

# **CRATFIELD NEWS**

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March 2026

**Cratfield Talks**

**Saturday 21st March 2026**

**Cratfield Village Hall**



**'Cake for Breakfast, Lobster for Tea'**

**A talk by Caroline Hay Davison exploring the hidden stories behind every menu.**



**Reserve your place in advance by emailing**

**[cratfieldvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:cratfieldvillagehall@gmail.com)**

**Ticket price £6 per person.**

Pay and collect your tickets on the door.

Bar opens at 6.00pm, talk starts at 7.00pm.

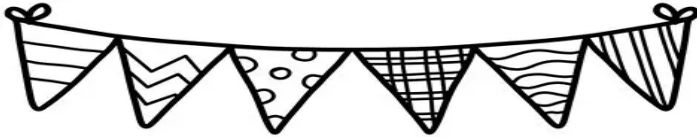
## Bunting Returns

We are back at the Village Hall on the 7th March 2026 (2.00pm - 5.00pm) to continue our bunting making.

Whether you're a cutter, sewer, pinner or iron-er we look forward to seeing you.

Tea, coffee, cake served and a glass of Prosecco to round off the afternoon.

Please email Caroline Hay Davison at [c.hay-davison@sky.com](mailto:c.hay-davison@sky.com) so we can plan our baking.



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### **A loyal friend of Cratfield.**

The lovely Margaret Thompson has passed away. It was Margaret's calling to befriend and assist her human kin, her spirit and wisdom were warm and positive. Always busy, there is the memory of her dashing by in her yellow peril smart car, conscious of whoever the recipient of her visit was, they would be given time and concerned regard. Many of us are aware of the quiet, considerate friendship that Margaret gave.

Margaret liked a project, and would ponder long before embarking on her mission. There were numerous fundraising events, always with the view that there are others who need our support and recognition. Margaret was very accomplished in the kitchen; food gathers us together and she had the knack. We enjoyed being on board to deliver her vision, whether it was a soup lunch or a village gathering, there was always friendship, chatter and clean plates.

Margaret was a true to the core Christian.

Unfortunately this tribute arrived a little too late for the February magazine, but, as the attendance at the celebration of Margaret's life showed, it reflects the affection and respect felt for her by our community. (Sue Ed.)




# Cratfield Cafe Morning

Thursday 19th March  
Village Hall, 10 - 12 noon

*Come along and enjoy a chat  
over tea, coffee and homemade cake.*

*All Welcome!*



Lottie will bring along  
a selection of Cratfield beef for sale.

Dear Sue,

Candy and I will be leaving Cratfield in February 2026, after eighteen very happy years in our lovely home at Monk Frith whenever we could be here, and I wonder if we might use your columns to express our great gratitude to all the folk of Cratfield.

We have so many wonderful memories – many evenings in the Poacher, with the wonderful and packed music nights from local bands and folk singers; Margaret Thompson's stunning Christmas fairs in the church; the Whitsun church flower festivals that were once annual; the performances of Morris dancers and Molly Men in the Poacher car park; the tractor parades; Rebecca's fun dog shows; many lovely and friendly village hall events; the very successful Open Village Weekend in 2013; Tim and Sue Ackerley's Midsummer Madness parties; the Spring Bank Holiday Sales in Lotty's barn; the click of pétanque balls through our hedge as our team played in the boules league; the Concerts at Cratfield with first class music meeting first class cakes and sold-out audiences. And not least, Sue Eade's excellent editing of the Cratfield Magazine.

We could go on adding to that list, and we could talk too about the many changes we have seen, but the most important thing has always been the welcoming kindness and the mutual support of all Cratfieldians, and of course the happy and friendly atmosphere of our lovely village. We leave the village with much sadness. We will miss Cratfield very much, but we also leave with great gratitude to you all. Thank you all for being so kind and friendly, and we hope that you will be just as welcoming to Jennifer and Mark when they arrive at Monk Frith.

We certainly very much hope to return from time to time and meanwhile we send our love, our thanks and our warmest wishes to a lovely community.

Floreat Cratfield!

Jeremy and Candy

I know you will all join me in wishing Jeremy and Candy all the best and sincerely hope to see them around in the future. They have been very regular members of our village for many years and have supported us and enjoyed their lives here, as seen above. They will be sadly missed. I have asked Jeremy '*please*' to continue to submit his nautical articles as they are so well received; I'm sure there is absolutely no-one in the village who could possibly have experienced anything of the like, hence they make most interesting reading for us landlubbers. He has most kindly agreed to go on for the foreseeable! Thank you Jeremy.

Sue

A reminder that the **Cratfield Acoustic Special Two** is on Saturday 18th April 2026 and that 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](mailto: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 goes live from the 9th of March. Don't miss out on this exciting even

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### **Your Vision of Cratfield**

In 2010 a group of Cratfield villagers put together the current Cratfield Parish Plan. In compiling this Neighbourhood Plan, as part of Suffolk Council's Local Plan, they asked the village what was important to those who lived here then and compiled the answers into a document that captures the priorities of parish residents at the time. Those priorities can be referenced for, amongst other purposes, responses to local planning applications.

The government is currently reviewing how planning applications are dealt with, the intention being to speed up the process. Cratfield Parish Council will be updated on those changes which may mean the importance given to Parish Plans will change. Irrespective of any changes, however, if we have not recorded what is important to the village (such as village views, buildings, features, landmarks and so on), in whatever form is appropriate, we may struggle to influence decisions that could be taken in future.

If you are interested in joining the initial discussion around what, if any, review or supplement is needed of or to the 2010 Plan, to highlight priorities, including those which may have changed, please email me at [helenjerry@outlook.com](mailto:helenjerry@outlook.com) and I will arrange a meeting so we can decide how to take this forward, if desired. Thank you! Helen

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### **The Pump at Potters Roost**

You will probably be aware of the old pump that sits in the northern corner of our front garden. As you will see, we\* have cleared the ground around it and had the poplar stumps ground out. Our plan is to renew the concrete plinth and refurbish the cabinet, which is rapidly falling apart. It might be a project too far to get the pump itself working; we have no idea if the handle is actually connected to anything inside. We will have a look once we have opened the cabinet and I've contacted the Repair Shop to see if they are interested in an external project. So you might see the pump disappear for a while but it will be back.

From what we have discovered so far, the pump was used for watering animals on Bell Green when it was still common land. If anyone has more information please get in touch. My contact details are below, or call round (tea, coffee, wine etc widely available).

Charlie Wilson

Potters Roost 07880 645113

\*When I say 'we', Brian Palmer did most of it!

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: 07870 462189 - Village collection*

*Cllr Richard Chivers Tel: 07900 187350 - Silverleys Green collection*

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## Let the Punishment Fit the Crime

At the times about which I write, naval justice was simple but fair. “Defaulters” who had contravened the Naval Discipline Act<sup>1</sup> were brought up before the Captain at “Captain’s Table” where a trial procedurally very similar to a magistrates’ court was conducted with the Executive Officer usually prosecuting, a plea taken from the accused, witnesses examined by both prosecutor and defendant with everyone suitably formally cautioned.

Accused were allowed legal representation if they wished.<sup>2</sup> Whilst most offences were relatively trivial – overstaying leave, being absent from place of duty, drunkenness - some were more serious – for example disobedience of lawful orders, sleeping on watch and indeed anything criminal under the normal law of the land. The more serious offences might end up in a formal Court Martial, but summary punishments available to the Captain included admonition, through extra work, stoppage of leave, fines to up to three months detention or even imprisonment, although for the most severe confirmation by the HQ staff was required.

In fact, of course, over 95% of cases were simple and uncontested. Sailors rarely pleaded not guilty because they had usually been seen to commit the offence. Moreover if we were visiting a particularly exotic port and a young sailor met the girl of his dreams, he might easily calculate that it was worth staying ashore a bit longer, because by the time the case was heard and he had his leave and/or pay stopped, we would be at sea again and so the stoppage of leave would expire gently in the ship’s wake and there was nothing to spend his money on anyway. Of course I couldn’t condone this, but if he was generally a good man, he would get merely the basic tariff punishment and, provided he behaved thereafter, the matter was closed and his wallet was a bit lighter until he had saved up a little money. Sometimes, though rarely, the girl might even reappear in his life later as I described some years ago in a story about Cape Town.

Now it happened, when HMS Ashanti was in Rio de Janeiro, that one Chief Petty Officer Baines, a salt-of-the-earth senior rating, aged 45 (12 years older than me, his Captain), who ran the important electrical department perfectly, went ashore one night. He was a first-rate example to everyone on board, and he had been in the Service for 28 years with no offences. This time, however, he so far forgot himself that he returned from his run ashore at 8.15 next morning when his leave expired at 8.00. His great friend, the Master at Arms,<sup>3</sup> took considerable delight in charging him with leave breaking and he duly appeared before me. I listened to his story (he pleaded guilty and made no excuse), heard mitigation (none was offered) and made a show of examining his service record. I then pronounced my verdict – “Case dismissed” - and he was marched off.

The Master at Arms fell out, but he was back almost immediately. “Chief Petty Officer Baines wishes to state a complaint Sir.” Back came CPO Baines, this time much more confidently. I asked him what his complaint was and, standing smartly to attention, he said “Sir, I have committed a leave breaking offence and I have not been punished. Some of my young electricians have been, Sir, for the same offence. How can I go down to their messdeck and face them with this hanging over my head? What will I say when they ask me why I was let off? That’s my complaint, Sir and I request to be punished”.

Well Chief," said I, "I have examined your service record which is absolutely outstanding. You have two years left to serve and I am not going to mar your retirement with any black mark after a career like yours. And you can tell your young ratings that when they have done 28 years without any offence, they too can have their case dismissed. Your complaint is also dismissed." The Master at Arms marched him off swiftly and, after a brief holding of breath, everyone around me smiled broadly.

Justice appropriately tempered with mercy, I thought. And I never heard another word about the matter! I didn't need to report it because, after all, no offence had been committed. But I ave a feeling that, in today's PC climate, I probably wouldn't have got away with it.

1. Now replaced by the Armed Forces Act which struggles, not entirely successfully, to use a common code for three services working in wholly different circumstances and conditions. The old NDA allowed Courts Marshall to award a death penalty for, *inter alia*, "arson in a Royal Dock-yard" and desertion in the face of the enemy. No longer.
2. I don't remember this ever happening, except of course at Court's Marshall.
3. The Master of Arms was the senior rating in the ship, responsible for discipline, the regulating of the ship's company, writing watch rosters, handling mail in and out of the ship, and being both an uncle and a disciplinarian to all. The best were great people and key to the smooth running of the ship. Even now I still correspond with some of them as friends.

**Jeremy Blackham**

#### **Mobile library Dates**

Silverleys Green 14.00-14.20      The Poacher 14.30-14.45  
Mar 17<sup>th</sup>, April 14<sup>th</sup>, May 12<sup>th</sup>, June 9<sup>th</sup>, July 7<sup>th</sup>, Aug 4<sup>th</sup>, Sept 1<sup>st</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>,  
Oct 27<sup>th</sup>, Nov 24<sup>th</sup>, Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>

For more information, including timetables and locations visit: [suffolkcommunitylibraries.co.uk/  
mobile-libraries](http://suffolkcommunitylibraries.co.uk/mobile-libraries)

#### **CRATFIELD VILLAGE HALL 100 CLUB – MARCH WINNERS**

This month's 100 Club winners are: first prize (£15) number 89 – Sandra Taylor; second prize (£10) number 26 – Pam Goodey; and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize (£5) number 6 – Jo Cerullo. Draw by Ben Britton. Many congratulations to the winners!

***If you have submitted a 2025-2026 100 Club form/paid your subscription but have not yet had an acknowledgement by email/paper, please text or call Helen on 07818046955.***

**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](mailto:cratfieldvillagehall@gmail.com).**



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## **VILLAGE HALL UPDATE - MARCH 2026**

### **CRATFIELD POP UP PUB - Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March**

Step into spring and prepare for the vernal equinox at the **Cratfield Pop Up Pub** on 6<sup>th</sup> March, 6pm-10pm at the village hall. Catch up with Cratfield neighbours and friends. Sample a pint of local beer from the barrel – plus there will be a choice of wines, cider, lager, soft drinks, G&T etc. The bar accepts card & cash payment.

**Cratfield Kitchen** will be at the Pop Up so why not enjoy some excellent victuals with your beverages? 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 days are getting 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 tea and coffee (and biscuits!) are on offer. Suggested £2 donation for use of the hall.

Dates for 2026 are:

March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> /// April 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> /// May 19<sup>th</sup> /// June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> /// July 21<sup>st</sup> /// August 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> /// September 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> /// October 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> /// November 17<sup>th</sup> and /// December 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **Village Hall Events - 2026 Dates for the Diary:**

#### **CRATFIELD TALKS – Saturday 21 March - *Cake for Breakfast, Lobster for Tea***

Come and join us for an insight into how the big restaurant chains successfully and more importantly, consistently, cater for thousands of people every day.

Following a long career working for some of the most recognisable brands, most of whom still have restaurants today, Caroline Hay-Davison will take us through the menu development process from the scientific research through to the far-flung factory visits sprinkled with anecdotes from the funny to the slightly frustrating.

There will be an opportunity to test your own taste buds.

Please reserve your place(s) in advance by emailing

**cratfieldvillagehall@gmail.com** and collect your tickets (**cash only**) on the door. Ticket price **£6 per person** for a fascinating night! The bar will be open from 6pm, accepting cash and card payment. Talk starts at 7pm.

#### **CRATFIELD ACOUSTIC SPECIAL NIGHT RETURNS - Saturday 18 April**

Acoustic Special Two! Again, this will be to raise funds for St Elizabeth Hospice, the performers will all be a surprise and the bar will be open! £15pp (door proceeds to the hospice).

### **CRATFIELD DOG SHOW 2026 – Sunday 3 May**

The popular Cratfield Dog Show will return with pedigree and fun classes to please every dog lover – and dog! Details of the timetable, and classes, to follow. There will be food and drink for the humans too!!!

### **PLANT SHOW – Sunday 7th June**

Will spring ever come? After weeks of interminable rain and sodden lawns (Field Cottage currently appears to have lake frontage!), it can be hard to imagine sunshine and colour. But it *will* come — and now is exactly the moment to begin planning for our Village Hall Plant Sale on **Sunday 7 June**. I'm harvesting the self-sown Hellebores on my patio. There's a lot, thanks to the rain.

As you sow, divide, pot on or thin out over the coming weeks, could you set aside five, ten – or even twenty plants for the sale? We welcome everything: fruit and vegetables, annuals, perennials, herbs, seedlings, cuttings and sturdy divisions. June is later than many plant sales, which gives us a real opportunity. Instead of tiny plugs, we can offer strong, well-grown plants ready to give instant impact to borders, hanging baskets and planters. Let's aim for as much colour as green — bold geraniums, flourishing foxgloves, tumbling lobelia, healthy tomatoes and herbs ready for the kitchen garden.

We're also collecting items for our **Garden Bric-a-Brac Stall** — pots, tools, canes, ornaments, gardening books and spare seed packets.

Local stallholders (non-plant related) are warmly invited to take part, with the same arrangement as our Christmas Fair: hire a table and keep your takings. There will be refreshments — bacon butties, homemade cakes, tea and coffee throughout.

This is an inclusive village event with wide appeal, raising much-needed funds to keep our precious Village Hall open and thriving as costs continue to rise.

If you can donate plants, bric-a-brac, or even empty plant pots for filling, or would like to book a stall, please email [cratfieldvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:cratfieldvillagehall@gmail.com) and head your message *Plant Sale* — it will reach me. Or pop a note through my door at **Field Cottage, Manse Lane**. **If you're new to the village it's the brown bungalow with the view of the water.**

**Natalie**

**CRATFIELD VILLAGE HALL 100 CLUB – MARCH WINNERS See p 9**

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## Have you ever thought about fostering in Suffolk?

Across Suffolk, hundreds of children and young people need safe, nurturing homes where they can grow, thrive and feel secure. At the end of March 2024, there were 930 children in care in Suffolk, a number that has steadily increased over recent years, reflecting real and pressing need in our communities.

These children come into care for many reasons — from family breakdown, neglect, or abuse, to situations where their birth families can no longer provide the support they need. For many, foster carers are the lifeline that offers stability, encouragement and a sense of belonging at a time when they need it most.

Yet there simply aren't enough foster carers. There is a need for foster carers to support children of all ages, especially sibling groups, teenagers and parent and child arrangements. Nexus Fostering provides full training and dedicated support to help carers succeed in helping create positive outcomes.

Becoming a foster carer isn't about having a perfect background — it's about offering patience, compassion, and a safe home. Carers can be single, rent their home, and you don't have to of had your own children before, what matters most is a commitment to making a positive impact on a child's life.

If you've ever thought about fostering, now is the time to act. Every child deserves a home where they can feel valued, supported and safe and you could be the person who helps them get there. □

Get in touch

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Email: [foster@nexusfostering.co.uk](mailto:foster@nexusfostering.co.uk)

Visit: [www.nexusfostering.co.uk](http://www.nexusfostering.co.uk) to find out more or start your journey today. Together, we can help give Suffolk's children the futures they deserve

## Help Keep an Older Person

### Safer in 2026

Did you know? While cold calling itself is allowed, traders must respect "No Cold Callers" notices - it's actually against the law if they don't! As a dedicated home care provider since 1980, we've made it our mission to help protect older and disabled people in our community. We're proud to have distributed over 250,000 of these protective stickers since 2019.



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## Exploring the Scottish Islands – with a collapsible bike!

### Orkney Mainland (Pop. 17,805) – Part 3.



**Maes Howe** (Britain's largest Neolithic burial monument) was described last month. Within striking distance (possibly contemporary with it) are the **Standing Stones of Stenness**. This may be the oldest [henge](#) site in the British Isles (hengese are characterised by an encircling bank and ditch combination). The surviving stones are thin slabs, approximately 12" thick, with sharply angled tops: some are 16' high. The **Ring of Brodgar** is also nearby and is the only major henge and stone circle in Britain which is an almost perfect circle. The ring originally had up to 60 stones, of which only 27 survive today. Between these 2 sites is **the Ness of Brodgar**, a finger of land between two lochs: ongoing excavations have uncovered several buildings, both ritual and domestic, with more that still remain beneath the soil. Pottery, bones, stone tools and a polished stone mace head have also been discovered. Perhaps the most important find is the remains of a large stone wall which

may have been 100 metres (330 ft) long and up to 6 metres (20 ft) wide. It appears to traverse the entire peninsula the site is on and may have been a symbolic barrier between the ritual landscape of the Ring and the everyday world around it. For there to be so much archaeology in this site (all from 3,000 to 2,500 BC) means it must've had much significance in its time. *As I write this (Dec. 2025), further exciting discoveries (currently shrouded in secrecy) are being made at Ness of Brodgar.*

**Skara Brae:** If it's possible to grade this overdose of prehistory, then Skara Brae is another attraction that's right at the top of the list: it's an entire Stone Age village. The houses are linked by passages, and each one contains items of primitive Stone Age furniture, including beds, dressers, lockers and hearths: fish-larder pools, pottery and whalebone were also found.

This really was the Stone Age, and Orkney served the purpose very well, providing abundant, and easily-worked, Old Red Sandstone. In fact, each dwelling was entered through a low doorway with a stone slab door which could be shut (as one researcher puts it) "by a bar made of bone that slid in bar holes cut in the stone door jambs." Several dwellings included a small connected antechamber, providing access to a partially covered stone drain leading away from the village. It is suggested that these chambers served as indoor toilets.

The layouts of the houses were all remarkably alike: seven have similar furniture, with the beds and dressers in the same places in each house. The dresser stands against the wall opposite the door and is the first thing anyone sees on entering the dwelling. Each of these houses had a larger bed on the right side of the doorway and a smaller one on the left. It has been suggested that the husband's bed was the larger and the wife's was the smaller: the discovery of beads and paint pots in some of the smaller beds may support this theory. Another feature of these houses is that stone boxes are located to the left of most doorways, forcing the person entering the house to turn to the right-hand, "male" side of the building.

Just the story of its preservation is extraordinary: Skara Brae dates to around 3,180BC, but in c. 2,450BC, a sandstorm buried the whole village. It took another storm, 5,000 years later in 1824, to reveal it once more, perfectly preserved. Radiocarbon tests indicate that occupation of Skara Brae began in about 3,180BC with occupation continuing for around six hundred years, with no more than fifty occupants at a time. At around 2,500BC, after the climate changed (becoming much colder and wetter), the settlement may have been abandoned by its inhabitants. One historical writer described it thus: *“As was the case at Pompeii, the inhabitants seem to have been taken by surprise and fled in haste, for many of their prized possessions, such as necklaces made from animal teeth and bone, or pins of walrus ivory, were left behind. One woman was in such haste that her necklace broke as she squeezed through the narrow doorway of her home, scattering a stream of beads along the passageway outside as she fled the encroaching sand.”*

A road takes you the 6 miles from Maes Howe to Skara Brae, via Stenness and Brodgar: to the casual observer, this is just the plain old B9055, but it is, in fact, a Neolithic Low Road, created to link these ceremonial sites together. Without even getting out of your car, you’re traversing a route trodden by Stone Age man!



*Walking in the footsteps of ancient man!*



*Stone age dresser, centre hearth, bed on the right*

**Next month:** Stromness, Burray, South Ronaldsay

**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](http://www.cratfield.onesuffolk.net)

Planning meetings are arranged as and when required.

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

**For further details contact the Clerk:**

**Email: [clerk@cratfield-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@cratfield-pc.gov.uk) or Tel: 07774 734411**



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TO  
FIRE FEAST

**Spring Workshops ...**

April 18<sup>th</sup> : Woodfire Cooking - The Ember Edition

April 19<sup>th</sup> : Woodfire Cooking - The Basics

June 5<sup>th</sup> : Woodfire Cooking - The Basics

June 6<sup>th</sup> : Woodfire Cooking - The Ember Edition

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**Mace**

Dear Friends,

I spent a most enjoyable morning on 14<sup>th</sup> February tuning into a Retreat broadcast by the Church Times on YouTube. It gave me a wonderful opportunity for reflection and best of all, I was in my office at the Vicarage! This gave me an even greater opportunity to reflect upon what was being taught in relation to our churches in the Four Rivers Benefice. Then, in thinking about the last few weeks of Matthew, I was drawn to the writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, with regard to what it means to let our light shine. Bonhoeffer said, "It means that we follow Jesus unashamed of the grace and love that he has shown us by his birth, life, death, and resurrection for us. Our righteousness is something given to us that we should keep hidden," says Bonhoeffer. Yet we shouldn't say, "Hey, look at me, ain't I such a good person?" The problem there, he says, is 'I'. So how might we address the forty days from Ash Wednesday without putting on a show? There is no 'I' in team, yet one might argue that there is a 'me' but that me is looking backwards! After all, whilst Jesus said, "Let your light shine before others," he also made it clear that we should not, "...practice our righteousness before others." So, there is a conundrum to meditate upon this Lent. Many thanks to those of you who respond to my scribbles here! Keep it coming! May your Lenten journey be full in taking time each day to reflect upon what it truly means to be a Christian.

Prayers and blessings, Reverend Chrissie – [rev.chrissiesmart@gmail.com](mailto:rev.chrissiesmart@gmail.com) – 07803 134301

\*\*\*\*\*

**Lent Lunches, Saturdays in March, 12 to 2pm**

A simple lunch, no charge but donations invited for various charities.  
Everyone very welcome - just come along.

7th March, Brundish Village Hall, IP13 8BB

14th March, Little Manor Farm, The Street, Brundish, IP13 8BL, hosted by Tina Smiddy

21st March, Red House, Shop Street, Worlingworth, hosted by Mark and Lois Sheard

28th March, Russell Lodge, Russell Green, Wilby, IP21 5LX, hosted by Linda and Jeff Wright

\*\*\*\*\*



Lent Course for the Four Rivers Benefice of churches  
Draw Near - focusing on the habits and practices  
essential to what it means to be a Christian. Come and  
join us to celebrate the mystery of God's saving love at  
Easter.

Worlingworth 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th March at

Worlingworth Community Centre, 2pm

Laxfield Vicarage 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th March, 7pm.

Further info from Rev'd Chrissie on 07803 134301, [rev.chrissiesmart@gmail.com](mailto:rev.chrissiesmart@gmail.com)

## March & Easter Services Cratfield

Sunday 1st	Sunday 15th	Sunday April 5th
Genesis 12:1-4a Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 John 3:1-17	2 Cor 1:3-7 Luke 2:33-35	Acts 10:34-43 John 20:1-18
9.30am Village Worship	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion

## BENEFICE SERVICES

March	1st	8th	15th	22nd	29th	Friday April 3rd	5th
Bed field		10.30 Morning Praise	11.00 Mothering Sunday	10.30am Passion Sunday HC		10.30 Easter Garden	9.30 HC
Brund ish			3.00pm Mothering Sunday				11.00 HC
Lax field	10.30am Celtic Morning Prayer	10.30 HC	9.30am Chatty Church	6.00pm Hartis- mere House	10.30 Palm Sunday Celeb	10.30 Easter Garden 12-3.00 Good Friday Vigil	9.30 HC
M S	11.00am Family Service	11.00 BCP Morning Prayer	11.00 Family Service & HC			9.00 Sung Litany	6.00 Sunrise Service 11.00 HC
Tann							
Wilby	10.30am HC		10.30 Mothering Sunday	10.30 Celtic Morning Prayer		10.30 Good Friday Service	11.00 HC
Worling worth	11.00am HC		11.00am Let's Celebrate	11.00am CW Morning Prayer	11.00 HC	11.00 At the foot of the Cross	11.00 HC

**Maundy Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 6.30pm Agapé Cratfield**

# DIRECTORY:

## Local Officers:

### **Church:**

Priest in Charge of the Four Rivers Benefice

Rev'd Chrissie Smart [rev.chrissiesmart@gmail.com](mailto:rev.chrissiesmart@gmail.com) 01986 743339  
07803 134301

Assistant Curate Rev. Clive Mobbs 07340 838639

### **Parish Council:**

Chairperson Lotty Barbour 01986 798099

Parish Clerk Sally Chapman  
[clerk@cratfield-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@cratfield-pc.gov.uk)

07774 734411

Parish Council Website

[www.cratfield.onesuffolk.net](http://www.cratfield.onesuffolk.net)

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator

### **Village Hall:**

Chairperson TBC

Vice Chair Jo Cerullo  
01986 798656

Bookings Robert King 01986 798975

### **Laxfield All Saints C of E Primary School**

Head of School Mrs Minns 01986 798344

### **Doctors' Surgery**

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Stradbroke 01379 384220

### **Cratfield News**

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