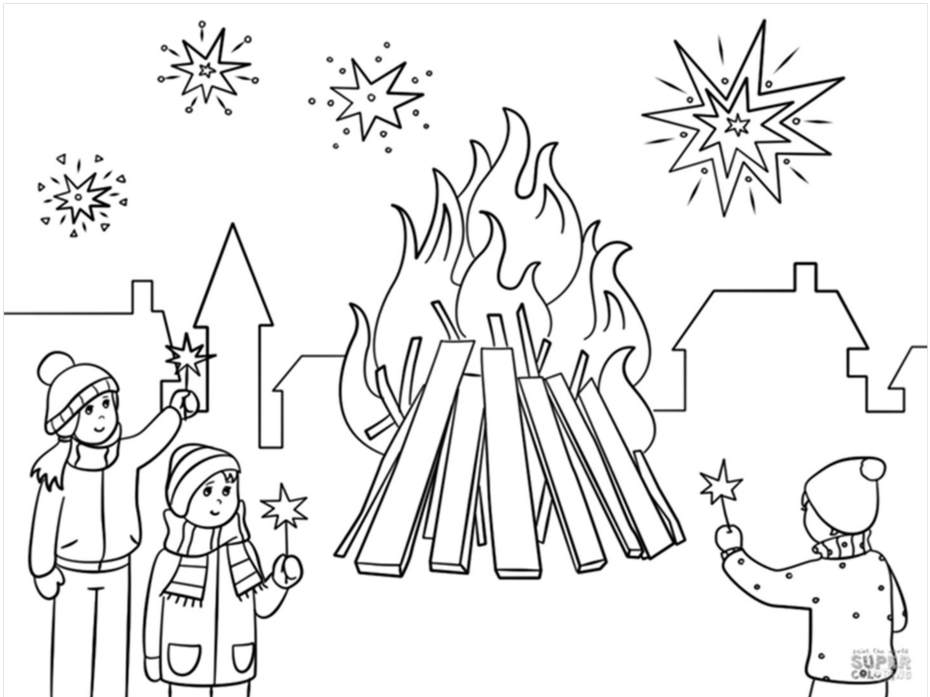


CRATFIELD NEWS

November 2024



Errata

Did anyone spot the October edition's deliberate mistake. If last month's Scottish island story from Andrew Weight struck you as being out of rotation that's because it was. We intended you to read about Lewis! This will now follow later and the opening story of Andrew's experiences on St. Kilda starts, as you will see, this month. Many apologies. Sue

Cratfield Photographic 2024

Huge thanks to everyone who entered – we had 117 photos in total across all 3 categories. Our independent Judge – Lisa North from Harleston – commented on the incredibly high standard of entries, higher than last year. The wide interpretation of the categories was fascinating to judge and made her task incredibly difficult! Thanks to everyone who came to the preview evening to hear the feedback – and to everyone who also came to the Classic Cars & Breakfast event the next day.

So... in case you were not there...the winners and shortlisted finalists were;
All Suffolk Creatures Great & Small – Winner Dave Warne with '*Water Vole Munchies*' and the shortlisted finalists were Rachel Pennick with '*7 Swans-a-swimming*', Linzi Elford with '*Buddy Rider*' and Dave Warne with '*Marshie of Minsmere*'

Suffolk Street Scenes – winner Helen Jerry with '*The Graveyard Way*' and the shortlisted finalists were Chrissie Kitchen with '*Is there anyone going to listen to my story*' (in fact – it was a very close call between Chrissie and Helen for the winner of this category – the judge had to get quite technical in judging!) Robert King with '*Convergence*' and Natalie McKay with '*Rush House Rumburgh*'

Cratfield Hobbies – winner was Andy Barringer with '*Up the Garden Path*' and the shortlisted finalists were Sam Colman '*Style over Substance*', Sue Seabon '*Dancing in the Dark*' and Anne Bedford with '*Autumn Textures*'
As in all previous years – the judge makes their own decision and is independent of the village hall – they are left to judge unimpeded and call the numbers out to the administrator who notes the numbers down.

BEETLE DRIVE



Saturday 16th November 7.00pm Village Hall
£5.00 per person, under 16s free,
Bar open! Bring your own nibbles
Raffle



All proceeds to St Mary's Church



MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Thank you to everyone that baked, gave gifts, gave raffle prizes, ran the raffle & sweepstake, served teas, cleared up, washed up, washed tablecloths and hoovered floors.

Also, most importantly thanks to those who came along to drink tea and eat cake. We estimate we had 40 people at one point, all chatting away and enjoying the morning. You raised a magnificent £640 on the day and I'm still waiting to hear from Macmillan as to how much extra came in on the QR code. Thank you all for your generosity to such a worthy cause, Margaret Thompson

History Corner

Did you know...?

Margaret Campbell the notorious Duchess of Argyll, Scottish aristocratic socialite, subject of many scandals and one time wife of Ian Campbell, 11th Duke of Argyll, was the successor to someone with local connections.

Louise Hollingsworth Morris Clews married the 11th Duke and Chief of Clan Campbell in 1935 and lived with him at Inveraray Castle. She had two sons by him: Ian, the 12th Duke of Argyll and Lord Colin Ivar Campbell. Before living in a castle in Scotland, she resided at Heveningham Hall from 1930 when she married Hon. Andrew Nicholas Armstrong Vanneck, the younger brother of William Vanneck, Baron Huntingfield. She left in 1933 when the couple divorced. There were no children from the marriage.

Museum opening times are 2-5 every Saturday & Sunday & Bank Holiday until the end of October. Additional opening from 9.30-12.30 on Laxfield Community Market days.

Upcoming events: A romp through local history 'The Taxing Issue of Tithing' Oct 18th 7.30pm Laxfield Village Hall: and Ceilidh with the Hosepipe Band – same venue Nov 11th 7pm

Auction of Promises

Friday 15th November
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SUFFOLK COAST: ITS FUTURE

We all know about Sizewell C and have heard the arguments for and against. Whatever our differing views, it will mean disrupting our local roads etc. BUT not everyone this side of the A12 has been aware of all the other 6 proposals concentrated in the same area of the Suffolk Coast from Rendham to Aldeburgh: (East Anglia One North (EA1N), East Anglia Two (EA2), Nautilus, Sealink, Lionlink PLUS a large substation at Friston. Off-shore windfarms, EAST ANGLIA ONE NORTH and EAST ANGLIA TWO. The onshore cable routes for both these projects could gouge through the fragile cliffs north of Thorpeness and trench 9 km inland to the substation site by the medieval village of Friston.

The NAUTILUS Interconnector, which would connect offshore wind in the UK to Belgium, would run cabling ashore and continue by trench to Friston. SEALINK would be a link between Suffolk and Kent. The plans currently involve potential landfall through the North Warren between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness. It is meant to take excess power (brought onshore by all the proposed projects) from Suffolk down to Kent to distribute within the Thames Valley.

LIONLINK is a proposed connection between the Netherlands and Suffolk to allow for exchange of energy between the UK and Holland. However, whereas at the Dutch end many wind-farms are connected to an Offshore Grid to pool the energy offshore, at the UK end there are no wind-farms currently planned to connect offshore, so it will have to come ashore at Suffolk Coastal and run to a converter station, which then links to the substation proposed at Friston. Sites for converter stations, which cover approximately SIX HECTARES, have been suggested near Thorpeness/ Aldeburgh, Friston, Leiston, Saxmundham or near Theberton. It's not clear how many such stations would be needed and maybe projects will co-operate.

The FRISTON SUBSTATION site is currently planned to be 3 TIMES THE SIZE OF WEMBLEY STADIUM and could eventually be even bigger. Any one of these projects could cause chaos but six could be bedlam for a suggested 15 years and destructive to Suffolk's wonderful coast, which we all now enjoy. Yes, we need green energy but...? There have been alternative models suggested along the lines of ones described off Holland, involving under water stations and brownfield sites, which may be cheaper too. Let's hope common sense will prevail for the sake of our heritage.

Further information available: East Suffolk Council Website and Suffolk Energy Action Solutions (www.suffolkenergyactionsolutions.co.uk)

MICHAEL OLIVER

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A Damn Close Run Thing in Nassau

After the drama of our time at the AUTEK range and my brief but enjoyable spell in command of a couple of submarines, we were due for a short stand down in the Bahamian capital, Nassau - the scene of my famous booze haul in 1968.¹ Hitherto, Nassau had generally only allowed naval ships into port occasionally, in between constant cruise liner visits, but they had discovered that sailors (and we had over 1000) spent much more in bars, restaurants and shops than any number of cruise liner passengers who did all their eating and drinking on board their ships and spent little in the local economy. Accordingly, we were welcomed in for a five-day visit and, as it turned out, we were Nassau's biggest single export in 1992.

However, to get in we had to pass through a narrow channel with a sharp bend in between Paradise Island and a large and unmarked coral reef on the starboard side² of the harbour.³ It was a very windy day with the wind on the port beam which would push us to starboard quite fast – a slab-sided aircraft carrier is like a huge sail. My navigator was very reluctant (he was not keen on runs ashore!) so, having pointed out to him that I and not he was the Captain, I took over and, out of deference to him, I took the ship well offshore, and we ran in on the headmark to find out at what speed we could hold a steady course – the answer was a much higher speed than I would have wished! However, we stood on and as we passed the entrance, I turned hard to port⁴ and at the same time went hard astern on the port engine to stop the ship and speed the turn, since we had to reverse onto the jetty, which happily lay directly in the same direction as the wind. As we turned for our approach to the quayside I could see the reef just beneath the surface, and my stern swinging towards it as we turned, and I gripped my coffee cup tightly. However, when making a sternboard,⁵ the stern will naturally fly up into the wind and it is relatively easy to hold it there.

We slowed down and slid gently alongside the jetty neatly and, more importantly, safely. I heaved a considerable sigh of relief. The RN Liaison Officer watching our arrival was very impressed, but I needed a stiff gin at 1000 in the morning with the sun still well below the yardarm, which he was happy to share! It had certainly been a close-run thing, with my heart in my mouth but we made it and the experience came in very handy not long afterwards as you will hear in due course.

That evening we hosted a most enjoyable reception on board for around 400 people, including the President of the Bahamas and I had another nerve-racking moment as our volunteer band played what they promised me was the Bahamian national anthem (although they had only been able to find the music that very afternoon) and I anxiously watched the President's face to see if we had got it right. That close run thing also worked out well and, fortunately, this time I had my gin in my hand already! Thereafter things quickly got better, and much more relaxed. There were some excellent restaurants. and hotels with cabarets and even casinos, as well as some lovely beaches. Some of us were entertained at the famous

and very exclusive (and therefore very expensive) Lyford Key resort, made famous by James Bond in, I think, *Thunderball*. We played cricket against Nassau and tried parascending in the sea, as well as seeing in a hotel on Paradise Island the most heart stopping and apparently dangerous cabaret I had ever seen. Perhaps most impressively of all my sailors, boys and girls both, adopted a pub on the beach at Nassau, then called The Captain's Bar, and by the second night they had drunk it completely dry of beer. This was, I think, final proof to the Nassau authorities that naval visits could be a major financial benefit. Happily, the owner was able to re-stock his bar by the following evening – but it was yet another close-run thing. As always, fortune favours the bold, although a bit of good luck certainly helps too!

1. See story no. 4 (about late summer 2020) *Marine Geordie Gates*
2. The right hand side
3. If you look at Google Maps, with the aerial photograph app, you will be able to see the reef. Coral reefs can make a real mess of even big ships.
4. To the left!
5. Sternboard = reversing. Ships typically have very limited visibility from the bridge of what is behind them.

Jeremy Blackham

Cratfield Allotment to Rent

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VILLAGE HALL UPDATE – NOVEMBER

CAN YOU HELP?

We are a small (and very friendly) committee who meet just 4 times a year to help put on the range of events which meet the overheads of running the village hall so it is there for everyone to use. Our next AGM is on Thursday 21st November – if you could spare a few hours once every 3 months to join the committee then please do let us know, either on e-mail (cratfieldvillagehall@gmail.com) or come along on the 21st November at 7.00pm to our next committee meeting and AGM.

POP UP PUB – FRIDAY 1st November – 6PM

Why not kick start off the new month with a drink and a bite to eat. A fantastic range of locally sourced ingredients for the menu from Cratfield Kitchen – and a wide range of drinks for everyone. Thanks to Caroline Wisbey-Brown for organising all our volunteers to help behind the bar. Keep an eye on the village facebook page as the menu from Cratfield Kitchen is often posted up the Monday before.

ACOUSTIC NIGHT – SATURDAY 2ND NOVEMBER – DOORS OPEN 7.15PM

Cratfield Acoustic 7 will feature performers including Heidi Smith, Gemma Wear, Paul and Evie Marfleet and Tanglethread. Expect self-penned songs, covers and show songs too. Tanglethread are Des and Ruth Hart, a husband-and-wife duo playing a selection of traditional folk music from around Britain. Ruth plays descant and tenor recorders and Des plays cuatro, guitar and sings. There will be other guests as well - so you can look forward to a fine musical evening! Doors open 7.15pm and first performance shortly after 7.30. Entrance just £3 on the door with a collection towards East Anglia Air Ambulance. **Bar open too!**

BEETLE DRIVE – 16TH NOVEMBER – 7.00PM

See the advert elsewhere for the Church beetle drive being held at the Village Hall – see you there!

CRATFIELD VILLAGE HALL 100 CLUB – NOVEMBER WINNERS

100 Club winners for November are - 1st prize (£15) number 40 - Richard Chivers; 2nd prize (£10) number 44 - Caroline Marfleet; and

3rd prize (£5) number 47 - Sue Ackerley. Draw by D Britton.
Congratulations to the winners!

SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS FAIR – BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

We have almost sold out our table top pitches – so if you want one, grab it quick! If you know of a friend who is a crafter, maker or baker then let them know ASAP – to find out more or book, contact us on - cratfieldvillagehall@gmail.com

INDOOR BOWLS – ALTERNATE TUESDAYS

The dates for 2024 are – 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.

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

See the winners and finalists elsewhere in the magazine. Many thanks to all who entered and helped behind the scenes to enable this very popular event to happen. Calendars will be available at the Christmas Fair – an ideal present! Special thanks to Sue Eade for her help and experience in hanging the photos.

CLASSIC CARS, BREAKFAST & COFFEE

We had a fantastic turn out of classic cars – featuring everything from a fast 60's Lotus, a vintage Jaguar, a sleek Porsche, lots of classic English marques and an American muscle car. Many thanks to 'Chef Richard' for cooking over 70 breakfasts up along with Jo and Natalie for keeping the tea and coffee flowing for everyone. An event we hope to repeat next year.

CRATFIELD VILLAGE HALL MEETINGS – 7.00pm

Thursday 21st November (and AGM)

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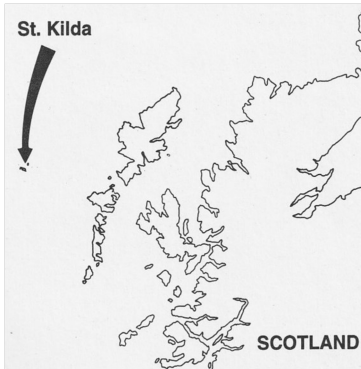
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Exploring the Scottish Islands – with a collapsible bike!
St Kilda (Population: 0 – last inhabitants evacuated in 1930)

Part 1: A Wild Place!

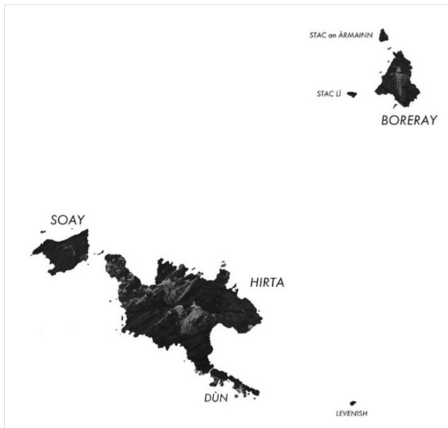


If you think the Outer Hebrides are remote and isolated, then consider St Kilda which is still further out in the Atlantic, 62 miles west of Harris and 110 miles from the Scottish mainland. St Kilda is not one island, but an archipelago, each island having its own name. The island group is what remains of a vast volcano: 4 miles across, the islands are linked by the submerged ridge of the volcano.

Any child born in St Kilda was entering into a life of utmost danger: bizarre, unhygienic rituals conducted at childbirth caused most babies to die a terrible, convulsive death from Tetanus – but to the ultra-religious St Kildans, this was accepted

as the will of God. If you made it into childhood, you were then worked hard, through fetching, carrying – and taking part in death-defying cliff-climbs to gather birds and their eggs, as part of contributing towards keeping the village fed through

the year: for the rest of your life, you would then be at risk of death by falling from cliffs (some of the highest in Europe), accidents at sea – or routine health problems which could not be attended to, such as appendicitis. Even colds and flu, brought by Victorian visitors, were deadly as the St Kildans had no immunity to infection after so many generations living in total isolation. The islands have been populated, in fact, for 5,000 years: no-one knows where the earliest settlers came from, and they spoke a unique, unknown dialect of Gaelic. The islands are so desolate and so remote that they hardly appear on any maps. However, the islands contain



breathtaking scenery and unique wildlife (St Kilda has its own endemic wren and field mouse; also a house mouse which died out when the St Kildans evacuated in 1930). Something else that was unique was the culture of its people; this consisted mostly of taking refuge from extreme foul weather for 9 months of the year and spending the rest of it harvesting fish, birds and a few crops to ensure that they could feed and clothe themselves during the vicious Atlantic storms that pulverised their village through the long, winter months. The last islanders even did a little trading with summer visitors and a Post Office existed for a while.

The St Kildans kept sheep, so they weaved, and, paying their rent in kind, they would pass tweed and products derived from the seabirds (such as feathers and oil) over to the factor (ie estate manager). It was a bartering system: the factor, representing the Laird, brought essentials to the island such as oatmeal, salt and paraffin to help the islanders. On his annual visit to take the 'rent', he listened to

any issues the St Kildans had and acted as an arbitrator. The Lairds – the MacLeods of Dunvegan, Skye – held their tenants on St Kilda with affection and tried to ensure that they were surviving as well as they could in such harsh conditions: the products taken as ‘rent’ would be sold on the mainland, which raised a little money. In 1780, the Laird even supplied them with a new boat, though in preceding centuries – before the days of empathetic Lairds – one can scarcely imagine survival in such windswept, hostile conditions. The earliest dwellings discovered in St Kilda are souterrains or ‘earth houses’ and date to around 500 BC: you’d have to be extremely tough, living on the edge of the world, weather-battered in little more than holes in the ground.

It’s little wonder that the St Kildans were very inexperienced in the modern world: they didn’t know what a motorcar or a bicycle was, nor had any of them even climbed a staircase – and none of them had ever seen a tree. The bartering system for paying rent worked well, for the St Kildans neither possessed, nor had any use for, money. The word ‘unique’ can become overused in describing St Kilda: but such is its uniqueness, both for its spectacular location, wildlife and the now vanished community and its culture, that this little enclave has earned a string of accolades. These include: Special Area of Conservation, Special Protection Area, Marine Consultation Area, National Nature Reserve, National Scenic Area, Ancient Monument, Site of Special Scientific Interest, Key Site in the Nature Conservation Review, Biosphere Reserve, Geological Conservation Review Site and UNESCO World Heritage Site. For any island ‘collector’, St Kilda is top of the list: if you can actually find a way of getting there, it blows your head off!

Souterrain (or ‘Earth House’) on St Kilda – dated to around 500BC.

Next month: Part 2 - Boreray and the Stacs



Andrew Weight

Cratfield Parish Council

Meeting Dates 2024

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

- Tuesday 12th March 2024 at 7.30 pm
- Tuesday 14th May 2024 at 7.30 pm
– Annual Parish Meeting & Annual Parish Council Meeting
- Tuesday 9th July 2024 at 7.30 pm
- Tuesday 10th September 2024 at 7.30 pm
- Tuesday 12th November 2024 at 7.30 pm

The agenda is displayed three days before the meeting in the village noticeboards and on CPC's website: www.cratfield.onesuffolk.net
Planning meetings are arranged as and when required and extra meetings may be scheduled if necessary.

~ Members of the public are welcome to attend the meetings ~

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AUTUMN

Summer Saturday Dining & Sunday Cafe in the Tipi close after 15th of September!

The summer season may be coming to a close but we still have lots of exciting events planned...

- **Woodfire Cooking Workshops.** Join us for an autumn workshop and learn how to cook with fire!
September: 21st Full Day Course, 22nd Half Day Course
- **Supper & Story Telling.** Settle in for an evening of tall tales from the Yarnsmith of Norwich and a three course supper based on local, seasonal produce. 19th October.
- **Supper and Star Gazing.** The last chance to have a taste of Fire & Feast this year, join us for supper and after dinner star gazing with Dash Astro. 9th November.

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Mace

Dear Friends,

I spoke last month about the Harvest Festivals that each of our churches celebrated and that got me thinking. I could not help but think about what our farmers would do if they still used the machinery that was in place thirty years ago? And then I thought about how most folk are not afraid to change their car, or even move house when the time is right. All these things are change. Yet, when it comes to our church buildings, some are scared to alter anything. There is no getting away from the fact that we live in a rural part of Suffolk where our needs are quite different to those in the urban benefices, and it is important that we continue to celebrate the traditional services. Indeed, come January 2025 we will be celebrating Plough Sunday at Cratfield – a benefice service for all to experience whether regular church goes or not. During 2025 we will enjoy all the rural services including Rogation and Lammas. But we must not forget that if we are to ensure our churches exist for future generations, we need to look for something new to work alongside our traditions. After all, people who are not afraid of change are powerful people. And Jesus reminded us in Matthew to let go of fear. We are not to worry, because God already knows what each one of us needs. And it is not about I... it is about us. I really believe that God has got this, got you and God has our future in his hands. Onwards!

God bless, Reverend Chrissie

Forest Church
Coming closer to God through nature

Where: *Brundish Church car park Dennington Road IP13 8AY*

When: *Sunday 17th November 3pm to 4pm*

Contact: *Rev. Clive Mobbs*
rev-clive-mobbs@gmail.com 0734 0838639

*Forest Church is for people of all ages. Nature-inspired activities,
informal outdoor worship and refreshments.*

*No need to book. Please wear suitable clothing and footwear for being
outside in a wood in all weathers. Bring a chair if you want to sit down.*

This event is run by the Bridge over the Four Rivers project, part of Suffolk's Lightwave community.

NOVEMBER CRATFIELD CHURCH SERVICES

3rd	10th	24th
9.00am Village Worship	6.00pm Evening Prayer with Remembrance	9.00am Holy Communion
Wisdom 3:1-9 or Isaiah 25:6-9 Revelation 21:1-6a John 11:32-44	Jonah 3:15, 10 Hebrews 9: 24-end Mark 1:14-20	Daniel 7:9-10 Revelation 1:4b-8 John 18:33-37

NOVEMBER BENEFICE SERVICES

November	3rd	10th	17th	24th
Bedfield		Bedingfield 10.45am Remembrance		10.30am Holy Communion
Brundish		10.30am Remembrance on Village Green	10.30am Holy Communion	
Laxfield	10.30am Celtic Service	10.30am Remembrance Baptist Chapel	10.30am Holy Communion	6.00pm Hartismere House
Monk Soham	11.00am Family Service	Bedingfield 10.45am Remembrance	11.00am Holy Communion	
Tannington		Bedingfield 10.45am Remembrance		
Wilby	10.30am Holy Communion	10.45am Remembrance Service	10.30am Village Worship	
Worlingworth	11.00am Morning Prayer	9.00 HC 10.45 Bedingf'd 12.15 War Mem	11.00am Let's Celebrate	11.00am Morning Prayer

DIRECTORY:

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Church:

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