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April 2026

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Thursday 30th April 2026

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We look forward to seeing you.

All Welcome!



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Welcome, welcome, welcome

This month we are offering a very warm Cratfield welcome to several newcomers to our village...

to Victoria who has recently moved into no.1 The Street with her dog to Jenny, Mark and Oscar, the dog who have moved into Monk Frith and to Bob, Susie and the dogs Johnny, Jeep and Twirl who have moved into 3 School Corner

We hope that by now they are already feeling at home here. I have no hesitation in saying that Cratfield is a great place to live with warm friendly people.

By the time you read this, booking for the **Cratfield Acoustic Special Two** will have already started. This highly recommended musical event is on Saturday 18th April 2026 and all proceeds will go to St Elizabeth Hospice

Booking is essential - so to reserve your place you MUST text 07891 940479 or email marfleets@doctors.org.uk, stating your name and the number of places required. You will get a confirmation reply. Pay at door on the evening. £15 per person

Numbers strictly limited so book early! Booking went live on the 9th of March so if you want to go you will have to book NOW!!

Help

St. Mary's Parochial Church Council are in need of some help. We are looking for a new Secretary and a Treasurer to facilitate the smooth and efficient working of our beautiful heritage church within the Four Rivers Benefice.

For anyone interested it is not a requirement to be a member of the Church of England, you will be welcome to the committee whatever. Meetings take place as and when required, approximately every six weeks or so, on a day which is suitable for all.

For further information please contact Rev'd Chrissie Smart, contact details on the back page of this magazine.

School Corner - Easter and Spring Quiz

1. Easter is a "moveable feast" often, but not always, celebrated in April. What determines on which Sunday it falls?
2. From where does the name "Easter" originate?
3. What is the Sunday before Easter called?
4. How many Cadburys Creme Eggs are produced annually? A) 5 million B) 50 million, or C) 500 million?
5. What flower symbolises purity and rebirth during Easter?
6. How long does Lent traditionally last?
7. What's the world's tallest chocolate Easter egg (measured in feet)? A) 18 feet B) 34 feet or C) 52 feet?
8. In Australia which animal is favoured over the Easter Bunny?
9. In which countries were solid chocolate eggs first made (1 point for either)?
10. Osterfeuer are a tradition to welcome spring and Easter in Germany. What are Osterfeuer?
11. What is the April birthstone? A) Diamond B) Sapphire or C) Emerald
12. What are considered to be the birth flowers of April (1 point for either)?
13. In which country do cherry blossom trees signify the beginning of spring?
14. Name the 3 spring Zodiac signs in the Northern Hemisphere?
15. Who is the Greek goddess of Spring and nature?
16. Which Hindu holiday, known as the festival of colours, happens in Spring?
17. After a 1,500 year break, the first Olympics of the modern era took place on April 6 1896. In which City?
18. The Titanic hit the now famous iceberg on April 15 in which year?
19. The word April comes from the Latin word "aperire". What does it mean?
20. In April of which year did Yuri Gagarin become the first human in space?

0-5 points: detention

6-10 points: must try harder

11-15 points: good effort

16-20 points: top of the class!

Road Closure

The Country Fair returns this year along with the Monster Trucks and other exciting attractions. With the air displays we are required by the Civil Aviation Authority to close the road. Therefore, there will be a temporary road closure from the entrance to Heveningham Hall to the junction at Walpole on 27th and 28th June, from 3.30 to 4pm. We apologise in advance for any inconvenience this may cause.

Heveningham Hall Country Fair Trust



Events Team

Heveningham Hall Country Fair

E: enquiries@countryfair.co.uk

W: www.countryfair.co.uk

All proceeds from our events go to charity
Heveningham Hall Country Fair Trust - Registered charity number 1095403

Follow us on social media!   

I recently received this email and thought it might be of interest to people, especially the current occupants of the houses mentioned and the older members of the village who may remember the people named. (Sue Ed.)

Dear Sue,

I hope you don't mind me writing to you, but I have recently visited Cratfield Church and saw your lovely tapestry of houses in the village. I was visiting my parents' grave (Anthony and Eileen Creasy) and those of my relations and ancestors. Afterwards I popped into the church and saw your beautiful piece of work hanging inside, with your file of drawings and stories. It was a delight to see, particularly because it featured some of the houses my ancestors have occupied over the years, and I thought you might like to know a bit about who lived where.

Cratfield Hall was the house where my great great grandparents Noah Creasy and his wife Sarah Ann (nee Cook) lived between about 1865 and 1894. They were the first members of our family to live in Cratfield, moving there from Syleham after the tragic death of their daughter Sarah. They are buried in the church yard near the grave of their eldest daughter Rebecca and her husband William Thirkettle. Their middle son George, my great grandfather, is buried at Eye cemetery but the grave of their youngest son Noah, and his wife Nancy (nee Edwards), is on the other side of Cratfield church yard.

Noah and Nancy lived at The Firs, another house featured in your tapestry. Noah was a farmer and cattle dealer and by the end of his life owned several farms in the area including Moat Farm and Holly Tree Farm which you have also featured.

Moat Farm was occupied by George's son Noel Lloyd Wilmot Creasy from about the 1900s until his death in 1939. He is buried with his wife Kate (nee Symonds) near Noah and Nancy's grave. Noel and Kate had five sons, including my father Anthony, and three daughters who are also buried in the church yard. After Noel's death the family moved to Rookery Farm now called Linstead Farm off North Green Road.

Holly Tree Farm was where my mother and father set up home after they married in 1930. They moved out at the beginning of the war to allow evacuee families from London to use the house. They then moved into The Firs in 1941 and my older sisters attended Cratfield School. There may be some people in the village who also went to Cratfield School at that time and remember my sisters Yvonne and Ann. They tell stories of the school's head teacher, Mrs Jolly, and remember some of the names of children in the school then including Mary Algar and her sister, Mary Manning, Grace

and Joy Sheldrake, Edna and Jean Chatten, Winnie Vincent, Thelma Lovett and the Mills boys. Other family names they remember are Mobbs, Owles and Sillet. They also remember the US airmen based at nearby airfields coming to wartime dances in the village hall and working on my father's farm.

Anthony, Eileen and their three daughters moved from Cratfield in 1946. My younger sister and I were born shortly afterwards in a village near Bungay and my older sisters now live in Norwich. Although I live in Bristol I try to visit Cratfield church every year to see my parents' grave and love the peace and tranquility of it surroundings.

Thank you for prompting family memories of Cratfield by displaying your lovely tapestry of local houses in the church.

Warm regards,

Tony Creasy

Mrs Jolly Headmistress of
Cratfield School 1935 -1961.



I have been led to believe that Mrs Jolly was quite a formidable lady. I do hope those who may have been taught by her do not find this photo too triggering!

MICHAEL OLIVER

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Cllr Dan Elford Tel: 07870 462189 - Village collection

Cllr Richard Chivers Tel: 07900 187350 - Silverleys Green collection

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ICS

REGISTERED MEMBER OF THE INSTITUTE OF CHIMNEY SWEEPS

The Editor has asked me to continue with nautical yarns although we are no longer in Cratfield, so I shall until someone objects! I have therefore gone back to the beginning and inserted a few more tales.

Yellow Bird

You might remember that my first “proper job” was as Diving Officer and Bridge Watchkeeper in HMS Rothesay in the West Indies in 1965. Appropriately we had at that time a steel band on board, made up of the Leading Sick Berth Attendant, the Petty Officer Gunnery Instructor, a Stoker First class and.....well the fourth member had been sent to another ship so I, the junior officer on board, was “volunteered” as the fourth member. We had a full set of proper oil drums, which bore the crest of the West Indies squadron – a yellow bird on a blue circle background¹. The LSBA was a first-class musician capable of arranging all sorts of tunes for the steel drums and also of tuning them, which was done with a large and heavy hammer! We used to practice and rehearse on the upper deck when we were at sea, provided the sea was fairly calm.

Though I say it myself we were not bad! We played at ship’s concerts but also got “novelty spots” on TV in some of the islands and played in hotels too, thus earning small sums to supplement our then rather meagre pay; we had great fun, plenty of free drinks and the Navy got some friendly publicity in that part of the world.

Rather less fun for me was that we also played at receptions and parties on board the ship and at dances arranged for us ashore during visits to various islands and ports. As a result, I had to watch my fellow officers chatting up the local young ladies whilst I assisted in their budding romances by playing the music to which they danced and watched my own prospects of finding a nice companion for any particular visit dwindle whilst I was helping provide the romantic background for my colleagues. I was only 22 at the time and I admit that I sometimes found that part of it a bit irksome, despite the huge enjoyment playing in the band gave me.

However, the dice rolled my way on one occasion. We were visiting Acapulco and some of us went up to Mexico City to stay with members of the British Community there for a few days, including playing cricket against a team from the British Club in the shadow of Mount Popocatepetl. After the match there was a dinner dance at which we, the steel band, played and as usual I watched everyone else having a good time on the dance floor.

My Captain had come up to Mexico City for the occasion, and I had to watch him dancing with a young lady from the British Embassy whom I had met when we arrived and would rather have liked to be dancing with myself. Suddenly he waltzed up to me with this young lady, Andrina, and said “Miss V would like to dance with you.” Naturally I protested that, whilst I would love to, it would prevent the band from giving full value to the other attendees, and so I would have to

decline. Perhaps my protest wasn't too vehement, or maybe the Captain thought me failing in courtesy for he said "Go and do your duty, subbie². I will stand in for you."

What could I do? Only what my training had taught me. "Aye, aye, Sir" I said and stepped off with Miss V whilst the Captain took up my drumsticks and started to play "my" drum. A little later, when I had become used to my delightful dancing partner, it suddenly struck me that the band didn't sound any worse – in fact it sounded a bit better. The Captain turned out to be a fine steel band player with a natural musical talent as well as a very kind boss. And I did manage to have a very pleasant evening without playing in the band!

It was the only time, however. Thereafter I was careful never to hand over to him again, however tempted I might be, in case he wanted to become a permanent member of the band and I would miss out on all the other fun we enjoyed. Of course, I needn't have worried. There were few, if any, other occasions when he was free to do so and besides, there are other ways to meet and make new friends!

I still have a photograph of the band playing that evening.

Jeremy Blackham

1. Named after the popular calypso style song of the day "Yellow bird, high up in banana tree." Which was also our signature tune.
2. Short for Sub-Lieutenant, a one striper, the lowest, senior only to a Midshipman who was traditionally "the lowest form of naval life."

Mobile library Dates

Silverleys Green 14.00-14.20 The Poacher 14.30-14.45
April 14th, May 12th, June 9th, July 7th, Aug 4th, Sept 1st, 29th,
Oct 27th, Nov 24th, Dec 22nd

For more information, including timetables and locations visit: suffolkcommunitylibraries.co.uk/mobile-libraries



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VILLAGE HALL UPDATE - APRIL 2026

CRATFIELD POP UP PUB - Friday 3rd April

Brush away the hot cross bun crumbs and get ready for Easter at the **Cratfield Pop Up Pub** on 3rd April, 6pm-10pm at the village hall. Catch up with neighbours and friends over a pint of local beer from the barrel – or sample from the choice of wines, cider, lager, soft drinks, G&T etc on offer. The bar accepts card & cash payment.

Cratfield Kitchen will be at the Pop Up so save the big cooking for Sunday and enjoy excellent food in the hall without lifting a finger. Cash only for food. The kitchen takes orders from 6.30pm so arrive in good time to avoid disappointment.

INDOOR BOWLS AT THE VILLAGE HALL

The evenings are (we trust!) getting warmer as well as longer so why not try indoor bowling this March? Just turn up at the door and join the friendly regulars at the village hall, 7pm, every other Tuesday (actual dates below). No prior experience needed and refreshments are on offer. Suggested £2 donation for use of the hall.

Dates for 2026 are:

April 14th and 28th /// May 19th /// June 2nd, 16th and 30th /// July 21st ///
August 4th and 18th /// September 1st, 15th and 29th /// October 13th and
27th /// November 17th and /// December 8th.

BEST BUNTING BY MILES

A big thank you to everyone who turned up, with and without sewing machines, irons and sundry complicated-looking bits of equipment, to smash another splendid afternoon of bunting making on 7th March. We had fun, delicious cake, a glass of Prosecco and we even managed to knock out a fair few metres of very smart new bunting for the Village Hall. So thanks again to the cutters, sewers, fixers, stitchers and ironers, as well as the tea brewers and washer-uppers – and of course a special mention for Caroline Hay-Davison who pulled together yet another excellent village effort!

Village Hall Events - 2026 Dates for the Diary:

CRATFIELD ACOUSTIC SPECIAL NIGHT RETURNS - Saturday 18 April

CRATFIELD DOG SHOW 2026 – Sunday 3 May

The popular Cratfield Dog Show returns next month with pedigree and fun classes to please every dog lover – and every wannabe canine champ. Details of the timetable, and classes, will be posted so watch out for information on posters and social media. There will be plenty of food and drink for the humans too so that's all the more reason to make a day of it! The dog show, made possible by the tireless efforts of Rebecca and Robert Sannick, with the team of village volunteers, and with the kind permission of the Kennel Club, is an important fixture of the Cratfield calendar and raises vital funds for the running and upkeep of the Village Hall, so please come along, with or without a pooch, to get a taste of just how good village life can be. Woof!

PLANT SHOW – Sunday 7th June

Another important fundraiser! This summer we will hold a village plant sale, so, now the frosts are in the rearview mirror (fingers crossed!) please pot up, feed and water some extra seedlings ready to contribute to a fun, flowery day. There will be refreshments, as well as other garden-related stalls, at this exciting new venture for Cratfield. A great chance to stock up for your borders and pots ready for a perfect country summer garden.

CRATFIELD VILLAGE HALL 100 CLUB – APRIL WINNERS

This month's 100 Club winners are: first prize (£15) number 14 – Lotty Barbour; second prize (£10) number 76 – Paul Marfleet; and 3rd prize (£5) number 61 – Bryan Leveratt. Draw by D. Britton. Many congratulations to the winners!

VILLAGE HALL FOR HIRE!

Don't forget our hall is available for hire for a very reasonable price! For any future booking enquiries please contact us on cratfieldvillagehall@gmail.com

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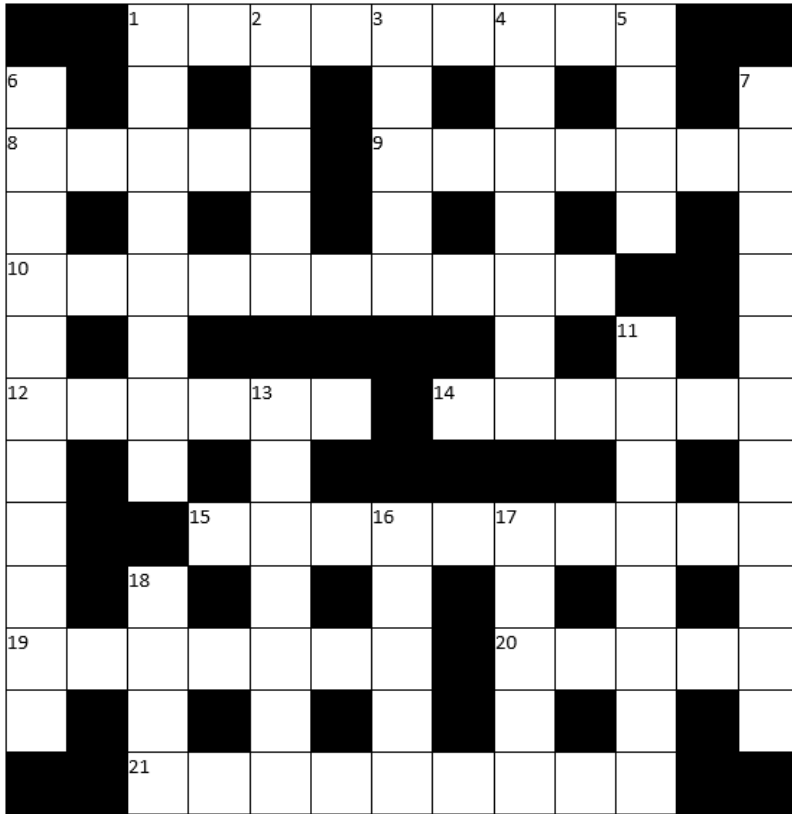


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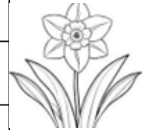
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March
Quick
Crossword
By
Liebre



Across

- 1 It could be red or white (5,4)
- 8 This might get up your nose! (4)
- 9 Pat's vehicle, perhaps (4,3)
- 10 It's very hush hush! (10)
- 12 Formula (6)
- 14 Thor's home (6)
- 15 Quantifiable (10)
- 19 Bull or fox, perhaps (7)
- 20 Stand in (5)
- 21 Knotty method of colouring (3-3-3)

Down

- 1 Floatability (8)
- 2 Shy creature of West Africa (5)
- 3 Closes down (5)
- 4 They are a puzzle (7)
- 5 Surface magma (4)
- 6 Their preference is blood (7,4)
- 7 To be this is to have a rapport (2,4,5)
- 11 Grill (8)
- 13 Exact (7)
- 16 Her song's irresistible (5)
- 17 Presided over (5)
- 18 Stuff for cowboys and ice (4)



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Orkney Mainland (Pop. 17,805) – Part 4,

Burray (Pop. 445), South Ronaldsay (Pop. 985)



This article completes our ‘visit’ to Mainland and then we continue down the Eastern flank of Scapa Flow, by taking in the islands of Burray and South Ronaldsay. But first, some notes on Mainland’s second most populated town:-

Stromness is positively heaving with 2,500 residents! However, I shouldn’t just because, despite today’s rather diminished role, it has been, previously, a prosperous port for many centuries. In times gone by, the long waterfront of Stromness was often overcrowded and busy with ships on the northern sailing routes. From 1670 to 1891 it was a base for the Hudson Bay Company, and in the 18th and 19th centuries it was a supply base for the whaling fleets destined for

Greenland and Canada. It spent a time involved in the North American rice trade – and Captain Cook’s ships, *Discovery* and *Resolution*, called at the town in 1780 on their return voyage from the Hawaiian Islands, where Captain Cook had been killed. Also, Sir John Franklin’s ships were serviced at Stromness on the way to look for the North-West Passage (as were Captain Cook’s). Many ports and towns in the islands have had their heyday long ago and many are now shadows of their former selves: old whaling stations and defunct herring ports bear testimony.

Burray is linked to Mainland via a Churchill Barrier, a causeway created using concrete blocks; these barriers were built on Churchill’s command, following the sinking of



HMS Royal Oak, sunk at her moorings within the natural harbour of Scapa Flow by a German submarine. Such barriers – in addition to sunken blockships - limited the number of entry points into Scapa Flow to protect it from enemy incursions. Both Burray and South

Ronaldsay, previously only accessible by boat, went through huge change by being linked to Mainland in this way.

During the early 18th century, Burray's laird was Sir James Stewart: he organised the murder of a political rival in Kirkwall in 1725, and then went on the run. Twenty years later, he thought it safe to resurface and fought in the Battle of Culloden: as it happened, he was one of the few survivors. However, when he returned to Burray after the battle, he stumbled across the son of the murder victim who reported him to the authorities. Stewart was arrested, and ended up dying in a prison cell in London in June 1746.

South Ronaldsay is the last stop of this journey down the eastern side of Scapa Flow, and this island is best known for the 'Tomb of the Eagles'. This was discovered in 1958 by farmer Ronnie Simison, who was digging for flagstones. He found a chamber containing 30 human skulls, and later uncovered a cache of 16,000 human bones, and the talons and bones of numerous white-tailed sea eagles. Research has found that the human bodies had been exposed to the elements to remove the flesh before burial: the tomb was in continuous use for a millennium or more. Mr Simison and his family made the tomb a visitor attraction, and I can only assume that it was Ronnie himself that I met when I went there in 1998. He must've delivered the talk he gave to me a thousand times before, but he didn't sound tired of it; in fact, he still had pride that he had such intriguing history on his land. Entry to the tomb entailed lying flat on a skateboard attached to a rope and pulling on the rope to trundle through the tiny entrance face down! Once inside, it was dimly lit and skulls were illuminated in small cubby holes... it was claustrophobic in there, so I soon exited in the same 'toboggan' style as I had entered!

Ronnie Simison then showed me a burnt mound that he had discovered in 1972: it's the best example of a Bronze Age cooking place in Orkney. Made of flat slabs originally sealed with clay, the central stone trough would have been filled with water heated by stones using peat as a fuel. (After some use, the waste products - heat-shattered stones, ash, and charcoal - are discarded nearby, and these form a 'burnt mound'. Other discarded materials, including kitchen scraps, ash, and other household waste, are referred to as 'middens'. My own cooking efforts, on the other hand, are simply referred to as 'dangerous'!)



Entrance to Tomb of the Eagles

Next month: Hoy and Flotta

Andrew Weight

Cratfield Parish Council

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

Meeting Dates 2026

Tuesday 13th January 2026 at 7.30 pm

- Tuesday 10th March 2026 at 7.30 pm
- Tuesday 12th May 2026 at 7.30 pm – Annual Parish Meeting & Annual Parish Council Meeting
- Tuesday 14th July 2026 at 7.30 pm
- Tuesday 8th September 2026 at 7.30 pm
- Tuesday 10th November 2026 at 7.30 pm

Agendas (3 days before the meeting) are on the noticeboards & website:

www.cratfield.onesuffolk.net

Planning meetings are arranged as and when required.

~ Members of the Public are Welcome to Attend all Meetings ~

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Mace

April Magazine 2026

Dear Friends, let me begin by wishing you a joyous Eastertide and I do hope that many of you will be attending/attended one of the church-based activities scheduled through Holy Week and Easter. What a time of year for physical and spiritual refreshment! The evenings become lighter and I for one cannot help but feel deeply and truly refreshed by the celebration of our Lord's resurrection. In her book, 'Mansfield Park', Jane Austen said, "To sit in the shade on a fine day and look upon verdure is the most perfect refreshment." How lucky we are in our rural group of churches that we do not need to take many steps to enjoy the beauty of our surroundings and to use all our senses in enjoying God's gifts to us.

Elsewhere of course, there are many that do not have the riches that we can enjoy and when I come to think of it, wherever we are in the world, it is difficult to escape from the horror of the war that has broken out in the Middle East. Why can't we learn to love one another and live in harmony and focus on the love of God wherever we are? We don't need to go to church to pray but it is nice when people get together to do so. How wonderful to look on the church as God's home yet if we were to travel back in time and meet with Jesus, face to face, he might raise an eyebrow at the word church because it didn't exist!

Today it can mean a building, but most importantly, church is the community, our community, the one in which we share the good and the not so good and learn to live in love and harmony as instructed by the Lord Jesus.

I say it again! A happy and blessed Easter to all, prayers and blessings,

Reverend Chrissie – 07803 134301 –
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April Services Cratfield

Maundy Thursday 2nd	Easter Sunday 5th	Sunday 26th
	Acts 10:34-43 John 20:1-18	Acts 2:42-end 1 Peter 1:17-23 John 10:1-10
6.30pm Agapé	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Village Worship

BENEFICE SERVICES

April	Friday 3rd	Easter Day 5th	12th	19th	26th
Bedfield	10.30am Easter Gar- den	9.30am Holy Communion	10.30am Morning Praise		10.30am Village Wor- ship
Brundish		4.00pm Holy Comm 4.30pm Easter Ser- vice			
Laxfield	10.30am Easter Gar- den 12-3pm Easter Vigil	9.30am Holy Comm	10.30am Celtic Morn- ing Prayer	9.30am Chatty Church	Envoy lunch at church- 6.00pm Hert. House
Monk Soham	9.00am Sung Litany	5.30am Sunrise Service Archdeacon Rich 11.00am CW HC	11.00am BCP Morn- ing Prayer	11.00am BCP Holy Communion	
Tannington			11.00am Holy Comm		
Wilby	10.30am Good Friday Service	11.00am Holy Communion		10.30am Village Wor- ship	10.30am Celtic Morn- ing Prayer
Worling-worth	3.00pm At the foot of the Cross	11.00am Holy Communion		11.00am Let's Cele- brate	11.00am Morning Prayer

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