first hand some of the problems they are facing. And so I am off. As well as "churchy" things our hosts try and give us insights relevant to any professional and vocational experience we may have, so for instance a colleague of mine who is a retired gynaecologist looked into women's health on a recent visit and I am most likely to be linked in with educational and agricultural projects.

I am travelling light and there will be some room in my luggage to take some much needed supplies. One thing we have particularly been asked to take is reading glasses - So if you have any old "ordinary" (ie not bifocal/varifocal) **reading glasses** you no longer use then please send them my way or leave them suitably labelled at the back of the church.

Clive Mobbs



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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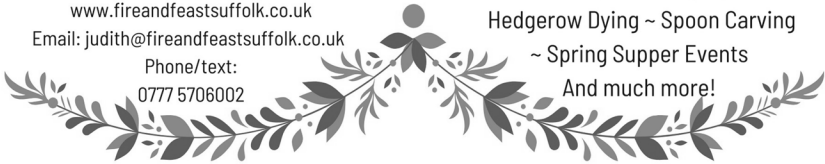
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Letter from the Vicar

All the excitement of Christmas is over, visiting families have gone home and decorations have been packed away for another year. Now we start again in a brand new shiny year. Perhaps now we are trying to lose the extra pounds we gained during the festivities, or restart other health initiatives. It is a time of new beginnings for all kinds of things, and perhaps a time of hope.

January can be a bit dreary of course, which can throw us off from our attempts at self-improvement (a piece of cake sounds nicer than salad on a cold wet day!) Perhaps that is why so many New Year's resolutions get abandoned so early on.

What can help us to follow through though? I really think it's all a question of hope and enough belief, that enables us to hang on even though the situation seems a bit disheartening. That may be something that comes from inside us, perhaps realising that if we don't lose weight or change a behaviour pattern, we might be putting our health or welfare at risk. Willpower can get us a long way. But what is that willpower isn't enough?

Seeking outside help to boost our own resolution, is often good to change harmful ways of behaving, and there are many excellent organisations out there that can help us.

Christians believe that we can call on yet another power to help us in this process. We can call on God to help us in our seeking to become a better version of ourselves. It's not that we will never fail of course, because human beings do have free will, and we can refuse or ignore God's help. However, with God's help (he does forgive our failed attempts!) all things are possible, not just for bad habits; but for becoming the best person we can possibly be.

I pray you will have a truly blessed New Year.

God bless

Revd Enid

Benefice Services for January 2024

CRATFIELD SERVICES FOR JANUARY

Sunday 14th	Sunday 28TH
1 Samuel 3:1-10,11-20 Revelation 5:1-10 John 1:43-end	Deuteronomy 19:15-20 Revelation 12:1-5a Mark 1:21-28
6.00pm Evening Prayer CM	9.00am Holy Communion CM
Reader TBA Sidesperson TBA	Reader TBA Sidesperson TBA

January	7th	14th	21st	28th
Bedfield	10.30am Holy Communion EP		10.30am Family Service CS	
Brundish	6.00pm Evening Prayer EP			9.00am Holy Communion EP
Laxfield	10.30am Celtic Service LE/ CS	10.30am Morning Praise CS	10.30am Holy Communion EP	10.30am Fourth Sunday FS team
Monk Soham		11.00am Morning Prayer RA	11.00am Holy Communion RA	
Tanning- ton				
Wilby	10.30am Village Worship SP	10.30am Holy Communion EP	10.30am Village Worship SP	10.30am Morning Prayer CM
Worling- worth	11.00am Morning Prayer BS	11.00am Let's Celebrate CM	11.00am Holy Communion CM	11.00am Morning Prayer RA

Zoom Services

Celtic Prayer 7.00pm Wednesdays, 9.00am Fridays

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

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