

MENDLESHAM NEWSLETTER



Issue 447

February 2021

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&
'Mendlesham Green Residents'
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up to date with what's going
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**Email reports, articles,
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Paper Copies of Articles to:

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

Deadline for March Issue
6th February 2021

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

Dates for your diary		
Feb		Page
2nd	Camera Club Zoom Meeting	3
6th	Newsletter Deadline	1
10th	Parish Council Google Meeting	2

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 February issue. The rollout of Covid vaccines is increasing day by day which give hope of light at the end of the tunnel. Have you noticed how the bulbs are pushing up shoots from the dark earth upwards to light? The signs are around us that Spring is only just around the corner.

Be patient, keep safe.

*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: <https://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:

We have provisionally agreed dates and times for 2021 for our regular, planned Ordinary meetings. However, at this stage we do not know when we will be able to meet physically rather than virtually. Further details can be found on the Mendlesham website.

At present all meetings, those planned monthly and any additional meetings required due to unanticipated parish council work load, have to be held virtually with agendas published on the Mendlesham website and also circulated via E News. If you have not signed up for E News, you can do so on the home page of the website.

Wednesday 10th February 2021 Ordinary PC meeting virtual meeting via Google Meet 7pm

Wednesday 10th March 2021 Ordinary PC meeting virtual meeting via Google Meet 7pm

Wednesday 14th April 2021 Ordinary PC meeting virtual meeting via Google Meet 7pm



MENDLESHAM CAMERA CLUB



The next Zoom meeting will be on Tuesday 2nd February at 1900 hours and last about an hour.

The photo theme for this month is 'the colour blue or something cold' - we submit photos on this subject to a Dropbox, these will be displayed and discussed. In the second part of the meeting a member of the group will talk about a photography related technical subject aimed to help us all.

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 Walks



Do you have a favourite 'Lockdown' walk?

If you would like to share it with us, drop me an email

We'll put it on our 2021 schedule once we are able to walk out together again..... and we will!

No formal February Walk

But who knows what March will bring other than spring!

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

Unfortunately the Mobile Library will not be able to run at the moment.

Watch this space for updates though.



126 SHOEBOXES

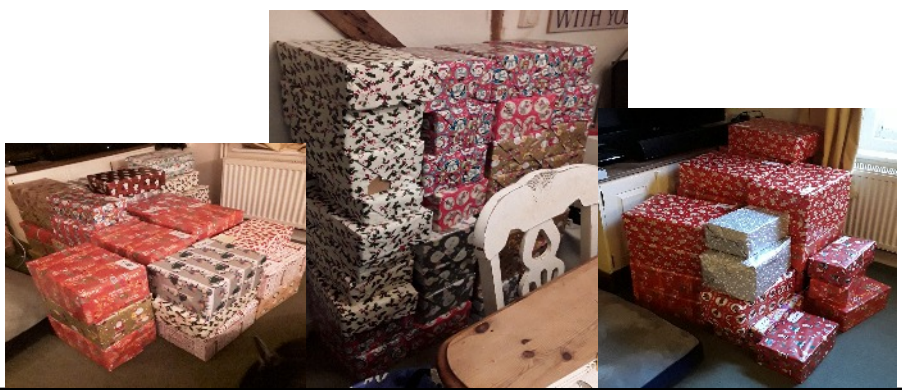
How amazing is that?

I collected 126 shoeboxes for the homeless and their dogs.

I wasn't sure what would happen as it had been a very challenging year for everyone , but it has bought out a huge amount of kindness and generosity for those in need.

I would like to thank the good folk of Woodbridge for their 24 boxes, Alison Bullock and friends for their 14 boxes, Hemlingham Primary School for their bags of goodies, Penny Sunaway for all the dog food and the couple who dropped off five big bags of dog food previously (apologies I don't have your name but you know who you are x)

**I would also like to thank each and every one of you for your kind and generous donations of boxes, items and money. Every item was used and every penny spent and will have bought cheer to so many people at Christmas.
I couldn't do it without you,
you are good people xxxxx**



Mendlesham Computer Club re-opens

After our long Covid lay-off, the Computer Club is re-opening on the 25th January at 10am, but now virtually via Zoom and then every Monday at 10.

The Club was set up to provide internet access and computer tuition for all ages and abilities and, up until the first Covid lockdown, met weekly in the School Room.

Our website (<http://mendleshamcomputer.club/>) has a lot more details about the topics covered along with many helpful resources.

We are keen to help other established societies in the village to re-open and are happy to help set up, offer technical support and host their Zoom meetings.

Please email us at webmaster@mendleshamcomputer.club for more information.

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*)



Scouts
1st Mendlesham

February update

This year has got off to a rocky start with another lockdown preventing our sections from meeting face to face. However, we were fortunate in October and December to be able to meet for a few weeks in person, both at the scout field and the community centre. We hope to all be back together face-to-face as soon as we can be.

Our new website

We now have a new website for our scout group:

www.1stmendleshamscouts.org.uk

As well as general information about our group, we also have a page dedicated to the scout hut project and will also include photo galleries and upload our newsletters to it, amongst other things.

This is still a work in progress so please bear with us if things aren't quite right yet.

Scout hut project update

Although we have been unable to meet in person, lots has been going on behind the scenes over the last few months.

As you may know, planning permission was granted over the summer for the hut. We have since had permission granted to increase the ridge height which will allow for additional storage and for some of the tanks that may be needed for the water and heating systems.

We completed our community survey to gather views around the scout hut build and produced a report from this. The report can be found on our new website: www.1stmendleshamscouts.org.uk Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our survey.

Noel has been busy meeting with various people at the scout field. He has met with members of MSDC localities team to discuss grant funding for our project and as a result is currently working on an application for a grant from them. Noel has also met with various contractors to discuss quotes for various elements of the project, such as running water and electric back into the site, repositioning the fencing and gates, as well as the creation of the hard standing area that we will need before any work can commence at the site.

We have been successful in securing a number of grants and pledges recently for the project.

We managed to run a small hamper raffle to raise fund for the project, and Leeann has been making and selling her Christmas Wreaths once again. Thank you to every one that purchased raffle tickets and wreaths.

Award

Leeann Steed, our Assistant Scout Leader, has been awarded 'Award for Merit' by the Scout Association. This is well deserved as Leeann has fully supported the Group for many years. Hopefully, Leeann will be able to receive her certificate and medal from the District Commissioner soon.

Volunteer opportunities

We currently have a number of opportunities available within our scout group. All of our vacancies require a current DBS, which is free of charge and we will organise for you. If you are interested in any of the opportunities please contact Martyn Bryant:

martyn_bryant@hotmail.com

Secretary (Group exec role)

This will involve meeting 5-6 times per year in the evening. For these meeting you will need to:

- Prepare and circulate the agenda provided by the chair
- Take minutes during the meeting
- Type up and circulate minutes to exec members

You will also be expected to prepare documents and take minutes for the AGM. There may be some involvement and attendance required at events held throughout the year.

To undertake this role you will need to have access to the internet/email, and also word processing software such as Microsoft Word.

Section leaders and Assistant Section leaders

We have various vacancies across 3 sections. In these roles you will:

- Be working directly with young people
- Need to attend section meetings once a week
- Plan and deliver a programme of activities that allow young people to complete their badges
- Attend overnight camps during the year
- Attend leader and exec meetings throughout the year
- Help out with planning and running events throughout the year

You will receive support and training to undertake this role.

My County – Silly Suffolk (By Walter Tye (1881 – 1979)

Part Three of Four

Suffolk people, like the County they live in, usually take a good deal of knowing. Although talkative amongst themselves, they are reserved with strangers, often speaking of them as “furreners”. Their most outstanding qualities, however, are those of a quiet courage, tenacity and independence. Well do I remember the Suffolk Regiment during World War I when they were always relied on to hold ground trained, despite the heaviest of counter attacks. As for independence this has been particularly noticeable in religion and politics. Hence their obvious learnings, throughout the ages, to nonconformity and Radicalism, which were clearly seen during the reformation, Civil War and later Victorian times, when East Anglians generally were "agin the government." Who can forget those brave Protestants of Ipswich, Mendlesham and Bury St. Edmunds, who chose to suffer death rather than remove their faith? Also were not many of Cromwell’s Ironsiders of Suffolk origin! Furthermore, is it not a fact that a large proportion of the early Puritan settlers in Massachusetts came from "Silly Suffolk," led by men such as Winthrop of Groton. Of the many striking qualities common to the Suffolk people, one thing is certain, whilst in general they are willing to be led, under no circumstances can they be driven.

Here is a short story of a typical Suffolk, viz. David Lincoln of Farnha, Saxmundha, a roadman there during World War I. Being near the east coast, all sign-posts were removed in case of invasion. Furthermore, David was under special orders from the County Surveyor not to give any information to inquiring strangers. Not many days passed however, before a motorist pulled up and asked David the way to Lowestoft. True to type, David, after careful scrutiny, mumbled something to the effect that he didn't know. The motorist further explained he was quite lost, and would be glad of advice. Again, David said he didn't know. Feeling exasperated, the motorist then called out, “Do you know anything?” To which David promptly but quietly replied, “Yer guvnor, 'Oi know O'm not lorst."

Throughout its history, Suffolk was best known when at its height in the woollen industry, i.e. during the early part of the nineteenth century. What with its fine pastures, a suitable breed of sheep and spinners of long experience, the County was well suited to the Industry, so much so, that many of its beautiful churches were built or maintained out of its profits. Who has not heard of the Springs of Lavenham, notable woollen merchants who contributed considerably to Church funds in East Anglia? Eventually however, it was the Industrial Revolution of the North, that killed Suffolk’s woollen industry, and led to its depopulation. How often, even in late Victorian Times, one heard fond parents say, "My dear boys have left for the Shires."

My County – Silly Suffolk (By Walter Tye (1881 – 1979)

Part Four of Four

In conclusion, Suffolk has many "worthies" and we've every reason to be proud of them. I mean by "worthies" men and women who, throughout the ages, have contributed most to our greatness, our attainments and the defence of our heritage.

At the outset I have always had a great admiration for Boadicea, who bravely defended East Anglia against the Roman invaders (May be Essex has greater claims to her honour than Suffolk.) Another "worthy" of the early centuries was St. Edmund, who eventually was shot at Hoxne, in defence of territory and Christian Principles. Maybe Suffolk's most noted man, if not always worthy, was Wolsey of Ipswich, who rose from Butcher's boy to Cardinal, narrowly missing the Vatican. Then there was that other Suffolk boy, Francis Lights of Dallinghoo and Woodbridge School, who in his life-time rose from obscurity to great heights in other lands. After successful service in the East India Company, he was sent to Penang and Malaya, where he laid the foundations of our trading end colonial interests in that area, rivalling that of Fussel of Singapore. (Incidentally, Lights' son William founded Adelaide of Australia.)

Coming to more recent times, there was Admiral Brooke of Nacton, this School Boy's hero. For did he not, as Master of the Shannon, challenge the American Ship Chesapeake in their waters, successfully boarding her in a matter of minutes. Then, looking to fewer spectacular events, yet nevertheless "worthy," on no account should the Hookers of Halesworth be forgotten. For are we not indebted to them for founding Kew Gardens and giving a lead to botanical research throughout Europe. Moreover, did they not bring back from the Himalayas the Rhododendrons, Magnolias and Orchids, which have contributed so much to the gay of our gardens.

Lastly, as regards the Arts, Suffolk has every right to be proud of Constable, Gainsborough and Munnings, whose work will live forever. Then in the musical world, we have the great Benjamin Britten whose musical compositions and festivals (Aldeburgh) are known throughout the civilised world. And this reminds me has not Aldeburgh produced another "worthy". I allude to that remarkable woman, Elizabeth Grant Anderson, the first woman Doctor.

May I finally suggest that some forms of public recognition of our "Suffolk Worthies" over the centuries is long overdue. May be this could best take the form of an artistic scroll, done by a local artist. If opened to our Art Schools, this should create considerable local interest. Moreover, such a scroll, if hung in some convenient public place would not only be of interest to visitors, but would serve as a constant reminder, to future generation, of those natives worthy of recollection, admiration and mutation.

Parish Council:

Mendlesham Playingfields

Our plans to open the MUGA and WSA areas have been thwarted! Both of these areas have to close during current National Lockdown guidance.

Parish Council:

Play equipment areas.

We are legally able to keep the childrens play equipment areas open but this is on the basis that those using it comply with the current guidelines re social distancing, follow good hygiene practises and do so at their own risk regarding Covid. So please use sensibly and in accordance with the guidelines as the last thing we want to do is close these areas.

Parish Council:

Mendlesham Litter, Litter bins and Dog Poo.

Please be aware that the litter bins around Mendlesham village centre are currently being emptied by volunteers. The litter bins seem to be mainly used for dog poo, despite dedicated dog poo bins located nearby. Whilst litter bins are able to legally be used for this, it would be very much appreciated if dog owners could either use the dedicated dog poo bins provided or take the dog poo home. Thank you.

DISCLAIMER

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Parish Council:

Mendlesham Community Centre

Please note during National Lockdown or until further notice, the Community Centre is closed.

Whilst we appreciate that the next couple of issues of this newsletter will be electronic rather than paper based, please see the E News published on 12th January as follows. We appreciate the 20th January may have passed before you are able to read this month's edition of the newsletter, but please still let us have your thoughts.

As some of you will already know Mendlesham has been selected as a possible site for the Government's new policy of extending Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision in the country and ideally for these units to be attached to existing schools. These new provisions are due to be opened in September 2021.

The site of Mendlesham Primary School is currently owned by Suffolk County Council (SCC). The main hall in the Community Centre is jointly owned by SCC and Mendlesham Community Centre Charity (MCCC), currently Mendlesham Parish Council (MPC) is the Trustee to the Charity. The small hall is owned entirely by MCCC.

To take the SEND Unit opportunity further SCC and the Trust that manages the school, the John Milton Academy Trust (JMAT) would like to purchase from MCCC it's part of the main hall, the small hall, the car park and some of the land adjoining.

Clearly there is a far-reaching decision to be made and time is limited. The following are the main issues to be considered: -

- The independent valuations that SCC and MCCC have obtained are significantly different. The amount quoted for MCCC would still fall far short of the cost of a new build which would be needed to ensure that parishioners continue to enjoy the current facilities that are available. The building of a new facility would be a massive task and not one to be taken on lightly.

Continued on page 12.....

- Another option would be for SCC to purchase the main hall, shower block, main hall toilets, lobby and bar area only, with MCCC keeping the small hall with the options of then extending its facilities. This is currently being considered by SCC and JMAT. The parish would be guaranteed hire facilities of the re-modelled main hall from JMAT.
- The status quo is maintained with SCC having to rethink its SEND provision options.

Mendlesham parishioners have always supported its Primary School and are proud of its achievements over the years. It would indeed be a positive development to have the SEND Unit in the village which would help to ensure that Mendlesham has a school for many years to come as providing a much needed facility for local children who have additional needs.

MPC prides itself in consulting fully with parishioners when major decisions are to be made affecting the village as was the case with the Mendlesham Neighbourhood Development Plan. Ideally MPC wanted to hold a public meeting to discuss this with parishioners but COVID-19 restrictions have made this impossible. MPC was informed last week that the decision needs to be made by 22/01/2021 which gives us very little time.

An extraordinary MCCC Meeting will be held on 20/01/2021 this matter will be fully discussed, and a decision will be made as to the next step. It would be of great value if you could forward your views to Sharon Jones, Clerk to the Parish Council, before that date and/or join the virtual meeting on the night. Sharon's contact details are:

Email: parishclerk@mendleshampc.org

Address: Mendlesham Parish Council, Honeysuckle, Hockey Hill,
Wetheringsett IP14 5PL

Telephone: 01449 766139

In case of need:

Please remember the "Home, but not alone" support, is still available Tel 0800 876 6926 . Details also found on the Mendlesham website.

Take care and stay safe.

TOTE RESULTS

Mendlesham Lottery December 2020			
12th December		26th December	
Graham Baker	£35.00	Louise Sheppard	£35.00
Tom Head	£25.00	Brian Mayes	£25.00
James Baker	£15.00	David Lambert	£15.00
Andrew Brundell	£10.00	John Player	£10.00

Thank you to all who helped Santa Claus when he paid a flying visit to Mendlesham on 13th December to cheer the children and their families - especially Stuart Larkin, Anthony & Margo Piggott, Graham Baker, Anita Scruby and Eric Bauly



Eric and Brian Bauly's Half-Century winding the Church Clock



On Saturday, 23rd Jan, Eric Bauly marked an amazing 50 years of winding the 135 year-old clock in Mendlesham church tower. It's the only public clock in the village and one of those things

people tend to take for granted, but whose chimes we would definitely miss if it were to stop.

Eric's labour of love, which began in 1971 when he was in his early twenties, involves climbing 42 steps in the tower (and, of course, down again) and although for the first 40 or so years that was once a week, in recent



years he has done it twice a week. That's because the clock loses 30 seconds a week - sometimes more depending on the weather- and he likes to set it as accurately as possible, so it is quite a commitment. Frequently he can be seen waiting with

his watch in hand to check that the chimes are spot on the hour. (The bell which is chimed by the clock hammer is the 15 hundredweight tenor bell, which dates back to 1575.)



Eric's brother, Brian has been his 'understudy' for all those 50 years when he's been unwell or on holiday etc. Eric and Brian were both presented with small tokens of thanks after the parish Mass at St Mary's on Sunday 24th January – socially distanced, of course.

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.



Film Nights



We are so sorry that at this time we are unable to run film nights –
but watch this space!

We'll be back



After Freezing Fog - Peter Wyatt

MENDLESHAM DIRECTORY

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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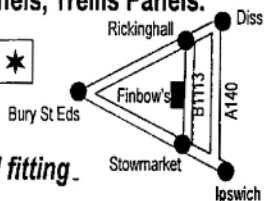
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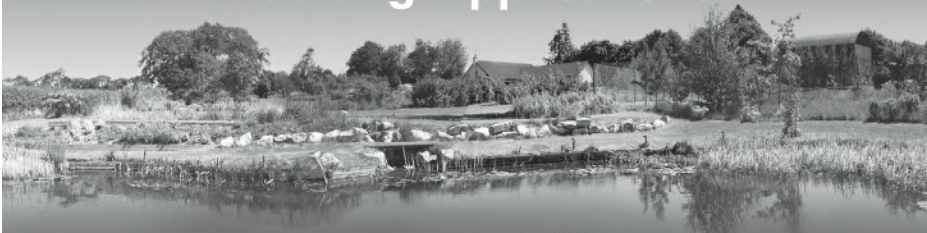
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Although not prohibited from being open for worship, the United Reformed Church, in order to protect their Ministers, lay preachers and congregations, has decided to suspend all services until further notice.

John 3: 16

"For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life. "

Dear Friends,

Over the last year things have been very different, and the way we have celebrated has had to be different too, not always being able to meet with friends or the people that we love, but we have been reminded how much we do love our loved ones. Even though we may still be apart we still can show that love, and February gives us a chance to do this.

February 14th is a day we can show how much we love someone. Many will send cards, chocolate, flowers, and gifts to show how much they love someone, all in the name of St. Valentine. But who is this mysterious saint? And why do we celebrate this holiday? The history of Valentine's Day and its patron saint is shrouded in mystery.

St. Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains a mixture of both Christian and ancient Roman traditions. So, who was Saint Valentine and how did he become associated with this ancient practice? Today, the Roman Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine all of whom were martyred. And parts of their bodies seem to be in many different Churches around the world.

One legend says that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men, his crop of potential soldiers. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death.

Other stories suggest that Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons where they were often beaten and tortured.

According to another legend, Valentine actually sent the first 'valentine' greeting himself.

continued on page 40.....

....continued from page 39

While in prison, it is believed that Valentine fell in love with a young lady who may have been his jailer's daughter who visited him during his imprisonment. Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter, which he signed 'From your Valentine,' which is how many cards are still signed today. The truth behind the Valentine legends are murky, the stories certainly emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic, and even a romantic figure, by the Middle Ages, Valentine was one of the most popular saints in England and France.

However, we view the stories of St Valentine, the stories all have the common theme of sacrifice and love running through them. This reminds us of the narrative of Christ's journey to the cross, the love of God to send his Son to be sacrificed for us on the Cross. God has intervened through out human history, and this was the greatest.

As a human race God has given us freewill to do and think what we want, but God is always there guiding and sustaining. God shows this and his Love by the sacrifice of his Son, just as St Valentine was prepared to sacrifice himself for the love of others, truly living in the way of Christ.

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Sunday 8.30am and 10.15am (at Our Lady's in Stowmarket)

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WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

Daily Mass and Morning and Evening prayer continue to be offered publicly and the church remains open for private prayer.

Sunday worship is also **LIVESTREAMED** every week at 9.30 am.

Visit <https://www.facebook.com/stmarysmendlesham/>

2nd Feb	CANDLEMASS – The day when Christ was proclaimed ‘The Light of the World’ by Simeon in the temple in Jerusalem on the occasion of his presentation there 40 days after his birth.
9th Feb	9.30: Requiem Mass – February anniversaries
17th Feb	ASH WEDNESDAY – 1 st day of Lent. 9.30: Mass Isaac Walton said, <i>“God has two dwellings – one in heaven and the other in a meek and thankful heart.”</i>



I used the following story in an address in the Autumn:

A soldier in Indonesia bought a monkey for a pet. Soon he noticed the monkey was sensitive around its waist. Taking a look, he found raised, swollen skin around the area. Gently pulling back the monkey’s hair he saw the problem: when the monkey was a baby, someone had tied wire around its middle and had never removed it. The wire was now embedded in the monkey’s flesh. That evening the soldier carefully removed it. All the while, the monkey lay still with amazing patience. As soon as the operation was over, the monkey jumped up and down, leapt onto the soldier and hugged him tightly. This is an illustration of the effects of



our sins which wound and damage us and prevent God dwelling fully in our hearts. At every Mass we pray: ***“Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.... Grant us your peace.”*** The Sacrament of Reconciliation is regularly administered here to help you find God’s great gift of reconciliation and peace.... removing that ‘wire’ of sin which binds us.

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Fr Philip Writes...

Most people have heard of Lent, which begins on 17th Feb, because of the tradition of 'giving things up for

Lent' but what is it really about?

There is a story of an elderly East Anglian man who had lived in his village all his life and had never been to London. He felt he would like to go before he died, so set off on the train. On his return he was asked how he had got on. "Wonderful place," he said, "it's all under glass." It transpired he had not got any further than Liverpool Street Station! We can be like that man in our journey of life, being content with a stage on the journey, staying at 'Liverpool Street' and missing the 'sights of the city'. It is so easy to think we have arrived when the journey goes on.



To experience God's great love we need to fulfil in our lives Michel Quoist's quote about love: **"He loves most fully who gives himself most completely."**



To experience God's love we have to commit to him and to each other. When I was a single curate I used to receive several Valentine cards and one of them had these words: **"Valentine, I would climb the highest mountain for you; I would swim the widest ocean for you....** But inside it said, **"I'll see you tonight if it doesn't rain!"** How often we treat God like that by saying things that we don't carry out. It is so easy to let the trivia of life make God an item on the agenda when it suits us, rather than for him to **be** the agenda for our life.

We should never neglect our commitment to God. Some years ago I got lost in the Norfolk countryside. There were no signposts and I had no map in the car, so I asked someone who looked 'local' the way. He said, **"Just you follow that white line!"** – and by doing that I arrived home safely. The 'white line' that we should follow in our Christian life is made up of **daily prayer, daily Bible reading** (each day's Mass readings are

printed on our weekly bulletin) and **being fed with the Bread of Life – the Body and Blood of Jesus in Holy Communion**. These are the means by which God is able to live in us, so we stay close to Him and live and share His love others.



It is a journey which goes on through life and Lent is a good time for a 'spring clean' to renew that journey afresh.

THANK YOU

- ❖ to Ralph Lambert for the wonderful tree for our church and to Ray Clements and his family of happy helpers for transporting it from Wetheringsett, setting it up and eventually dismantling it.
- ❖ to Adrian and Liz Palfrey for decorating (and undecorating) it, to Adrian for lighting the outside tree and crib and to Amy Nicholson for arranging the figures.
- ❖ to all who took part in the 'Doorstep Carols' alongside Radio Suffolk.
- ❖ to Val Arnold for her work throughout the year for Christian Aid and to Graham Baker and Anita Scruby for promoting St Martin's Housing Trust, Norwich and taking two lots of socks collected in our Sockbank to Norwich.
- ❖ to Simon Furze and Stuart Larkin for arranging the PA system for the Christmass Eve Carol Service, to Tim Mack for setting up and taking down the Football Club lights and to Hugh Percival for doing the same with the string of lights between the trees. Also to Andy Davey, Michael Rosier, Graham Baker, Anita Scruby, Andrew Fleming and Andrew & Tom Gray for stewarding on that very wet night, which was a wonderful community effort despite far fewer being able to attend because of Covid restrictions and the torrential rain.
- ❖ to Chris Elstone for livestreaming the Parish Mass each week and the extra services at Christmass.
- ❖ to the family and friends of Jim Baker who gave a total of £1,143.75 (£915 + £228.75 Gift Aid) to his collection for the Friends of St Mary's.

PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY'S MENDLESHAM - CHURCH CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 2021

Date	Church Festival	Mass	Intention (we pray especially for....)	Parish Intention
1		9.30	Ministry of Deliverance	Front Street/ Old Orchard
2	CANDLEMASS	9.30	mission of the Church	Old Market St / Braybrooke Close
3	St Blaise	9.30	all carers and healthworkers	Mill Road and Hobbies Lane
4		9.30	the sick	Chapel Road
5	St Agatha	9.30	those who are persecuted	Church Road / St Mary's Gardens
6	St Paul Miki	3.00 pm	HM Queen Elizabeth & her Government	Brockford Road
7	SEXAGESIMA - 5TH OF YEAR B	9.30	Parish and Congregation	Glebe Way
8		9.30	The Guild of All Souls	Frelands
9		9.30	the departed (Feb anniversaries)	Ducksen Road
10	St Scholastica	9.30	religious orders	Horsefair Close
11	Our Lady of Lourdes	9.30	all pilgrims	Mason Court
12		9.30	those with hearing & speech disabilities	Mayfield Way
13		3.00 pm	Communicants	Mead Way
14	QUINAGESIMA - 6TH OF YEAR B	9.30	Parish and Congregation	Old Station Rd / Cuttings Close / Schools Close
15		9.30	Additional Curates Society	Middy Close / The Sidings
16	Shrove Tuesday	9.30	all penitents	Wash Lane / Oak Farm Lane
17	ASH WEDNESDAY	9.30	our observance of Lent	Norwich Road / Bluehouse Lane
18		9.30	Society of the Holy Cross	Mendlesham Green
19		9.30	Christian Aid	Tan Office
20		3.00 pm	Bishop Norman	Outlying houses
21	LENT I	9.30	Parish and Congregation	Farms in Mendlesham
22	"CHAIR" (Bishopric) OF ST PETER	9.30	Christian Unity	Local industries
23		9.30	Walsingham	Pub, Community Centre & places of recreation
24		9.30	repentance and reconciliation	Mendlesham School
25		9.30	renewal of our prayerlife	SMF: Patrons of Mendlesham
26		9.30	peace of the world	Village Organisations
27		3.00 pm	the diocese of St Eds and Ipswich	Fr Philip
28	LENT II	9.30	Parish and Congregation	Other places of Worship

MASS TIMES MAY CHANGE BECAUSE OF GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS: PLEASE CHECK CHURCH WEBSITE AND WEEKLY BULLETIN



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