



MENDLESHAM NEWSLETTER



Issue 445

December 2020



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hayleypage253@gmail.com

Are you on Facebook?

If so have a look for
'Spotted in Mendlesham'
&
'Mendlesham Green Residents'
pages to keep
up to date with what's going
on in the villages.

**Email reports, articles,
photos and adverts to:
gemma.green1202@gmail.com**

Editor: Gemma Green
07733 333659

Advertising: Keith Shelton
01449 768744
shelton@live.co.uk

Paper Copies of Articles to:

Jean Abbott, 11 Mayfield Way,
Mendlesham (01449 766895)
Pat Winslett 19 Glebe Way,
Mendlesham (01449 767803)

Deadline for January
Issue 6th December 2020

We produce 12 issues per year
which are delivered to every
household in the location of
Mendlesham.

Dates for your diary

Dec		Page
1st	Mendlesham Camera Club Zoom Meeting	2
6th	Newsletter Deadline	1
9th	Parish Council Google Meeting	2
10th	Mendlesham Primary Invitation to View	9
17th	Mobile Library	7

Front Cover

Meg Clarke

Don't forget to keep up to
speed with the URC and
Parish Church from page 39
onwards.

Editorial

Welcome to the December issue. We know that this will be a Christmas season like no other but it could be an opportunity to celebrate the most important things. We may not be able to meet with family in large numbers, party until we drop or participate in frenzied shopping for gifts but more positively, we can telephone or facetime friends and family to show we care, reduce food purchases to what we actually need and whatever happened to that one small homemade gift idea so valued by our grandparents?

All good wishes for a safe Christmastime and year 2021

*Best Wishes
Gemma*

FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL



Parish Clerk: Sharon Jones, Honeysuckle, Hockey Hill,
Wetheringsett, Suffolk IP14 5PL

Tel 01449 766139

Email: parishclerk@mendleshampc.org

Web site: <http://mendlesham.suffolk.cloud>

Your Councillors are:

- Paul Allen tel 766543
- Andy Davey tel 01449 768862 (Chairperson)
- Mike Exley tel 766246 (Emergency Planning Co ordinator for Mendlesham)
- Denise Foster tel 768978
- Norman Foster tel 768978
- Brian Gardiner tel 766648
- Sandie Judd tel 0333 006 2706
- David Nunn (Emergency Planning Co ordinator for Mendlesham Green, Tan Office and outlying properties) tel 767158
- Helen Orton tel 767741
- Liz Ward tel 766562
- Sabrina Webb

Meetings:

Wednesday 9th December 2020 Ordinary PC meeting virtual meeting via Google Meet 7pm

Please note our meeting calendar for 2021 has still to be confirmed. Details will be available via E news, the Parish website and on the Parish Noticeboards before the end of the year. As with everything at present, the dates may be subject to change as at present we can only plan for virtual meetings. Once that changes the dates would need to match public room availability.



MENDLESHAM CAMERA CLUB



The next Zoom meeting will be Tuesday, 1st
December at 19.00 hours and last about an hour.

For details please log onto the
website:<http://www.mendleshamcameraclub.co.uk/>

The club is a small group of mixed photography ability and new members are always welcome.

Parish Council:

Remembrance events:

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to organise our Remembrance events this year. It was a rollercoaster experience, not only undertaking the “ normal” tasks such as ordering and arranging who would lay wreaths, sorting candles , flags and the church service arrangements in accordance with Covid 19 regulations , to then have to make difficult and unwanted decisions very quickly once National Lockdown was announced, cancel the existing arrangements and then plan for what was safe and possible.

Mendlesham is extremely fortunate in that with lots of commitment and hard work by several people, a service was held, although without a congregation, streamed live (a first for Mendlesham), candles lit for each of the 35 Mendlesham men who gave their lives in WW1, WW2 and the Korean War and the 288 USAAF Servicemen who gave their lives whilst stationed at the Mendlesham Airfield in WW2, and wreaths laid both inside St Marys for the British and outside at the Memorial to the USSAF 34th Bomb Group where the flags also flew. The flags were also put up on the 11th.

So a very poignant, but no less meaningful event- just different.

Particular thanks to Father Philip, Anne and Andrew for representing Mendlesham with such dignity and respect. If you were unable to watch on the day, have a look at

<https://www.stmarysmendlesham.org.uk/worship-during-current-crisis.html>

Mendlesham Walks



No formal December Walk

However

Subject to Covid-19 Rules after the 3 Dec 20

We will be willing to meet up in small groups to walk within our parish
**So pick a date and time during the month of December and a route
and good company can be arranged**

Contact Judith at mendleshamwalks@gmail.com for more information
or telephone 01449 766327 or text 07770 746619



CEDRIC'S CHRISTMAS

The perfect little Christmas book for children

by 2 Mendlesham locals

Jack Webb (John Player) - Author

Gary Stocker - Illustrator

The 3rd book in the Cedric the Spider trilogy, sequel to Cedric's Busy Week and Cedric's Holiday.

Paperbacks now available on Amazon or contact John on 01449-768101



Parish Council:

Mendlesham Community Centre

At the time of writing and further to last months news, the Small Hall was opened and used by Mendlesham Scout Group for two evenings, only to then have to close again due to the National Lockdown. However, once lockdown ends, it will be ready to be hired again by our regular community groups, albeit in very restricted circumstances.

Please contact Sharon via 01449 766139 email communitycentre@mendleshampc.org for any booking enquiries.

DISCLAIMER

All adverts are placed in good faith and the publishers cannot undertake responsibility for work carried out. Please note that the opinions expressed in articles are not necessarily those of the Mendlesham Newsletter committee or the Community Council. We cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of material submitted for publication, however we reserve the right to include, edit or amend as we think appropriate. Mendlesham Newsletter is produced in good faith but errors and omissions may occur during the process of production. Please let us know if this is the case so that these errors may be corrected in future editions.

Parish Council:

Mendlesham Memorial Playingfields :

MUGA (Multi Use Games area) and WSA (Wheel Sports Area)

Please would everyone be aware, including parents and carers of our younger residents that our two new exciting parish assets, the MUGA and WSA are not yet open for public use. Whilst we appreciate how wonderful they look, the project work is not yet completed and the appropriate safety measures are still to be completed.

CCTV is now in operation covering the area, so any persons acting irresponsibly and entering the area via the security fencing, could be identified and reported to the Police accordingly. However we really hope that this will not be required as the Police have better things to do at present and we hope all parents will keep their children safe.

We have already started to formulate plans to have the WSA painted by the potential users before opening, to encourage ownership of the area and deter anti social behaviour. However all of these plans are currently on hold whilst we are in lockdown and at present it is not possible to provide any completion/opening dates. We do understand how frustrating this is, but these areas will be opened as soon as we can do so safely when the project is completed.

Tower Multi Play unit

Shortly, the tunnel bridge part of the Multi Play Tower unit will be removed by contractors. The unit will still be safe to use and the tunnel will be returned suitably refurbished as soon as possible thereafter.

The bridge is currently safe to use, but is in need of some maintenance to keep it safe for the future.

Part One of Four

*“Breathes these a man with soul so dead, who never to himself hath said,
This is my own, my native life”*

I have always been proud of my county and its people. Even as a schoolboy in Mendlesham, I had a feeling that the so-called “Silly Suffolk” had something special and attractive about it. That feeling has stayed with me ever since, and increasingly so with the years. Much travel and long experience have not changed my opinion. The further removed, the heavier the chains that bind. It is much to be hoped that “overspills” and “blowers-in”, with their consequent effects, will not detract unduly from Suffolk’s quiet scenery, or obliterate the qualities and manner of speech of the older inhabitants. The “sing-song” tone and clipped consonants of the Old Suffolkers still ring in my ears.

At the outset, may I be excused for “clearing the air” as to the origin and implications of that long-standing epithet of “Silly Suffolk”. On inquiry, I find the word “Silly” originally meant “blessed”, and that it was applied to Suffolk as it had more churches comparatively than any other county in England.

The main characteristics and general way of life of the true Suffolker were largely determined by the county’s geographical position. With the Waveney in the north, the Stour in the south and the impenetrable fens in the west, the inhabitants, that is, before the days of modern transport, were almost entirely cut off the rest of the country. The only entry by land was a Newmarket gap, then known as the “Devil’s Dyke”. In consequence, the easiest entry into East Anglia was by sea, and the broad estuaries of the Orwell, Gipping and the Waveney, Norse, Danes and Saxons took every advantage. It was the fear of invasion that was the responsible for the characteristics of those who chose and dared to settle near the coast. Even “Lords of the Manor” kept clear of that area. Hence the large number of freeholds that are found in East Anglia, as compared with places further inland. Anyhow, all credit is due to those early settlers who, despite constant invasions, choose to defend hearth and home at all costs.

Whatever Suffolk’s reputation may have been in the past it can, without exaggeration, claim to be one of our leading counties in agriculture. Visits to the various agricultural shows over the years substantiate this. Moreover, who has not heard of Suffolk Barley and Breweries, it’s red poll cows, magnificent Suffolk punches and black faced sheep. These could never have been, had it not been for Suffolk’s high fertility of soil, coupled with intelligent breeding and good husbandry in general. No better soil can be found than that of “High Suffolk”, and no better pastures and be seen than those lying alongside the banks of the Gipping, Alde, Waveney and Stour, that cattle for generations and raised in peace and satisfaction. This was all to the good in the olden days, when both farmer and cottagers were much dependent on their home-made bread, home brewed beer, home cured bacon and pork.

As this goes off to the editor, the knit, stitch and yarn group have just heard that the Christmas Tree Festival at Abbots Hall has been cancelled. (The festival at other venues is, at the moment, going ahead.) We will be packing away our knitted snowmen, angels, choirboys, crochet snowflakes and bells, the crib and sleigh and origami stars ready for next year. Thanks to all the group members who have contributed to the dressings for our tree.

To keep in touch with the organisation, check out the SEFWI internet site and look up our current Suffolk East newsletter, as well as the NFWI web page and perhaps sign up for a Denman at Home online course.

It seems it may be some time before we meet again, so take care and stay safe and have a Happy Christmas!

The **Mobile Library** calls at Mendlesham & Mendlesham Green every 4 weeks on Thursday afternoon at the following times:

Mendlesham Fish & Chip Shop	15.15 - 15.30
Mendlesham Playing Field	15.35 - 15.50
Mendlesham The Green	16.00 - 16.20

The van's next visit is **Thursday 17th December**.

Future dates planned as follows:

14th January 2021

Only one customer on board at a time and hand sanitiser to be used before entering.

Face covering is advised.

Shelves are sanitised between each stop and all returned stock is quarantined for 72 hours.

3rd Monday Book Club



We are a group of villagers, that have become friends.

**We meet on the 3rd Monday of each month
at 7-8pm in person when we can – or on line**

We talk about the book that was chosen for us all to read at the previous meeting. We're relaxed and informal (and we have biscuits). If you've ever wondered about joining a book club, why not join us?

Information: 01449 766498, doug.l.williams@outlook.com

Previously: 'The Trouble with Goats and Sheep' (*Suburban*); 'Our House' (*Howdunnit*); See Jane Run (*Psychological thriller*); Conversations with Friends; The Hopes and Dreams of Lucy Baker (*Romantic Fiction*), Milkman.(tbd), The Western Wind (*historical whodunnit*); We have always lived in the castle (*mystery Thriller*); The Mars Room (*Prison novel*); Free read (summer); All That Man Is (*literary fiction*), The Wall (*Science fiction*); Mrs Palfrey at The Claremont (novel); The Catcher in the Rye (*coming of age novel*)

Mendlesham Parish Party 2021

Following the government's announcements regarding the restrictions for socialising in respects to the Corona Virus, the Mendlesham Parish Party Committee, with deep regret, has decided to cancel the Mendlesham 67th Parish Party which would have been held in January 2021. We feel it would be irresponsible to try and arrange any social events and so therefore will also not be holding any fundraising events. We all look forward to arranging events in the future for the Parish Party and hope that the virus has passed next year. We continue to be very touched by the generous support we receive from the parishioners of Mendlesham and this support has ensured that we will hold a party as soon as it is safe to do so.

We hope you are all keeping well and safe in these difficult times and look forward to seeing you all in the future.

Best Wishes

Mendlesham Parish Party Committee



Children starting school in September 2021

INVITATION TO VIEW – BY APPOINTMENT

**10th December 4PM – 6PM (the
deadline for applying for primary school
is 15 Jan 2021)**

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/schools/school-places/apply-for-a-primary-school-place-20212022/>

We very much understand the need for parents who have their first child starting school to make an informed decision regarding where they attend. It is therefore our ambition to hold one to one brief tours of our school for parents who are new to the primary school. The tour will be taken with a senior member of staff and will include a one-way system starting with the outside area of the Early Years Classroom. Visitors will be asked to wear face masks. In the event that government or local guidance does not allow for in person visits, a virtual one to one meeting will be set up for you. Please phone or email the school office to make an appointment – booking is essential.

Tessa Sait
Executive Headteacher

Old Station Road, Mendlesham, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 5RT
admin@mendleshamschool.org.uk

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TIME FOR YOU™ SPEEDY CLEANING TIPS TO FRESHEN YOUR HOME

Here at Time For You we understand that when you've had a long week at work the last thing you want to do with your weekend is spend it cleaning up after everyone else.

We want to let you know some cleaning hints to make the cleaning a little easier to manage.

Sanitise Top of the list at the moment, with the Coronavirus pandemic, is how to ensure your home remains safe and sanitised from any germs which may be lingering. Allowing fresh air to circulate is extremely important. Cleaning should include high touch points; light switches, door handles, toilet handles, remote controls and keyboards. Even if they are not visibly dirty, these places house the most unseen germs and bacteria. These areas should be cleaned daily, with a normal cleaning product and then a disinfectant over the top which is left to air dry.

Cleaning Top to Bottom This phrase came about for a good reason! Starting at the top and working down means any dirt or dust you dislodge does not fall on somewhere already cleaned. Apply the same rule to every room – start with cobwebs and work down to the floor.

Getting in the Zone Break home cleaning into smaller tasks – spending an hour a day in a different zone is a great way to deep clean areas not normally covered in a general clean.

Cut the Clutter Those ornaments, book and magazine just get in the way so have a clear out and then make sure everything has a place.

Keep your cleaning caddy close by Having your cleaning kit to hand cuts down running up and down stairs every few minutes making the clean easier.

Sweet smell of success Make your home smell fresh as well as looking clean and tidy. Open the windows for some fresh air, sprinkle bicarbonate of soda in the bin or on carpets and leave overnight to absorb smells and use Citrus fruits like lemons and grapefruits are a fantastic way to keep your home clean, smelling nice and free of germs. Even the peels can be left in your rubbish bin to remove nasty smells and eventually used as kindling in your fireplace!

Scouts



1st Mendlesham

Do you have a youngster who would like to join either Beavers, Cubs, Scouts or Explorers?

Please see below the details for each section.

BEAVERS

6 - 8 years Thursdays – 5.30 - 6.30pm

cubs

8 - 10^{1/2} years Wednesdays – 6.45 - 8.15pm

Scouts



10^{1/2} – 14 years Mondays –
7.00 – 9.00pm

EXPLORERS

14 – 18 years Thursdays –
7.30 – 9.30pm

All sections currently meet at Mendlesham Community Centre – Small Hall. During the summer months all the sections may meet at the Old HQ at Mendlesham Green, weather permitting.

ADULTS

Would you like to help with a section or help with our fundraising and events? Please do get in touch.

If you would like further information on any of the above, please contact:-

Martyn Bryant – Group Scout Leader – 01379 788998

martyn_bryant@hotmail.com

Elizabeth Evans – Group Chair – 07545 322087 –

elizabethbevans81@hotmail.com

Shoeboxes for the homeless and their dogs

It's been a very challenging year for everyone, not least for the homeless and their dogs. With shops shut and very few people about, they really struggled without the help and donations from passers by to help feed themselves and their dogs

It's no life for any person or dog to live on the streets with no home. This Christmas we are again hoping to bring a little Christmas cheer to these people and their 4 legged friends to say that they have not been forgotten.



I am organising shoeboxes for homeless people and their dogs and I am hoping that you will be able to help.

Suggestion of items for the shoeboxes

Thermal gloves, socks, hats, scarf, roll-on deodorant (no aerosols) toothbrush, toothpaste, soft sweets, chocolate, plasters, wet wipes, notepad, pens, envelopes, stamps and a really nice touch would be to include a Christmas Card.

Doggy box

Dried dog food, treats, chews, toys, collar, lead, bowl fleece blanket

All the shoeboxes stay local. They are taken to the night shelter in Ipswich and also distributed to the soup kitchens. Any extra are taken to Bury and Norwich.

If you cannot do a shoebox but would still like to help with a donation, any of the items listed would be very much appreciated. I made an extra 15 boxes from donations last year which really boosted the total.

Boxes or items can be dropped off at my house any time from now
until 12th December.

My contact details are - Julie Williams
17 Front Street, Mendlesham, 01449 766006
neil.williams38@btinternet.com

***Many thanks in advance for your
kindness and generosity xx***

TOTE RESULTS

Mendlesham Lottery October 2020			
3rd October		17th October	
Alister Woodley	£35.00	Maria Andrews	£35.00
Denise Foster	£25.00	Shaun Paddy	£25.00
Peter Cole	£15.00	Sandra Exley	£15.00
Emma Munday	£10.00	Derek Allum	£10.00

Mendlesham Baby and Toddler Group

Meets in the large hall of the Community Centre.

Tuesday and Thursday Mornings

9:15 - 11:30



Come and join us for a drink, snack,
activities and a large space to play in.



Contact Selina Cannings on 07925198581

MendleshamBabyGroup@gmail.com

Facebook: Mendlesham baby toddler group
for further information.

MENDLESHAM OVER 60s

For nearly 10 months we have not been able to meet and I cannot see any light at the end of the tunnel yet! It was hoped that by Christmas we would be able to meet again but no such luck. I am now thinking things will not even move forward until after Easter 21 but sometimes MIRACLES do happen!

So for now we wish all our members a Happy Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year. Continue to take care of yourselves and “we’ll meet again, don’t know where don’t know when” but I hope it is not too much longer.

<u>MENDLESHAM DIRECTORY</u>		
1 st Mendlesham Guides	Emma Munday	766096
3 rd Monday Book Club	Doug Williams	766498
Annual Parish Party	Rachel Roshier	07881 816622
Ancient Order of Foresters	Beatrix Wrinch	07885 909869
Bowls Club	Peter Coleby	766985
Brownies	Brenda Stannard	766308
Carpet Bowls	Kenny Ager	766146
Com. Centre/Small Hall Bookings	Sharon Jones	766139
Community Council	Carolyn Triscott	766563
Community First Responders	Mike Favager	766007
Computer Club/Saturday Cafe	John & Brenda Player	768101
District Councillor	Andrew Stringer	01449 780339
Film Nights	Judith Howard-Rees	07770 746619
F.O.M.S.A	C.P School	766224
Friends of Mendlesham Health Centre	Phil Tucker	01379 678400
History Group	Sue Michell	766434
Mendlesham Parish Party Committee	Rachel Roshier	07881 816622
Mendlesham Camera Club	Mike Favager	766007
Beavers, Cubs and Scouts	Martyn Bryant	01379 788998
Mendlesham Explorer Unit	Jonathan Freeman	01449 766676
Mendlesham FC	Tim Mack Angela Lockwood	07909 810681 07845 471154
Mendlesham Toddler Group	Selina Cannings	07925 198581
Mendlesham Walking Group	Judith Howard-Rees	07770 746619
Mendlesham Writers Group	Noel Fletcher	766968
Old School Room Bookings	Daphne Lambert	766320
Over 60's	Tina Pipe	766339
Parish Council & Playing Field	Sharon Jones	766139
Rainbows	Becky Froude	01473 747772
School Governors	Sharon Jones	766139
St Mary's Parish Church	Father Philip Gray	766359
St Mary's Church Council	Hazel Spalding	768616
Trustees of Charities	Mike Favager	766007
United Reformed Church	Margaret Jackson	766321
Village Recorder for Mendlesham	Geoff Clarke	766447
Woman's Institute	Anita Scruby	766902



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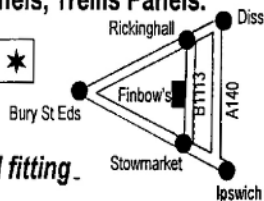
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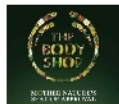


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6th 4.00pm Mr William Glasse

13th 6.30pm 'Lets Celebrate Christmas' - The Rev'd Robert Sheard

20th 10.45am The Rev'd Paul Whittle -

Moderator of the Eastern Synod

We hope the above services will take place but it will depend on Government Restrictions.

Luke 2: 4-7 (from The New Revised Standard Version Bible)

⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Dear Friends,

There has already been talk this year that Christmas is cancelled! Don't worry it's not! It will just be a bit different from what we are used to. As I write this, we are just about to go into a second lock-down hopefully only for a month. For a second time the churches have had to stop doing congregational worship within our buildings, but many will keep doing their worship on line.

We hope this month's lock-down will be just that, a month long. Even though we will not be able to celebrate the first Sunday of advent in our churches, we will be back in time to celebrate the lead up to Christmas, and Christmas in our churches.

Yes, it will be different, sadly we will not be able to sing all our favourite carols, or see the Nativity plays, but we will still be able to celebrate, for the story of Christmas stays the same. A child born into a world, that find his own country is under occupation by a foreign power. Born into poverty having to make his first resting place the trough where the animals feed.

Continued on page 40.....

.....continued from page 39

Jesus did not have an easy start to his life but he brought us a message of Peace, Hope, Love and Grace and to grow up to be the Saviour of the world who is still very much needed today. This is a message for everyone!

Our own family Christmas's will be different we will not be able to meet with all of them but it will not stop us celebrating. The tree and decorations will still go up, and the lights on the tree will be switched on, and the other lights we decorate our homes with will be switched on as well, reminding us that Jesus is the light of the world.

However, you celebrate Christmas keep well and keep safe have a good and blessed one.

Merry Christmas

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Wednesday - 10am

Thursday - 10am

Friday - 10am

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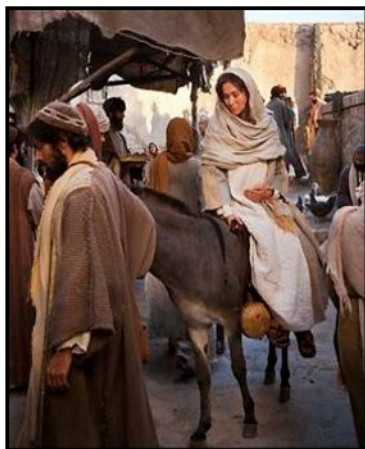
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19 Dec: 2.00 pm & 4.30 pm

20 Dec: 12.00 & 2.30 pm

21 Dec: 10.30; 22 Dec: 10.30

24 Dec: 3.30 pm *or contact Fr Philip*



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WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

Sunday worship now LIVESTREAMED every week at 9.30.
 Visit <https://www.facebook.com/stmarysmendlesham/> or click
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4th Dec	9.30 Mass. Many have missed our monthly healing service. Although I cannot give the ministry of the laying-on of hands and anointing for healing, I intend to bless oils (ready in small plastic bottles) for you to take away and anoint yourselves
8th Dec	FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY. 9.30 Mass
	Some people are confused between the virginal conception of Christ and the immaculate conception of Mary. Mary is and remains a human – one of us and a ‘daughter of Adam’ and was as much in need of Christ’s saving grace as any of us. Outside of Christ, there could have been no salvation for Mary. Her conception was in anticipation of, but total in dependence on the merits of Christ. The Gospel of the day (Luke 1 v 26-35) culminates in Mary’s “yes” to God’s call – a clear sign of her God-given holiness.
13th Dec	ADVENT III - 9.30 Mass and blessing of outside crib.
24th Dec	CHRISTMASS EVE – 5.00pm: First Mass of Christmass
25th Dec	CHRISTMASS DAY – 9.30 Parish Mass
26th Dec	3.00 pm: First Mass of Sunday
27th Dec	HOLY FAMILY: 9.30: Parish Mass
28th – 31st Dec	All Masses will be offered at 11.30
1st Jan	MOTHERHOOD OF OUR LADY – 10.00 Mass



ADVENT AND CHRISTMASS



As I am writing this during the lockdown and do not know how the Government will advise about what we will be allowed to do at Christmass, please see the church website and the Mendlesham e-news newsletter for updates.

Fr Philip Writes

3 points about Christmass:

1. **The World**
2. **The Unorthodox**
3. **The Stranger**

in view of a property tax to be paid. Joseph must have had property near Bethlehem. I imagine everything taking longer than expected owing to the bureaucratic attitudes of officialdom. They were probably no different from officials the world over, liking to use the small amount of power given them by sending people from pillar to post. Jesus was born in the midst of the most hopelessly chaotic human affairs of land ownership, land registration and tax forms.



2. **The Unorthodox**

The first people to see God made Man were shepherds. We tend to picture them as wise old men talking every day about the Messiah to come, studying the Old Testament prophets and playing on their musical instruments. But they were 'ruffians' – outcasts of society and considered anti-social, untrustworthy and unorthodox and classed alongside tax-collectors and prostitutes. God's angels didn't go to the high priests, the king or the 'important' businessmen of the town but to these shepherds. We are told "the glory of the Lord shone around them." They received the message and immediately rushed to find the child they had been told about while the rest of the world was busy, asleep or absent.



3. **The Stranger**

Jesus was a stranger in the world he had made. Maybe you feel God made Man is removed from this world of violence, wars, starvation and tragedy from

coronavirus. Jesus is God made Man and he has experienced all kinds of violence, hardship and oppression. He was born in the midst of a world caught up in a financial crisis, bureaucracy and oppression. He knows exactly how it is to feel unwelcome and unwanted.

Maybe you are one of those people who feel "unorthodox" – not 'good enough' and 'a stranger' or 'outside' the church. Jesus was born for all of us and the Gospels lay special stress on those whom others might consider unorthodox. The shepherds were the first in this category, but they were the first Christian pilgrims: they received the message and left Jesus as changed men, glorifying God. If Christmas is to have any relevance and meaning to us, we need to respond as they did.



God calls you and me. What is our response?

LOOKING BACK

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

Thank you to all who gave food, bedding, clothing and toiletries to St Martin's Housing Trust in Norwich, including Mendlesham School, despite being unable to have their usual harvest service. Many thanks to Graham and Anita for making 2 journeys to take it to Norwich.

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

The boxes raised **£973.21**, which together with the Gift Aid of **£243.30** totalled **£1,216.51**. Thank you to all who gave. I wrote in the October newsletter that we needed to raise money as we have to be ready for any unforeseen eventuality in a building as old as St Mary's. On the night of 1st/2nd November such an event did happen, when a 500 year-old angel fell from the roof of the Holy Cross Chapel, fortunately causing no damage. The architect came immediately and has asked for the chapel to be closed until further notice as he needs to inspect the condition of the other angels. So now we must restore that roof, which will clearly be costly. If you don't have a collecting box and would like one, please sign the list in church or ask Jean Martin or me.



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Thank you to Chris Elstone for filming the Requiem and wreath-laying, to Stuart Larkin for manning the outside PA, to John Allen for playing the organ and to David Nunn for raising the flags both then and on 11th. Our first venture at livestreaming had over 1,100 views on Facebook.

PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY'S MENDLESHAM - CHURCH CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 2020

Date	Church Festival	Mass	Intention (we pray for.....)	Parish Intention
1		()	the departed - December anniversaries	Front Street/ Old Orchard
2		9.30	the sick	Old Market St / Braybrooke Close
3	St Francis Xavier	9.30	Christian Aid	Mill Road and Hobbies Lane
4		9.30	the ministry of healing	Chapel Road
5		3.00 pm	all children	Church Road / St Mary's Gardens
6	ADVENT II (St Nicholas)	9.30	Parish and Congregation	Brockford Road
7	St Ambrose	9.30	forgiveness and reconciliation	Glebe Way
8	IMMACULATE CONCEPTION	9.30	protection of unborn children	Freelands
9		9.30	all elderly people who feel isolated	Ducksen Road
10	Martyrs of East Anglia	9.30	all who reject the Gospel	Horsefair Close
11		9.30	all who suffer depression	Mason Court
12		3.00 pm	Bishop Norman	Mayfield Way
13	ADVENT III	9.30	Parish and Congregation	Mead Way
14	St John of the Cross	9.30	those who refuse to believe in Christ	Old Station Rd / Cuttings Close / Schools Close
15		9.30	social outcasts	Middy Close / The Sidings
16		9.30	the homeless & St Martin's Housing Trust, Norwich	Wash Lane / Oak Farm Lane
17		9.30	HM the Queen and her Government	Norwich Road / Bluehouse Lane
18		9.30	Save the Children	Mendlesham Green
19		3.00 pm	expectant parents	Tan Office
20	ADVENT IV	9.30	Parish and Congregation	Outlying houses
21		9.30	all who travel	Farms in Mendlesham
22		9.30	Walsingham	Local industries
23		9.30	Crisis'	Pub, Community Centre & places of recreation
24	CHRISTMASS EVE	5.00 pm	peace of the world	Mendlesham School & local High Schools
25	CHRISTMASS DAY	9.30	Parish and Congregation	SMF: Patrons of Mendlesham
26	ST STEPHEN	3.00 pm	all family life	Village Organisations
27	HOLY FAMILY	9.30	Parish and Congregation	Fr Philip
28	HOLY INNOCENTS	11.30	children at risk	Other places of Worship
29	ST THOMAS BECKETT	11.30	the Archbishop of Canterbury	PCC, Parish and Community Councils
30	IN CHRISTMASS OCTAVE	11.30	a deeper prayer life	Local Doctors, Nurses & Healthcare workers
31	IN CHRISTMASS OCTAVE	11.30	all who are bereaved	Adjoining parishes

The times are listed assuming public worship can continue after the lockdown. Please check bulletin and website for any changes



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