

MENDLESHAM ** NEWSLETTER





Issue 457

December 2021

CLASSIFIED ADS

CHIMNEY SWEEP

Vacuum and Brush, Andrew Brundell 01449 766614 or 07776 215940

Your Local Handyman

Minor repairs around the home
Including taps, immersion heaters
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'Person centred care, tailoring to your every need is what I deliver. Feel free to contact me for a free consultation'

> Hayley Page MOB: 07551419310 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.

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.

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 4th December 2021

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

Front Cover

Meg Clarke

Dates for your diary				
Dec	-	Page		
1st	WI Knit, Stitch & Yarn	14		
4th	Newsletter Deadline	1		
4th	SAT-CAF	3		
7th	Mendlesham Camera Club	3		
8th	Parish Council Meeting	2		
12th	Santa Visit	7		
14th	WI Meeting	14		
15th	Walking Wednesday	4		
16th	Mobile Library	13		
19th	Mendlesham Walks	4		

Every Tuesday & Friday 50/50 shop open - see page 6 for further details

Editorial

Welcome to the December issue. We have enjoyed such a mild autumn that the end of the year seems to approach much faster than usual. Many of you will be trying to maintain seasonal traditions that go back many years even to childhood. Whatever you choose to do during this month of Advent may love and friendship be at the heart.

All good wishes for Christmas and for 2022. Best Wishes & Thanks Gemma

THE PARISH COUNCIL



Parish Clerk: Sharon Jones, Honeysuckle, Hockey Hill,

Wetheringsett, Suffolk IP14 5PL

Tel 01449 766139

Email: <u>parishclerk@mendleshampc.org</u>
Web site: <u>https://mendlesham.suffolk.cloud</u>

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

Meetings:

Wednesday 8th December 2021 Ordinary Parish Council meeting Old School Room, Mendlesham 7pm.

Wednesday 12th January 2022 Ordinary Parish Council meeting Old School Room, Mendlesham 7pm.

Wednesday 9th February 2022 Ordinary Parish Council meeting Old School Room, Mendlesham 7pm.

Mendlesham Parish Council wishes all residents a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

MENDLESHAM XMAS 'SAT-CAF'

Saturday, 4th December 10.00 – 14.00

Pre-Ordering for Take-Away Orders, phone the Café on 01449-767727 from 10 a.m.

Menu includes CHRISTMAS SPECIALS; plus GRAND DRAW!

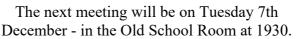
November Draw Winner

(De Luxe Wine and Cheese Supper donated by Kelly Spencer)

Andrew Davey

Reminder that the first 2022 Sat-Caf will be on Saturday 5th February

MENDLESHAM CAMERA CLUB



The challenge this month is to share your best photo taken in the last two years. We submit the entry to a Dropbox, these will be displayed and discussed. In the second part of the meeting a member will talk about a photography related topic and look at how to edit out errors from submitted photos.

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

For details please log onto the website:http://www.mendleshamcameraclub.co.uk/ or contact mike@favager.co.uk

Mendlesham Walking Group

Saturday 19th December 2021 Meet at

Community Centre Car Park 10:30am 2 hour walk within the Parish Christmas Themed Fancy Dress & Silly Hats (optional)

AND

Walking on a Wednesday

Shorter, slower walks of about 11/2 hours

Wednesday 15th December 2021 Meet at Community Centre Car Park 10.30am

Come and join us!

Stay safe and keep walking!





For more information
http://mendlesham.suffolk.cloud/clubs-and-organisations
Select 'Walking Group' or just Google 'Mendlesham Walks'

Just for fun I have included some little Christmas colouring pictures throughout the newsletter.

See if you can spot them and maybe colour them in, if you so choose.



Good with 56789 ?

Want to make a contribution to our community?

Become the Treasurer for Mendlesham Community Council

We need someone who:

- 1. Has basic book keeping experience
- 2. Is able to deal with minimal banking transactions
- 3. Can use a simple Excel Spreadsheet no need for specific software.
- 4. Is willing to become a trustee and one of 2 signatories
- 5. Can prepare accounts for external annual audit
- 6. Is able to attended up to 6 evening meetings per year
- 7. Can set aside as little as 2 hours a month on average to complete duties
- 8. Will have a comprehensive handover and initial support as needed

Google 'Mendlesham Community Council' and follow links to application form and complete

Send to Judith Howard-Rees, MCC Lead Trustee, Mill Lodge, Mendlesham Green IP14 5RB



Mendlesham Annual Parish Party

It is with much regret, the Mendlesham Parish Party Committee have decided NOT to arrange a party for January 2022. COVID-19 is still very much within our community and we felt it was the responsible decision to make at this early stage. We will not be holding our two annual fundraising events either, the Mason Court Social Evening and the Coffee Morning but do not fear, there are funds in the bank ready for the next party!!

Instead, we are planning a Social Event in the spring for the committee to see all those faces we have missed over the last couple of years and for others to get together and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea and biscuit or cake.

So please, pencil in your diary, mark on your 2022 calendar **Saturday 9th April 2022**, a Social Morning at the United Reformed Chapel in Mendlesham.

Best wishes to you all for 2022 Mendlesham Parish Party Committee





NEW STOCK IN FOR AUTUMN/WINTER

Open on Tuesdays and Fridays 2pm - 4pm

We are also accepting donations of good quality clothing, please only one bag as we have limited space. You will receive 50% of the sale price. Please ask in the shop for more information.

Safety guidelines are in place. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Located in the green pavilion near the play area. What3words: ///novelist.thin.tint Stocked with new and pre-loved clothing, shoes, jewellery, books and homewares

Sunday 12th December Santa Claus visit to Mendlesham & Mendlesham Green with Carol Singers & stopping in a street near you. Stopping places (all times approximate)

Stopping places (all times approximate)

Old Station Rd – near
MGA

Front Street – near Old
Orchard

Mayfield Way – halfway

at first bond

Told Station Rd – near
Angle Station Rd – near
Angle Station Rd – near
Angle Station Road – in
Ropers Farm yard
Ropers Farm yard
Angle Station Road – in
Robert Farm yard
Angle Station

Front Street – near Old Orchard	17.10	Glebe Way – Freelands junction	18.30
Mayfield Way – halfway – at first bend	17.25	Glebe Way – at far end (cul-de-sac)	18.40
Ducksen Road – near wooden bungalows	17.35	Middy Close – The Sidings junction	18.55
Ducksen Road - Horsefair Close junction	17.45	Middy Close – near top end	19.05
Old Market Street – near village sign	17.55	Mendlesham Green – by telephone box	19.25
Old Market Street – near King's Head	18.05	Mendlesham Green – The Green junction	19.35

finishing at 20.00 in St Mary's Church with soup, coffee & mince pies



Collecting for St Martin's Housing Trust Norwich:

supporting the homeless

Parish Council:

New Parish Councillor required.

Further to the opportunity provided for the electorate to request an election to fill our Parish Councillor vacancy, we have now received confirmation from Mid Suffolk District Council that an election has not been requested which now means that the Parish Council can proceed and co opt a new Parish Councillor.

Co option means that it will be the Parish Council making the decision, rather than the residents of Mendlesham Parish voting at an election.

If you are interested in applying for this position you need to be eligible, including

- be at least 18 years old
- be a British citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of any member state of the European Union, and meet at least one of the following four qualifications:
- **a.** You are, and will continue to be, registered as a local government elector for the parish/community in which you wish to stand from the day of your nomination onwards. **Or**
- **b.** You have occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in the parish/community area during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election **Or**
- **c.** Your main or only place of work during the 12 months prior to the day of your nomination and the day of election has been in the parish/community area. **Or**
- **d.** You have lived in the parish/community area or within three miles of it during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election.

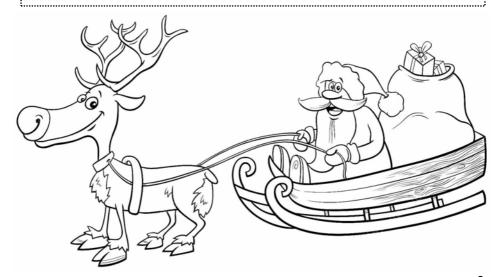
Continued on page 9.......

- Not be disqualified under section 80 of the Local Government Act 1972 or section 34 of the Localism Act 2011 (further details available on request, but includes bankruptcy and criminally convicted for a period of not less than three months without the option of a fine)
- Mendlesham Parish Council welcome and are committed to the inclusion and recognition of all regardless of race, culture, ability, ethnicity or gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, marital status, religious affiliation, and socioeconomic status.

The process for co option will be for written applications to be received by the Parish Clerk by **31st January 2022**. Applications need to include brief information about yourself, including name, address, work/ life history experiences and the skills that you think you would be able to bring to the Parish Council and why you wish to stand.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Clerk or any Parish Councillor.

All candidates will then be asked to attend the Parish Council meeting of 9th February, to meet the Councillors and ask or be asked any questions, before a decision is reached at that meeting.





Quiet Lanes

In the next few weeks, new signs will be appearing on some of our parish lanes.

Mendlesham Parish Council has worked with Suffolk County Council and consulted with parishioners to designate some of our popular routes as "Quiet Lanes"

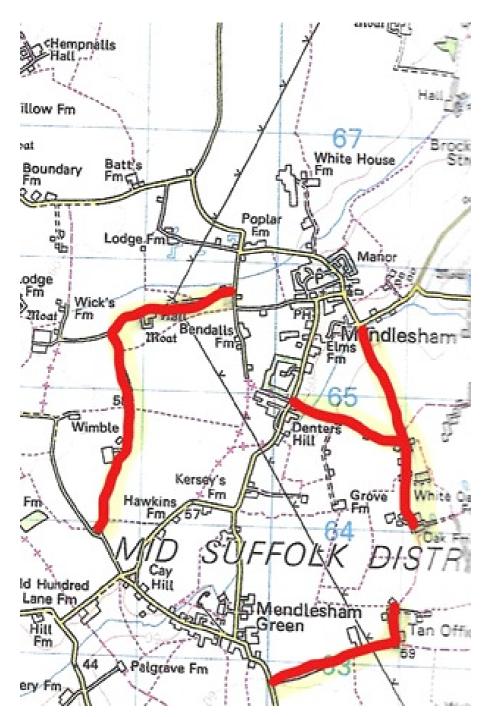
Quiet Lanes are a nationally recognised designation for narrow, rural roads which are shared by walkers, horse riders, cyclists and other road users. They encourage drivers to 'Expect and Respect' more vulnerable road users and so allow non-motorised users to enjoy rural lanes in greater safety.

These types of lanes do not impose traffic restrictions and are not enforced. Advisory signs (like the one above) will be placed at either end of Quiet Lanes to show motorised users clearly that the road is a shared space.

We feel that these lanes are of real benefit to the parish and those who visit. The lanes are already used by walkers, cyclists and horse riders and link with existing footpaths and bridleways in the village.

Our Quiet Lanes are:

- Oak Farm Lane/Tan Office Lane through to Mendlesham Green,
- Oak Farm Lane/Wash Lane,
- and U5217/Hoggars Road
- see lanes marked in bold on the map on page 11.







Red boxes in St Mary's Church for donations at Christmass and all year round – helping individuals and families in need in this area.



Dirty water or none at all?

Climate Change in South Sudan has forced Mums to give their children dirty water.

St Mary's Christmass Carol Service Collection & Crib Appeal until 9th January is for Christian Aid to help provide new boreholes + seeds + tools to help them.



Stand with more mums facing impossible choices this Christmas at caid.org.uk/christmas

TOTE RESULTS

Mendlesham Lottery October 2021				
14th October		28th October		
Drawn at Mayfield Way		Drawn at Mayfield Way		
Eileen Cements	£35.00	Daryl Jackson	£35.00	
Sue Palmer	£25.00	Emily King	£25.00	
Marcel Rousseau	£15.00	Emma Munday	£15.00	
Edward Elliston	£10.00	Anne Gammage	£10.00	

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 16th December





MENDLESHAM WI

Our October meeting was a series of 'welcomes' – first the return of one member from 'sick leave', one member celebrating her birthday on the night, the return of John Player as the speaker and of course our supper of fish or chicken and chips - delivered to us and served up piping hot and delicious.

After supper and a bit of business John told us about his background and how he came to write his books about 'Cedric, the spider'; stories he had told to his daughter when she was small, who now wanted to recount them to her family. We heard about what he had learned about publishing along the way, and how he worked with Gary his illustrator. John is an excellent speaker and although we are all supposed to have a book in us – I doubt I have!

We have local workshops to look forward to in November – a New Age Kurling taster; the Christmas workshop when we meet and with Jane's expert tuition will make flower and star decorations and there is the Christmas tree to decorate at Abbots Hall as part of the Stowmarket Tree Festival.

The local WI has always been community minded and have over the years celebrated WI anniversaries, royal occasions and special dates with donations to the village. One of the first I can find recorded was in 1935 when small oak trees grown by members were planted in Old Station Road and at Mendlesham Green to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of King George V and Queen Mary. So continuing in that tradition, in 2020 to mark the centenary of our Suffolk East Federation together with the plant a tree initiative we planted a flowering cherry on the playing field. At the end of October we were devastated to learn that the tree had been vandalised and snapped off. What message does that send about our village when we see photographs and read in the WI magazine of other villages' trees thriving? Then there is the question – do we replant or not bother? To do nothing is to admit defeat. So sad, but we will continue with our project to plant daffodils on public open spaces in the village – we are proud of our village and hope to brighten up our community next Spring.....and the tree will be replaced.

The next knit, stitch and yarn group will meet in the Old School Room on Dec. 1st at 10am and the December meeting will be a week earlier than usual – on Tuesday, 14th in the U.R.C., Old Market Street. All plans, of course, are subject to any Covid rules at the time

If you are interested in joining us please contact president Anita (766902). You will be made welcome.

Mendlesham Community Council Update

The MCC Trustees have now started to reshape the community council ready for 2022. The constitution is being updated and will reflect a more diverse membership with protocols for running events and ensuring that the funds raised and the activities provided will reach a wider community. Our thanks go to those who participated in the recent Working Parties.

We have taken into account the comments about the Street Fayre, the need to make some changes to the newsletter and the way we communicate. We plan to engage more with the different groups of people who live and work in the parish, reaching out to newcomers, young families, those with busy working lives and those who are enjoying retirement.

We are now looking for people who would like to start up new groups or run events which people can enjoy during the coming months as well as to start planning for next summer.

The Mendlesham Community Council will be a smaller organisation supporting a wider group of volunteers who either already manage clubs and events or who are keen to create new social activities and support groups.

After many years of service Jean Abbott and Ruth Ager are stepping down as Trustees. On behalf of the community we thank them for their hard work over the years. Jean will continue to run the Tote and be on hand to support the newsletter and 50:50 Shop.

We are delighted to welcome on board Julie Waghorn who will become a trustee and take up the role of Secretary.

If you would like to be a Trustee overseeing the reshaped Mendlesham Community Council or want the council's support to put on a new event, please get in touch. Just Google 'Mendlesham Community Council' and you will reach our webpage where you can down load an application form to be a trustee or, contact me, Judith Howard-Rees, Lead Trustee, on judith@milllodge.co.uk or 01449 766327 or 07770 746619 for more information

But keep watching this space! Things are definitely changing and we really want YOU to be part of those changes!

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 gradually opening and more people start to come out, it has been a tough year for the homeless and their dogs who rely on donations from passers-by.

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 and hostels. 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 11th 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

Mid Suffolk District Council

Christmas & New Year Waste Collection Schedule 2021/22

. =	Usual Collection Date	Revised Collection Date	Change
	Monday 27th December 2021	Wednesday 29th December 2021	2 days later
g g	Tuesday 28th December 2021	Thursday 30th December 2021	2 days later
Refuse	Wednesday 29th December 2021	Friday 31st December 2021	2 days later
2	Thursday 30th December 2021	Tuesday 4th January 2022	5 days later
	Friday 31st December 2021	Wednesday 5th January 2022	5 days later
	Monday 3rd January 2022	Thursday 6th January 2022	3 days later
ii.	Tuesday 4th January 2022	Friday 7th January 2022	3 days later
Recycling	Wednesday 5th January 2022	Saturday 8th January 2022	3 days later
3èc	Thursday 6th January 2022	Monday 10th January 2022	4 days later
	Friday 7th January 2022	Tuesday 11th January 2022	4 days later
	Monday 10th January 2022	Wednesday 12th January 2022	2 days later
se	Tuesday 11th January 2022	Thursday 13th January 2022	2 days later
Refuse	Wednesday 12th January 2022	Friday 14th January 2022	2 days later
ı,	Thursday 13th January 2022	Saturday 15th January 2022	2 days later
	Friday 14th January 2022	Monday 17th January 2022	3 days later
-	Monday 17th January 2022	Tuesday 18th January 2022	1 day later
ii.	Tuesday 18th January 2022	Wednesday 19th January 2022	1 day later
),	Wednesday 19th January 2022	Thursday 20th January 2022	1 day later
Recycling	Thursday 20th January 2022	Friday 21st January 2022	1 day later
	Friday 21st January 2022	Saturday 22nd January 2022	1 day later

From Monday 24th January 2022 refuse and recycling collections return to the normal schedule.

Please note: There will be no garden waste (brown bin) collections during the weeks commencing 27th December 2021 and 3rd January 2022. Please refer to the garden waste collection schedule, which is available at: www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/waste-services

Please make sure your bin is out by 6.30am on collection day

Waste Services

Web: www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/waste-services Email: recycling@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

Phone: 0300 1234 000 (option 4)



Monday Morning meet-up



We are now open again!

Every Monday morning in the Old Schoolroom 10am-12pm

EVERYBODY welcome. If you are on your own, retired, widow, widower, new mum/dad, looking for work or whatever your situation...

Come on down and enjoy free tea, coffee, cake and sausage rolls, plus good friendly company.

There is also a selection of jigsaws, books and magazines to take away free of charge.

Friends of Debenham Library

The library will be closed on UK public holidays, including: Christmas Day, Boxing Day, Tuesday 27th December, New Year's Day.



Please continue wear a face covering in the library, to protect customers and staff. Thank you.

For free audiobooks, ebooks, films, newspapers/magazines and other online services, use your library card at www.suffolklibraries.co.uk. There are also podcasts and videos available on the YouTube channel (SuffolkLibraries).

Books, DVDs, WiFi, Computers, Printing/photocopying/scanning, A4 Laminating, CDs, audiobooks, downloadable music/audiobooks/ebooks, free reservations, drinks for sale. The room is available for hire outside opening hours.

School corner, Debenham IP14 6PL (next to the Primary School). Opening hours:

Tuesday: 0930 am - 1300 pm Wednesday: 1500 - 1930 pm Saturday: 0900 am - 1300 pm Sunday: 1200 - 1600 pm

Tel: 01728 861940

www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/visit/locations-and-times/debenham-library

Facebook: @DebenhamLibraryFriends

Email: debenham.library@suffolklibraries.co.uk

MENDLESHAM DIRECTORY			
1 st Mendlesham Guides	Emma Munday	01449 768843	
3rd Monday Book Club	Doug Williams	01449 766498	
Annual Parish Party	Rachel Roshier	07881 816622	
Ancient Order of Foresters	Beatrix Wrinch	07885 909869	
Beavers, Cubs and Scouts	Martyn Bryant	01379 788998	
Bowls Club	Peter Coleby	01449 766985	
Brownies	Brenda Stannard	01449 766308	
Camera Club	Mike Favager	01449 766007	
Carpet Bowls Club	Roger Fouracre	01449 766229	
Community Centre Hall	Becky Herbert	01449 672531	
Computer Club	Giles Godart-Brown	07500 042836	
District Councillor	Andrew Stringer	01449 780339	
Explorer Unit	Jonathan Freeman	01449 766676	
Film Nights	Judith Howard-Rees	07770 746619	
Football Club	George Yardley Angela Lockwood	07894 512712 07845 471154	
F.O.M.S.A	C.P School	01449 766224	
Friends of Mendlesham Health Centre	Phil Tucker	01379 678400	
History Group	Sue Michell	01449 766434	
Mendlesham Community Council	Judith Howard-Rees Carolyn Triscott	07770 746619 01449 766563	
Old School Room Bookings	Daphne Lambert	01449 766320	
Over 60's	Annette Taylor	01449 776552	
Parish Council & Playing Field	Sharon Jones	01449 766139	
Parish Party Committee	Rachel Roshier	07881 816622	
Rainbows	Becky Froude	01473 747772	
Saturday Cafe	Brenda Player	01449 768101	
School Governors	Sharon Jones	01449 766139	
St Mary's Parish Church	Father Philip Gray	01449 766359	
St Mary's Church Council	Hazel Spalding	01449 768616	
Toddler Group	Selina Cannings	07925 198581	
Trustees of Charities	Mike Favager	01449 766007	
United Reformed Church	Margaret Jackson	01449 766321	
Village Recorder for Mendlesham	Geoff Clarke	01449 766447	
Walking Group	Angela Pickup	01449 766483	
Woman's Institute	Anita Scruby	01449 766902	
Writers Group	Noel Fletcher	01449 766968	

If you have any amendments to the information on this page, please email the editor at gemma.green1202@gmail.com or call on 07733 333659 so they can be corrected. Thank you



Your local Citizens Advice needs you

A local charity offering advice is looking for new volunteers to join their team.

Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk offer people free advice on issues like benefits, debt, employment and housing. Volunteers are based in the Advice Centre in Stowmarket.

Simon Clifton, Chief Officer, said, "over the Covid-19 pandemic we have continued to provide a service to people who need it – closing up shop was not an option. One challenge that remains is to continue to meet demand. Volunteers are at the heart of our charity and we're looking for new people to join our team. You don't need any specific qualifications or experience to volunteer with us, just an interest in working with people to make their lives better."

Steve Avery, who has been volunteering with Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk for 4 years, said, "I like volunteering here because you make a real difference to people's lives. There's a great team of people and you get a lot of support. I would say to anyone considering volunteering to give it a try because it keeps you connected and up to date."

There are several roles available including Advisers, Telephone Assessors and Trustees.

Anyone interested in finding out more can visit midsuffolkcab.org.uk/volunteer or contact Tina Hovell, Volunteer Recruiter, on 01449 676060.



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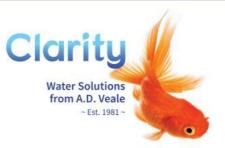
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1s 2.30pm Afternoon Fellowship - Mr John Webb

5th 4.00pm Mr William Glasse

12th 10.45am Mrs Nicola Glasse

15th 2.30pm Afternoon Fellowship Carol Service –

Mr Steve Fenning

19th 6.30pm Carols by Candlelight -The Minister

MURCies – Coffee and Carols with Christmas Draw Friday 10th December 10.00am – 12.00 noon Knit & Natter – Monday 13th December - 2.00 - 4.00pm

Luke 2: 7

"She gave birth to her first son, wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger — there was no room for them to stay in the inn."

Yet again this year we hear that Christmas could be cancelled. Last year it was going to be cancelled because we couldn't see family or friends. This year it is because of supply issues. If we get upset because we can't get toys for the children, or get our turkey, then we really miss the point of Christmas. Christmas is about the birth of Jesus, not food and presents, as nice as they are.

The story of Christmas is not a story about what we get physically, presents and food! We can still celebrate Christmas without all those trimmings. It is about celebrating one particular present, that of Jesus Christ who came into the world a poor and helpless baby born in a stable, born to a poor working family, born in a time when his own country was occupied by the Romans and where people did not feel that they were free in their own country.

Continued on page 44......

....continued from page 43

The story of Christmas is a story that brings us hope, that things will get better, and don't we need that story retold to us at this time, with the ongoing crisis of climate change and the ongoing crisis of the pandemic. We need a story now more than ever of hope that things will change, and get better and that's what the Christmas story is truly about. The babe born in Bethlehem just over two thousand years ago came to change the world and still can change the world today.

Unlike last year, we will be able to sing carols in church, we will get together and worship and thank God for the gift of Jesus. This is the time when we need that reassurance that things do get better, but because of that we are reminded of our own place in the story. Jesus is not just a gift to us, but also a gift for the world, and receiving that gift it gives us the strength to move on and work together to grow the kingdom of God here and now.

How ever you celebrate Christmas, remember the true story of Christmas and have a good one.

Happy Christmas.

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY, STOWMARKET - IP14 1AP Parish Priest - Fr Simon Leworthy Tel: - 01449 612946 email - pp@ourladystowmarket.org.uk

MASS TIMES

Daily mass - Monday to Friday at 1000 (Our Lady's, Stowmarket) Saturday - 1800 (anticipatory mass at St Mary's, Woolpit)

Sunday - 0830 and 1015 (Our Lady's, Stowmarket)

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Please see parish website for the weekly newsletter and further information https://ourladystowmarket.org.uk

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SUNDAYS:

9.30 a.m. Parish Mass & Address **EXCEPT**

26th Dec.(Holy Family) 11.00 am

<u>Saturdays:</u> 4th, 11th, 18th Dec: First Mass of Sunday at 10.00 am.

<u>Daily Mass</u>: see calendar on inside back page & check porch notice, website or bulletin.

Daily Morning & Evening Prayer see porch notice.

Baptism (Christening), Marriage, Anointing of the Sick & Holy Communion from the Reserved Sacrament or any pastoral need contact Fr Philip

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays 4th, 11th, 18th Dec: 4.00 pm; 20th Dec: 2.30 pm; 21st Dec: 2.00 pm; 22nd Dec: 10.30 am; 23rd Dec: 4.00 pm; 24th Dec: 4.00 pm or contact Fr Philip



Vicar:

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Churchwardens: Andrew Fleming 01449 711065

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WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

5 th Dec	ADVENT II 9.30:Parish Mass & blessing of first
	collection of socks, hats, scarves & gloves for the
Oth Dag	homeless people cared for by St Martin's Norwich
8 th Dec	2.30 pm: Mass & healing service
12 th Dec	ADVENT III 9.30 Parish Mass. Preacher: Bishop
	Mike Harrison, Bishop of Dunwich, who will also
	bless the outside crib.
	5.00 pm: Carol Singing & visit of Santa Claus around Mendlesham & Mendlesham Green
15 th Dec	9.45: Mendlesham School Carol Service in church
	11.00: Mass
19 th Dec	ADVENT IV: 9.30 Parish Mass & blessing of door
	wreaths
20 th Dec	3.00 pm: Hour of Silent Prayer before the Blessed
	Sacrament in preparation for Christmass
	"How silently, how silently the wondrous Gift is given.
	So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his
	heaven."
24 th Dec	CHRISTMASS EVE
	5.00 pm: First Mass of Christmass
	7.00 pm: Candlelight Carol Service in church &
	broadcast to South Churchyard. Collection for Christian Aid
25 th Dec	Chilistian Aid
20 BCC	CHRISTMASS DAY
A STATE OF THE STA	9.30: Blessing of Crib & Parish Mass of
	Christmass
26th Dec	HOLY FAMILY 11.00 Parish Mass & blessing of
	children's presents PLEASE NOTE LATER TIME
	OF MASS TODAY
27 th to	11.30: Mass (said)
30 th Dec	` '
31st Dec	3.00 pm: Mass of Mary, Mother of God
1st Jan	10.00 am: First Mass of Sunday

Fr Philip Writes

It is so easy to miss the point of the Christmass story. One Biblical commentator wrote: "We can be so

charmed with the story of a baby that we grow sentimental about it. It does not demand any vital change in our way of thinking and living. The great question for us is this: is our Christmass still only a story about a baby, or is it more, a story about a person into whom te baby grew, who can redeem the world from its sins, and calls us into partnership with his great and mighty purpose?"

When the angel appeared to Joseph, he said, "You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." (Matt. 1 v 21) It is only as we see the birth of Jesus in the light of his crucifizion and resurrection that we are



able to grasp the full meaning of his coming to earth. Every day the Angelus devotion is said in St Mary's to help make Christmass a daily event.



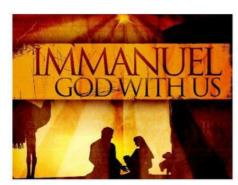
- Mary hears the Good News from the Angel Gabriel
- Mary responds to the Good News and as a result
 - Christ is born in and from her.

The final prayer of the Angelus connects Christmass to Easter:

"O Lord, we beseech thee, pour your grace into our hearts, that as we have known the incarnation of your son by the message of an angel, so by his Passion and his Cross may we be brought to the glory of his resurrection." A puzzle page in a newspaper showed the following drawing by the artist Istvan Orosz. Beneath it was this question: Can you find the girl in the drawing?



If you look closely you can see the girl's face concealed in the tree branches and background scenery. When you have discovered her, the drawing will never be the same again.



It is like that with Jesus. He is in our lives waiting to be found. (Emmanuel = God with us) Once we find him our lives will never be the same again. The responses of Mar and Joseph to God invite us to evaluate our response so God is revealed in our lives.

Happy Christmass, everyone!

	PARISH CHURCH OF	ST MARY	URCH OF ST MARY'S MENDLESHAM - CHURCH CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 2021	ENDAR FOR DECEMBER 2021
Date	e Church Festival	Mass	Intention (we pray especially for)	Parish Intention
—		9.30	the departed - December anniversaries	Front Street / Old Orchard
7		9.30	deeper Christian commitment	Old Market St / Braybrooke Close
3	St Francis Xavier	9.30	mission of the Church	Mill Road and Hobbies Lane
4		10.00	those who are homeless	Chapel Road
2	ADVENT II	9.30	Parish and congregation	Church Road / St Mary's Gardens
9	St Nicholas	9.00	Save the Children/The Childrens' Society	Brockford Road
7	St Ambrose	9.30	all bishops	Glebe Way
∞	IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF OUR LADY	2.30 pm	ministry of healing	Freelands
6		9.30	peace of the world	Ducksen Road
10		9.30	all who reject the Gospel	Horsefair Close
11		10.00	carol singing	Mason Court
12	ADVENT III	9.30	Parish and congregation	Mayfield Way
13	St Lucy	9.30	all in prison	Mead Way
14	St John of the Cross	9.30	Communicants	Old Station Rd / Cuttings Close / Schools Close
15		11.00	HM Queen Elizabeth & her Government	Middy Close / The Sidings
16		9.30	all recently ordained	Wash Lane / Oak Farm Lane
17		9.30	our preparations for Christmass	Norwich Road / Bluehouse Lane
18		10.00	all who travel	Mendlesham Green
19	ADVENT IV	9.30	Parish and congregation	Tan Office
20		9.30	all preparing for marriage	Outlying houses
21		9.30	all expectant parents	Farms in Mendlesham
22		9.30	Walsingham	Local industries
23		9.30	those newly baptised	Pub & places of recreation
24	CHRISTMASS EVE	5.00 pm	home and family life	Mendlesham School
25	CHRISTIMASS DAY	9.30	Parish and congregation	SMF: Patrons of Mendlesham
56	HOLY FAMILY	11.00 am	Parish and congregation	Village organisations
27	ST JOHN, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST	11.30	a greater love of scripture	Fr Philip
28	HOLY INNOCENTS	11.30	children at risk	Other places of worship
29	ST THOMAS BECKET	11.30	the Archbishop of Canterbury	PCC, Parish and Community Councils
30	6th DAY OF CHRISTMASS OCTAVE	11.30	our crib appeal for Christian Aid	Local doctors, nurses & health workers
31	7th DAY OF CHRISTMASS OCTAVE	3.00 pm	The Society of Mary	Neighbouring parishes
		S	SB = See weekly bulletin - available on website	te



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