

CRATFIELD NEWS

October 2023



CRATFIELD PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION OPEN EVENING

**SATURDAY 14 OCTOBER
7 - 9 PM & BAR OPEN
(Awards presented around 8pm)**

*Come along, enjoy a drink and see the photographs Find out who the winners and runners up are !
Cratfield Village Hall – Manse Lane*



Busy month - also in October
8th Harvest Service
15th Village Walk
21st Churchyard Clearance

Royal British Legion – Poppy Appeal

Remembrance Day, November 11th is not far away; prior to this the Royal British Legion sell poppies, the proceeds of which go to ex service personnel and their families who are in need. Cratfield residents have always given very generously at the door to door collection and again this year Shaun and I will be coming around at some time from October 27th. In our increasingly cashless society, we found last year that at the time of our calling some people had no ready cash to donate. I hope it is not too presumptuous to ask that you might put a little aside for when we call. We try to visit all houses in the village, if you missed us last year perhaps you were out, or didn't hear our knock. We try to return on a second occasion. Thank you for your support.

Sue Eade on behalf of Fressingfield and District Royal British Legion

Join us for an Autumn Walk On Sunday 15 October.

Leaving the Cratfield Church at 2.45 and getting back at around 3.45pm for tea and cake.

Come for the Walk or Come for the Cake!

All being well there will be a bonfire to warm ourselves round on our return.

If you haven't been on one of our walks before they are an informal way for getting some gentle exercise whilst meeting friends old and new. All welcome.

An Apology

Humble apologies to those of you who received a rather dishevelled copy of the September Cratfield News. Several of them were somewhat oven-roasted, hence the crinkly edges. We had a little bit of a precipitation situation which involved a drying out process before stapling and folding could take place. We were just very fortunate that the ink didn't run, that would have been a complete disaster!

Sue (Ed.)

I am writing to reflect on Sheila Webster's letter in the Cratfield News last month, about the situation around Cratfield church and our parish. Sheila has been associated with St Mary's for seventy years and her family are rooted here, whereas I have been in the village only for 17 years. I'm speaking as a relative newcomer. I differ from Sheila in another important respect: I do not describe myself as a committed Christian. I have a loose affiliation to Christianity, a sort of goodwill relationship, and was recently given to understand that as such, I was not particularly valued as a member of the PCC. I believe there are many people in our parish much like me, who cheerfully 'rub along' with the Christian church and truly support its presence in our community. To the point where we freely give up our time for it. Yes, we're the ones who turn up at Christmas and for harvest festival and not on a rainy Sunday in February. So perhaps we are not entitled to a voice. Perhaps we are indeed 'dispensable', a word that has hit my ear more times in the last six months than at any other point in my life.

The people of this village, Christian or not, have pitched in time and again to help maintain the Church, to support its fundraising, tidy its grounds and fund repairs. Remember the theft of the lead on the roof and the village-wide effort to replace it? By doing so, we have also contributed to the Parish Share. For those for whom this is an unfamiliar term, the share is the many hundreds of pounds each parish must give up yearly to the diocese to support the local ministry. Meeting each year's target is a task and a half. Sheila mentioned Margaret Thompson whose energy and commitment to St Mary's, along with those in the village who gave time and energy to help her, made the parish share, year on year, just about do-able. I wholeheartedly agree with Sheila that Margaret's contribution is an example of Christianity in action, being the physical manifestation of belief.

Natalie Lloyd-Evans

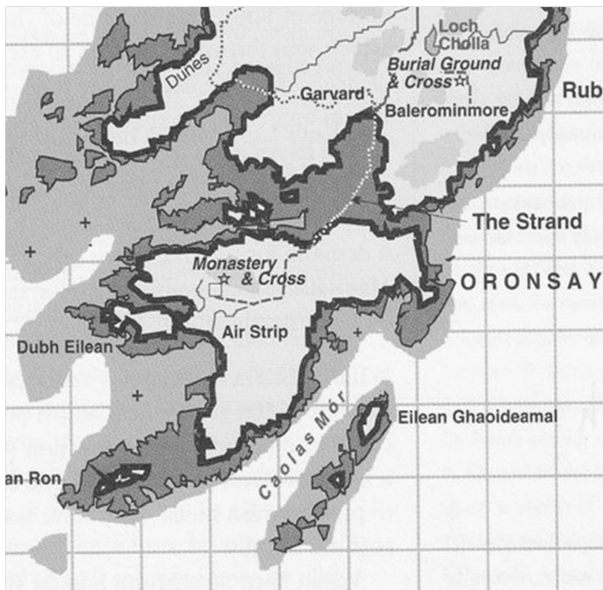
Another project

A few years ago, from 2016 to 2018 to be exact, I worked on a stitchery, (it is really a wall hanging, but doesn't hang on a wall! hence my name for it), which depicts historic houses of Cratfield and is on display in our church. Many of you will have seen it, or even came to the launch.

Well, now I would like to make something similar, **21st Century Cratfield**, so if you live in a house built since 1999 I would like to stitch it. I believe there to be 14 houses, so not such a mammoth task as last time. If on reading this you do not wish your house to be depicted then please contact me, (details on the back page). Those of you whom I know I shall ask personally, if I don't know you I shall call at your home and ask or leave a note if you are not in. I do hope there will be no objections, this is something I love to do.

Thanks in anticipation – Sue E.

Exploring the Scottish Islands – with a collapsible bike!
Oronsay (Pop: 5, sometimes 6!)



At the south end of Colonsay (last month's island) lies Oronsay. Both islands belonged to Lord Strathcona, but Oronsay was sold in the 1970s. Between the two, there is an expanse of sand called 'The Strand'; this can be walked on when the tide is out, allowing pedestrians access to Oronsay. Half way across The Strand is the 'Sanctuary Cross': any fugitive from Colonsay who reached it was immune from punishment – provided the pursuers also knew the rules! It is vital that visitors have

thoroughly researched the tide times to avoid getting cut off on Oronsay. The walk across The Strand is a mile in length and it takes a further 1½ miles on land to reach the focal point, Oronsay Priory. It's a beautifully maintained ruin: an Augustinian Priory built in c. 1380 and probably on the same site as St Oran's original monastery of 563.



It became an important religious centre for the islands and Argyll over the next two hundred years and is considered as second in importance only to Iona. The island is currently owned by an American lady and she has an agreement with the RSPB who maintain the island.

Colonsay has considerable holiday accommodation and so, when the tide ebbs away, a motley group of tourists gather, teetering at the very edge of Colonsay, bound for Oronsay. Conversations between strangers instantly strike up as we wait for the optimum time for setting foot on The Strand. Excitement is in the air. Questions fly: "When exactly should we go?" "Is there enough time to get to The Priory and back again, before the tide comes in?" "Are there any amenities on Oronsay?" (No!) And then... someone takes the plunge and removes their shoes and socks. We all follow suit and tentatively set foot on The Strand. As our feet adjust to the shock of cold seawater and sand in our toes, we get the feeling that we're doing something a bit out of the ordinary. A bit strange. Oddball. Unconventional. Eccentric! Cradling socks and shoes as we walk, strangers who didn't know each other 5 minutes previously, are talking and laughing animatedly. What *are* we doing?! It all has the feel of a hastily arranged school Geography field trip – in bare feet!

The mile across The Strand is wetter – and it takes longer - than one might think; however, the wetter your crossing, the greater the chances of the tide *still* being out on your way back! Eventually, you reach Oronsay and then feel foolish: only a precious few have planned ahead and brought a towel with them! Towels are shared around and this disparate, random group find themselves unexpectedly bonding once more. Feet and socks are inevitably damp and sandy, so the remaining 1½ miles to The Priory feel a bit footsore – and then there it is!

The ruins are pristine, as are the grounds: there are ancient gravestones, Celtic crosses, old cloisters and...oh! Is that the time? Where is everybody? Panic! Is the tide coming in already? I'm still a mile and a half away! Quick, run! One of my damp shoes makes an embarrassing squeaking sound with every other step and I feel like Mr Bean as I run to catch up with the group who are already on their way back. Phew! Looking around some old ruins has never been so exciting and breathless! We cross The Strand just in time, with our hearts in our mouths: we can see the water coming in from all sides and the single landmass will soon be two islands again. Done it! We're back on Colonsay. Just one thing remains: "Umm... can anyone lend me their towel?"

Next month: Coll

Andrew Weight

MICHAEL OLIVER

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Cllr Richard Chivers Tel: 07900 187350 - Silverleys Green collection



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Istanbul

Few things are more thrilling than the first sight of Istanbul from the Sea of Marmora in the early morning, as the great historic buildings - Roman, early Christian, and the magnificent Islamic buildings of the Ottoman Sultans come into view, perched on their rocky eminence¹.

We were to anchor in the Bosphorus off the Dolmabahce Palace, a couple of kilometres from the Golden Horn and the Galata Bridge, which was then still the elegant old bridge, now lying unused near the head of the creek that is the Golden Horn.² It was in some ways an uncomfortable anchorage because of the constant strong current which brings the waters of the Danube, the Dneiper and the Don down through the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles into the Mediterranean and can run up to 3 or 4 knots in mid-stream, making anchoring potentially hazardous, and restricting the number of people who could go ashore at any one time.

There is such a lot to see in Istanbul, so we Heads of Department planned a tour of the old quarter above the Golden Horn. But first we had to get ashore and that morning there was thick fog over the Bosphorus with only a few yards visibility. Still, "who dares wins", and so we rigged a radar reflector in the ship's boat's bow and set off, with the ship keeping radar watch on us. We set a course towards where we thought the Dolmabahce Palace should have been but of course the Bosphorus' current set us down towards the old Galata bridge and we finally clambered ashore near the entrance to the Golden Horn, trying to look nothing like naval officers whose navigation had gone a bit.....well, wonky.

The only thing to do was some retail therapy and so we headed straight for the famous and wonderful bazaar - well as straight as an enticing small bar on the hill above the Golden Horn allowed. There I spent a happy hour negotiating for the first oriental carpet I ever bought, over cups of coffee and attempts to smoke a hookah.

However, my colleagues were getting a bit fidgety so I had to settle on a carpet and price about three days faster than is normally recommended!³ Then we headed for the more famous and exciting sights of the Hagia Sofia, the Blue Mosque, the Topkapi Palace and the wonderful underground cistern; then lunch, via a fine baklava stall.

By the time we came to return on board, somewhat footsore and suitably fortified by excellent Turkish food, a glass or so of unidentifiable wine, and more shopping (just for the family, you know!) the fog had completely lifted and we could see the distance

by which our first crossing had missed its target. By then we didn't mind too much, although we were rehearsing suitable answers to the teasing we expected to get back on board! Our return to the ship was even more exciting, because it coincided with a couple of Russian warships coming down the Bosphorus from the huge Russian naval base at Sevastopol in the Crimea, looking very smart and seemingly bristling with weapons, heading for the Mediterranean. Very correctly and smartly they saluted Hermes in the way international naval custom demands, as they passed us at a fair lick, because of the strong current out of the Black Sea.

Under the terms of the 1936 Montreux Convention, the Bosphorus and the Dardenelles are under Turkish control. Freedom of passage for all merchant shipping is guaranteed, but all warships have to give Turkey advance notice of their wish to pass through in either direction. Turkey can refuse permission, as they have done during the Ukrainian War; the Convention specifically allows Turkey to close the straits totally to warships during any war although, as is well known, they have allowed Ukrainian grain ships to pass when Russia allowed them to sail. Since 1936, Russia has consistently honoured this treaty, even during the current war. Certain types of warships, including ships of over 10,000 tons and submerged submarines, are permanently prohibited from passing through the Turkish Straits. Sadly, this prevented Hermes, on finally leaving Istanbul, from at least having a peep at a sea rarely visited by the Royal Navy. Oh, and on our return to the ship, we did indeed get a bit of polite ribbing about our navigation in fog!

1. Of harbours I have visited, I would say only Hong Kong, Rio de Janeiro, Madeira, New York, Cape Town and perhaps Old Muscat.

2. Sadly not the name of a pub, but the famous horn shaped creek which was once the base of the Ottoman navy.

3. True bazaar haggling is complex, a game involving both parties in formal manoeuvres showing no obvious wish to buy or sell. It really can go on for a day or two, although I believe experienced parties both know from the start exactly where they will end up. Candy and I did a bit better when we visited Istanbul a few years later.

Jeremy Blackham

Suffolk Historic Churches Ride 2023

It's the 50th anniversary of the Historic Churches Ride and it will be remembered for being the hottest ever! This year Team Scoones sent out 2 expeditions: the first from Cratfield across the Saints with Jimmy from the next generation of cyclists. The second took the early train from London with 'Squire' Dyson, architect, sometime resident of the Parish of Preston St Mary for company. Our first church was Santon Downham just north of Brandon and we then headed Eastwards along the border with Norfolk. It's different out west: forest, breck and fen make a different landscape, along with the big estates and busy roads. The Church at Elveden is well worth a visit even though it doesn't take part in the SHCT scheme. It is the burial place of the Maharaja Duleep Singh, last ruler of the Sikh empire, supplanted there by Queen Victoria. Pilgrims visit regularly from the sub-continent and the visitor's book is full of votives in Urdu script. We had the bonus of visiting the estate house where the Guinness family were auctioning off the contents. We made a strange sight in our lycra on the grand Persian carpets under ornate Mogul interiors. More incongruities at Euston estate the elegant Palladian pile with its own Georgian church, this weekend hosting the 'Trip Out' festival of bikers most of them chopper-style kicking up dust on the gravel tracks. 'I'll ask the Duke next time I see him' said the lady in the church when asked if there was a connection with Euston Station.

(Meanwhile back in the Saints....They have managed to find All Saints South Elmham and deem the search to have been worth the effort. While out west....)

The church visits started in earnest after we left the busy roads at Fakenham Magna. We lingered a while in every church for refreshment and respite from the extreme heat and there was almost always someone to show us around and chat. Some had ice! Nearly every church seemed a gem in its own way. The lovely glass at Bardwell, pew ends at Barningham and Wortham, the charming setting of Coney Weston, flowers at Market Weston, delightful roof carvings at Hopton, the stupendous grandeur of Redgrave among the highlights. Having visited our last church at Wortham we made our way to the Station Tavern at Mellis and once refuelled set off home as the sun set. It's 20 years since I did my first ride and it's wonderful to know the county is still full of these special places waiting to be discovered.

With the usual thanks to fellow cyclists and fund-raisers, sponsors and especially those who give their time to welcome visitors to the church.

Andrew (and James) Scoones, September 2023

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Tuesdays

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VILLAGE HALL UPDATE – OCTOBER

POP UP PUB – FRIDAY 6th OCTOBER & FRIDAY 3rd NOVEMBER – DOORS OPEN 6PM

After a long summer we welcome back Judith & her team from Cratfield Kitchen with locally sourced and delicious food offerings again. Why not pop along to the pop-up pub for a bite to eat (no cooking or washing up!) and a drink (or two!) Doors open 6pm, bar takes cash and cards payments / Cratfield Kitchen takes cash only

CRATFIELD VILLAGE HALL 100 CLUB

The Cratfield VH 100 Club winners for October are: 1st prize (£15) number 59 - Mark Aryaenia / 2nd prize (£10) number 77 - Simon Woolward / 3rd prize (£5) number 80 - Robert King.

The draw was taken by Diane Britton - congratulations to all winners!

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION – SATURDAY 14TH OCTOBER 7 - 9PM / BAR OPEN TOO

Entries are coming in thick and fast and there are a huge number of stunning entries – good luck to everyone who has entered! Come along and find out who the winners and runners up in each category are – doors open 7pm – 9pm with the winners announced around 8pm.

The deadline for entries is 30th September - spare forms are at the back of the church if you need one. It is a fun event – so go on, have a go - the categories are My Cratfield / Suffolk Patterns and Abandoned Suffolk – any interpretation of the categories welcome!

INDOOR BOWLS – ALTERNATE TUESDAYS

3rd, 17th, 31st October / 28th November / 12th December

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.

COMMITTEE MEETING & AGM – THURSDAY 9TH NOVEMBER - 7PM

Our next committee meeting and AGM is on Thursday 9th November from 7pm and we have a few committee members who are standing down after many years. Please do consider if you could spare a few hours once a quarter to join the committee to help shape and run the events we put on. The committee meets 4 times a year and the meetings only take (on average!) an hour and a half. We are a small but efficient committee and you would not have to do anything you are not happy with doing, it's a very good way to meet new people in the village and help put on a range of events that hopefully appeal to the wider village.

VILLAGE HALL TALK – SATURDAY 18th NOVEMBER – 7PM for 7.30 / BAR OPEN TOO

Behind the scenes on the restoration of Lincoln Castle.

Lincoln Castle was begun in 1068 by William the Conqueror. It has been a place of incarceration for most of its history and includes both Georgian and Victorian prisons. By 2005 it was in a dire state and Mary Powell was put in charge of raising the £22m that was needed and managing the restoration. It took 10 years and it had to be ready in time for Magna Carta's 800th anniversary in 2015. The restoration included creating an underground vault to house the rare document. It was finished on time, but only just! Her presentation includes photographs of the repair of the walls, the creation of a complete wall walk with wheelchair access, restoration of the Victorian prison and the re-display of Magna Carta. For ten years the project ruled her life! Places are limited – so book your place/s with Paul Marfleet ASAP – marfleets@doctors.org.uk

CHRISTMAS FAIR – SUNDAY 3 DECEMBER FROM 10 – 1

Following a number of requests from last years stall holders to book, we have set a date for the 2023 Christmas Fair (with Richards Big Bap Brunches again!) Pop along for a range of locally sourced gifts, food and presents – and you can even pick up a locally grown Christmas tree!

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

Autumn Churchyard Clearance

Saturday 21st October from 10.30am -

Dig out your shears and strimmers, Dust off your rakes and forks and let's set too and spruce up the Churchyard. Many hands make light work and there is a great sense of communal achievement by the end of the morning. Coffee and Biscuits supplied. If you can't make it on the day but want to lend a hand speak to Andy Edmonds or Clive Mobbs and they will help identify a patch to work on if you are not sure what needs doing.

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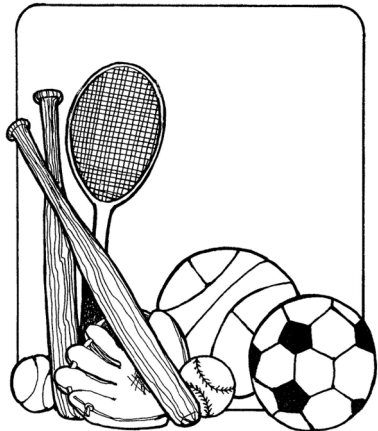
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Cratfield Quiz

Identify the sport associated with these terms.

1. Bogey
2. Drafting
3. Half Nelson
4. Flyaway
5. Chukka
6. Catch a crab
7. Southpaw
8. Death spiral
9. Conversion
10. Flip turn
11. Yorker
12. Deke
13. Draw length
14. Frozen rope
15. Jump shot
16. Nutmeg
17. Turntable
18. Nerf
19. Plant phase
20. Deuce



Answers on page 18

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Answers to Quiz

1. Golf
2. Cycling
3. Wrestling
4. Gymnastics
5. Polo
6. Rowing
7. Boxing
8. Figure skating
9. Rugby
10. Swimming
11. Cricket
12. Hockey
13. Archery
14. Baseball
15. Snooker
16. Football
17. Trampolining
18. Motor racing
19. Pole vaulting
20. Tennis

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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Autumn Events

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7th October Supper & Stargazing with DASH Astro

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14th October Framlingham Scout & Guide New HQ Do

A supper night with all profits going to the new HQ

21st October Autumn Game Feast with Noble Prawn's Lily Benbow

Another delicious feast night based around game and created over fire.

11th November Supper & Tavern Yard Tales

The Yarnsmith of Norwich will be spinning some tall tales in our Tipi around the fire



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Mace

Change. Many have heard me quote, 'Nobody likes change except a wet baby!' Yet, no matter where we look, change is all about us. A friend of mine was upset recently when their mobile phone no longer worked because the 3g Network had been taken down! Another upset because Windows 7 was not doing what it should. And of course, in our rural community, there has been amazing change in farming techniques over the last 50 plus years. Just imagine what might happen if the methods of gathering in the harvest that were in place, then were used today? Mmm... There is a powerful Bible quote in Corinthians 5 vs 17 which tells of the huge sacrifice made by God for us in the sacrifice of his only Son so that we could be forgiven of our sins. God used change as a powerful tool to bring about growth and better circumstances.

So, instead of being afraid of change, we really should look forward to what might be – what might be different. OK, it won't suit everybody but why shouldn't we have something for everyone? Why stick to what we always did, why not explore new ways of worship through, dare I say it, Messy Church, through Cook at Church. I feel sure that there are many folk reading this who might be thinking of new ideas of bringing people to the Kingdom of God. If so, please drop me a line. Joshua 1 v 9 reminds us that we should not let change get the better of us because if we do so, we are forgetting about God's love and protection. Let's remember, if 'anyone is in Christ' and you trust in God as your saviour, the new will always outweigh the old. If we focus on Jesus Christ, we can get through the changes needed – 'yesterday, and today and forever.' (Hebrews 13 v 8)

Revd Chrissie – rev.chrissiesmart@gmail.com

Harvest Festival - 6.00pm on the 8 October

There is something special about a harvest festival in a country church so come and celebrate "all good gifts around us."

The service will be followed by mulled cider and light refreshments

***Wand Dressing** - This year we are going to try to revive an old Cratfield tradition. It used to be the case that, to celebrate harvest, families would dress the wooden candle staves, or wands, on the ends of the pews with a mixture of flowers, berries, conkers, etc. all topped off with fruit and veg where the candle usually sits. The wands were then clipped onto the ends of the pews to form an avenue of "autumnal fruitfulness."*

You can collect a wand from the church and decorate it at home or come and join us for some creative fun on Saturday afternoon 7 October at 2.30pm. Some tools and materials will be provided but it would help if you could bring along some strong scissors or secateurs and bundles of plant material – e.g., berries, conkers, hop vines colourful leaves, seed heads and grasses and anything else that catches your eye. Anything goes but try and keep it natural.

There will be an example on display at the back of the church from 5 October if you need inspiration.

Benefice Services for October 2023

October	1st	8th	15th	22nd	29th
Bedfield	10.30am Holy Communion EP		10.30am Family Services CS		10.30am Benefice Communion
Brundish	4.30pm Harvest EP			9.00am Holy Communion RA	
Laxfield	10.30am Celtic Morning Service LE	10.30am Morning Praise CS	10.30am Holy Communion EP	At Worlingworth	
Monk Soham	11.00am Family Service RA		11am Holy Communion RA		
Tannington	11.00am Morning Prayer BS			4.00pm Harvest Service + Tea RO	
Wilby	10.30am Village Worship SP	10.30am Holy Communion EP	10.30am Village Worship SP	At Worlingworth	
Worlingworth	Support Tannington	11.00am Let's Celebrate CM	11.00am Holy Communion CM	11.00am Lay Elders Commissioning EP + Arch Deacon Sally	

CRATFIELD

8th	22nd
Isaiah 5:1-7 Philippians 3:4b-13 Matthew 21:33-end	Isaiah 45:1-7 1 Thess 1:1-10 Matthew 22:15-22
6.00pm Harvest Evening Prayer CM Reader D. Peacock Sidesperson A. Edmunds	9.00am Holy Communion CM Reader J. Klingells Sidesperson C. Marfleet

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Church:

Priest in Charge of the Four Rivers Benefice

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The Vicarage, 15 Noyes Avenue Laxfield IP13 8EB

Assistant Curate Rev. Clive Mobbs 07340 838639

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Parish Clerk Sally Chapman 07774 734411

Parish Council Website www.cratfield.onesuffolk.net

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All information must arrive at the latest by 20th of the month

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