

MENDLESHAM NEWSLETTER



Issue 446

January 2021

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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

Dates for your diary		
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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 February Issue

6th January 2021

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

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 January issue. I am sure that like me you will be happy to see the back of 2020 with the sacrifices and adaptations we have had to make owing to the pandemic. Has there ever been a new year for which we have such high hopes?

If we have learned anything from this time, it is to appreciate afresh the value of friends and family. In exercising patience and precautions for a while longer, we can look forwards to hugs and social interaction during 2021.

*Best Wishes
Gemma*



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:

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, the dates will be subject to change due to room hire availability and at present will be held virtually, published on the Mendlesham website and via E News.

Wednesday 13th January 2021 Ordinary PC meeting virtual meeting via Google Meet 7pm

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

Tuesday 20th April 2021 has been provisionally agreed for the Annual Parish meeting (the opportunity for electors of the Parish of Mendlesham to meet and discuss items of interest and when our Parish Awards are presented. The 2020 meeting had to be cancelled and at present we can not hold this meeting but fingers crossed! Note this is not a Parish Council meeting.

Provisional dates for the rest of 2021 can be found on the Mendlesham website.



MENDLESHAM CAMERA CLUB



There will be no meeting in January, but we will resume with a zoom meeting on February 2nd.

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

Stay safe and Happy New Year to you all.

Mendlesham Walks



No formal January Walk

However

Subject to Covid-19 Rules

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 January 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

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 14th January.**

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.

Parish Council:

Mendlesham Playingfields MUGA and WSA area.

We completely understand the frustration, particularly from those who wish to use the WSA area but unfortunately are still unable to provide an opening date. As many of you will have seen, the last works to make the surrounding area safe and accessible for users is currently underway.

There will be a need to ensure that the new turf can “bed in” before the WSA can be opened and this is weather dependent. So whilst an opening date is still to be agreed- this will be very shortly as soon as the area is safe to use and access. Confirmation will be initially via E News and no doubt the WSA users will be very quick to note removal of the security fencing etc. In the meanwhile please do not access the areas, they are closed and not safe.

Parish Council:

John Milton Academy Trust re Mendlesham Primary School:

Please note there is currently a consultation being undertaken, 9th December to 20th January 2021 with regard to Mendlesham Primary School and the provision of a specialist unit for 18 places for key stage 2 learners with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). See www.johnmiltonacademytrust.co.uk for further information and to register your response.

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.

This has been such a difficult and unusual year, but as a community we should be very proud for all that has been achieved in extreme circumstances.

Christmas arrangements this year are different and the next few months will also continue to bring challenges, but we do have lots to look forward too.

We hope you have a very good Christmas and Happy New Year and thank you for being part of such a wonderful community.

Mendlesham Parish Council.

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*)

Suffolk Accident Rescue Service (SARS) is a voluntary emergency medical charity operational around Suffolk and its border areas. SARS volunteers are specialists in prehospital care and include anaesthetists, consultants in emergency medicine and critical care paramedics. They carry equipment and drugs not normally found on frontline ambulances and can undertake advanced procedures at the scene of an incident, which are not normally possible outside the hospital environment. These can be truly lifesaving interventions. Since 1972, SARS clinicians have helped thousands of patients and saved countless lives. SARS receives no central government funding and relies on voluntary donations to support its work.



Earlier this year SARS celebrated its 48th year of emergency medical responding across Suffolk and the East of England region. We passed this important milestone in the midst of one of the most challenging situations that we have faced in our long history. The COVID-19 outbreak has had a significant impact across the region and all our clinicians have been engaged in helping combat the virus. Once the threat of the virus became apparent, SARS took immediate steps to source additional PPE to protect the welfare of our clinicians and the patients they treat. We are very grateful to all the local councils, businesses and other groups who helped us achieve this objective.

Our second team vehicle SMED26 was launched at the start of August with the help of a grant from the HELP Appeal and the British Association of Immediate Care. The new vehicle is a Volvo XC90 and will add to our current team resource SMED20. The new rapid response vehicle is a vital bit of infrastructure which will enable us to run more team shifts, help more patients and increase the amount of coverage we are able to offer across Suffolk.



SARS is on course to respond to over 300 requests for critical care assistance across the region this year and **we have already responded to callouts in your area**. In a significant amount of these incidents we will be the first medical resource on scene, a speed of response which is vital for time-critical patients and illustrates the benefit of our locally-based critical care resources.

Our charity has traditionally run on a relatively low level of income due to the generosity and commitment of our wonderful clinicians who give up their time and provide their skills without charge. This 'donation' of time equates to many hundreds-of-thousands of pounds each year, and the benefit that SARS clinicians can bring to a patient in terms of life-saving interventions, relief from pain and quicker recovery times is immeasurable. The fact that they continue to do this even in the midst of a pandemic is not only a

testament to their bravery and commitment but also a recognition of the benefit they know they can offer these critically ill patients.

Join the SARS 999 Lottery Help save lives in and around Suffolk



Please help support our work by signing up to the SARS 999 Lottery. For as little as £1 a week you could win up to £25,000 while helping save local lives.



To sign up please visit:

<https://www.sars999.org.uk/lottery/>

Or scan the QR code, thank you!



Alternatively, please take a look at our website for more information: www.sars999.org.uk
Or you can get in touch via email admin@sars999.org.uk or phone **01359 244186**

Join us on social media - follow us, like, share or retweet.

Help raise awareness of our cause by promoting us to your social networks.

@sarshq



suffolkaccidentrescueservice



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

Part Two of Four

Stupendous changes have taken place in agriculture during the last 50 years or so, hedges had been cut down and ditches filled in. Everything has been mechanised. No longer do we hear the sound of the flail on the barn floor, threshing out the seed-corn. No longer do we see the ploughman with his horses, going into the field very early, to plough the customary three-quarters of an acre by mid-afternoon, subsisting on bread, cheese and onions and a gallon of home-brewed beer. Yes! The plough has given place to the tractor, the scythe to the combine harvester, and the muck hills to the fertilisers. And what with hedge clearance and insecticides, even the birds are scarcer and less tuneful.

What a treat it was in the olden days, to see rooks and gulls following the plough, picking up worms and grubs and to hear the larks singing overhead. But what of the future? This is hard to predict. Admittedly, owing to the increasing use of fertilisers, returns in crop per acre, have considerably increased. But, can the soil, open to the winds, and void of “muck”, stand the strain over the years! We are already hearing of surfaces being blown away, along with the newly planted seed, in early spring. Anyhow, if sale price per acre today is any criterion, then agriculture still has a promising future. For landing Suffolk, which sold at £5 per acre in the 90s (*1890s that is*), is now fetching £300.

Despite the low wages of agricultural labourers during the nineties, about 12/6 a week, they were much more content than to-day. Rents were low, about a shilling a week; coal a shilling a cwt. with faggots free; whilst the weekly grocery bill per family seldom exceeded 5 shillings a week. The relationship too between master and man was friendly each realising that agriculture, mainly due to free trade, was passing through a stingy time. For all that they were contented. Their daily work, a rest on the Sabbath, a weekly trip to the cattle market, along with an occasional outing to Yarmouth, seem to suffice them.

Although generally a lesser known County, Suffolk has generally been in the forefront when invasion threatened. Facing the “German Ocean” and the Continent have presented it with special responsibility. Even our churches, especially those with round towers, were often used as observation posts” - Martello towers were a later development. Should any reader desire to see a church porch, which was fitted out at the time of the Spanish Armada as an armoury, then have a look at St Mary’s, Mendlesham. Its excellent condition to-day is due to the Revd. Partridge and Arthur Mayfield, the village Schoolmaster, who had it restored and catalogued at the turn of the century

Thus, it has been throughout the ages, men living near the Suffolk coast, be they “Hayn’d bands”, Militiamen, Volunteers or Home Guards, have ever been ready to defend hearth and home when war threatened. Whilst the younger men were fighting overseas, their elders, armed with bows and arrows, muzzle loaded guns, rifles and machine guns, could always be relied on to defend the home front. Even as recently as World-War I, three lines of trenches were dug in East Suffolk, parallel to the coast. So well have our forefathers defended our shores, no enemy has ever set foot on them since 1066.



Stunning Dragonfly by India Wyatt

Stowmarket Wildlife Group – Suffolk Wildlife Trust



GROUP NEWS

I had hoped the pandemic would have eased so that we could enjoy a full programme of events in 2021. However, our February celebration event is now postponed until September.

As we do not know what will happen in 2021, please check the Suffolk Wildlife Trust website nearer the time to confirm that events are actually taking place.

It has been good to hear that more and more people are visiting our reserves. Hopefully there will be a greater appreciation of the benefits of wildlife and perhaps encourage a greater support for the Trust

John Thompson

Combs Wood

My early April visit confirmed that larger numbers of people were spending time in the wood for exercise and to relieve the stress of lockdown. The extra people visits lead to an increase in rubbish and a prolific number of lean-to dens, one taking two chainsaws 3 hours to remove. The temptation to set fire to such dens was too great for them to be left. A tenter was resident for a few nights, surprisingly left a relatively clean sight on departure.

Chiffchaffs, the early migrants arrival had already established seven territories. Red Admiral and Speckled Wood butterflies were the first to be seen. Later in April the Cuckoo was calling in the wood and the wildflower display was at its finest. Two Long Eared owls were seen, also a Nightingale heard singing near the pond but only stayed a few days. A Great Spotted woodpecker seen feeding young at the nest in late May

I did the dawn chorus on 5 May, enjoying forty minutes of superb bird song including a Tawny owl and Song Thrush with an appearance of a Sparrowhawk. High winds in June brought a few trees down, blocking some rides. Three young Sparrowhawks were announcing a noisy presence near their nest sight.

The first appearance of Fritillary butterflies was in July alongside 3 Purple Hairstreaks and two White Admirals. Both species I have not previously seen in the wood. Total species count was fourteen. Worth a mention was the unusual sighting of a Kingfisher darting up the centre ride. Come September the previous winter cut timber had still not been removed. It will have to remain as the wood is now too wet for vehicles. Our first volunteer work party in October saw eleven keen people on a wet day. The pond ride and the centre ride being widened to increase light levels.

Keven Boyce

Bonny Wood

We are just restarting volunteer work parties in Bonny Wood and will ensure that everyone is kept safe and that we fully comply with Covid-19 regulations applying at the time.

Dates as follows – Sundays - 10 January, 14 February, 14 March, 11 April

Work parties take place between 9am and 1pm. We will meet at the old fire next to the track just past the chicken farm, not Barking village hall for the time being. Please ring me on 07716 386911 if you are not sure where this is.

Peter Holborn

Summer in the heart of Suffolk

Our spectacular summer seemed to end so suddenly. Looking back the wonderful weather does seem to have helped much of our wildlife. Combs, Little Finborough and Battsiford had a smattering of surprises, as well as the expected summer shows.

The prolonged periods without rain were problematical for gardeners, but insects appeared to thrive. The gardens were filled with the soothing hum of bees and hoverflies. The number of butterflies was good throughout the summer, with more Speckled Woods than in recent years. The colony of Small Heaths produced a second hatching in August; fewer were apparent than the earlier generation, but that may just be dependent on the weather and observation times. Ladybirds seem to have done well. Our native Two Spot and Seven Spot species were well represented as well as other native and non-native species including the invading harlequins. Many will have noticed that it was as good year for wasps, or a bad one depending on your view.

Linnet and Yellowhammer numbers in the area have increased, although sadly there seemed fewer Turtle Doves than usual. An unexpected visitor was a Lesser Whitethroat. One was seen in Jockey's Lane early in the summer, and another later in the year. Let's hope they liked the area, bred and come back next year. The Swallows bred quite successfully, with good numbers of adults and juveniles lining up on the wires in preparation for their long migration. Chiffchaffs and the tit species have also fledged in large numbers.

Wildflowers too performed well in the summer sunshine. Several of the orchids in Little Finborough churchyard, had particularly fine flowering spikes.

In October, several Fieldfares were in the fields in Combs and Battsiford, and a few were seen flying over Little Finborough. There were reports of large numbers of Redwings on the Suffolk coast too. On trips out, many of the winter visiting ducks were already to be seen, with the drakes in their breeding finery.

Winter will bring different things to see as the natural world continues to uplift our spirits.

Ken Mudd

CONTACT

John Thompson - 01449 676471 - swtstowmarket@gmail.com

TOTE RESULTS

Mendlesham Lottery November 2020			
31st October		14th November	
Catherine Bowyer	£35.00	Linda Geyman	£35.00
Christine Barker	£25.00	Donna Brown	£25.00
Cliff Jones	£15.00	Annette Taylor	£15.00
Michael Flynn	£10.00	Sue Leeding	£10.00
28th November			
Julie Denny	£35.00		
Richard Ince	£25.00		
Brian Muskett	£15.00		
Seline Cunning	£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.

Parish Council:

Mendlesham Community Centre

Please note only the Small Hall is currently available to hire our regular community groups, albeit in very restricted circumstances.

Please contact Sharon via 01449 766139 email

communitycentre@mendleshampc.org for any booking enquiries.

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 –

elizabethhevens81@hotmail.com

<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

The Recipe for a Happy Marriage

Ingredients

2 cups of consideration

1 cup of courtesy

1 cups of flattery carefully concealed

2 cups of human kindness

1 gallon of faith and trust in each other

2 cups of praise

1 small pinch of in-laws

1 reasonable budget

1 cup of contentment

A generous dash of cooperation

1 cup each of confidence and encouragement

1 large or several small hobbies

1 huge cup of blindness to the other's faults.

Procedure

Flavour with frequent portions of recreation and a dash of happy memories. Stir well and remove any specks of jealousy, temper or criticism. Sweeten well with generous portions of love and keep warm with a steady flame of devotion.



Stowmarket Wildlife Group – Suffolk Wildlife Trust

GROUP NEWS

We had to cancel all our planned meetings to help to prevent the spread of Covid-19. We have planned meetings for 2021. We hope that circumstances will allow us to meet again, so we can share and enjoy our enthusiasm for the natural world around us.

25 November 2020 was the 15th anniversary of the establishing of the Stowmarket Group. We had planned to celebrate then, but have rescheduled the celebration in 2021.

PLANNED EVENTS FOR 2021

Wednesday 28 April - Hedgerows, herbs and medicines -Martin Sanford

Saturday 15 May - Tales of the river bank - Stowmarket river walk. To be confirmed

Wednesday 30 June - Wasps - Hawk Honey

Wednesday 22 September - Celebration 15

Wednesday 27 October - Bugs on the move - Ian Bedford

Wednesday 24 November - British owls - Zoe Smith

All talks held are held at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Stowupland, IP14 4BQ

As we do not know what will happen in 2021, please check the Suffolk Wildlife Trust website nearer the time to confirm that events are actually taking place.

CONTACT

John Thompson - 01449 676471 - swtstowmarket@gmail.com

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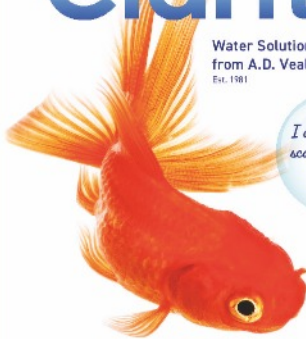
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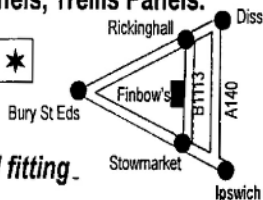
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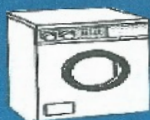
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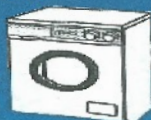
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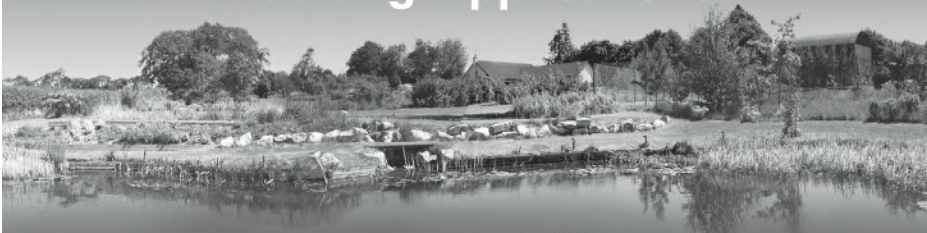
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3rd 4.00pm Rev'd Robert Sheard
10th 10.45am Rev'd Norman Tharby
24th 10.45am Mr Keith Scarff

Psalm 130: 5

I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope.

Dear Friends

At this time of year, we often look back and may be glad to see the end of the old year, and look forward to the New Year with hope and a feeling that things will be different and better, but this time it all seems a little different. We still seem to be in limbo, with the New Year starting as the old one finishes with restrictions still in place of what we can or cannot do because of Covid 19.

Hopefully, as you read this, the vaccine for Covid 19 is starting to be given to people, but it will still be a while before we are doing all the things we used to do. As a Christian I can take heart in Psalm 150: verse 5 that there is hope as the psalmist said, that if we wait on the Lord things will get better. It is in God's time and not ours, that we wait and God is doing marvellous things. He has worked through the scientists to bring us the vaccines. He has worked through our doctors and nurses and other health care professionals to bring us care, God has also worked through others who have supported us in many different ways. Because of all that, even when we are in the darkest of places we can look forward with hope.

Even though at the moment things may not seem to be getting any better there is hope that it will, and we will move on past this year and it will become a distant memory, and hope will turn into all that we wish for ourselves and our loved ones.

Happy New Year.

Robert

*Minister, Stowmarket, Stowupland, Mendlesham, Haughley & Debenham
United Reformed Churches.*

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

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Monday - 10am

Tuesday - 6.30pm

Wednesday - 10am

Thursday - 10am

Friday - 10am

Saturday 6pm (anticipatory mass at St Mary's church Woolpit)

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

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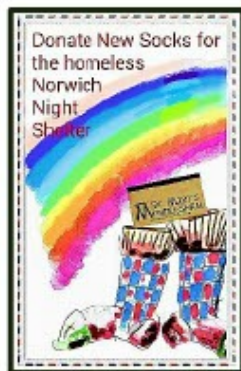
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Sunday worship now LIVESTREAMED every week at 9.30.
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3 rd Jan	EPIPHANY 9.30: Parish Mass & blessing of Epiphany House
10 th Jan	BAPTISM OF OUR LORD: end of Christmas tide 9.30: Parish Mass; crib & decorations removed after Mass
11 th Jan	9.30: Monthly Requiem for January Anniversaries. Season 'throughout the year' begins
18 th – 25 th Jan	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Please make this your prayer during the special week: <i>"May the unity of the Church be formed by love and understanding. Gather us together through the gift of the Holy Spirit."</i>

SOCKBANK – Please donate socks for the homeless in Norwich: collecting box in church

CRIB APPEAL is for Christian Aid and St Martin's Housing Trust (for the homeless 'Norwich Night Shelter'). Please give generously. Both end on 10th Jan.



THANK YOU to ERIC – HALF A CENTURY!

Eric Bauly will have wound the clock for 50 years this month, climbing the stairway in the tower twice a week, whatever the weather. Thank you very much Eric, for your dedication for half a century and the great care you pay to keeping the clock's time accurate.

LOOKING BACK

- ❖ Thank you to Carl, the supervisor, and all members of the Community Payback for their hard work over the past few months in the churchyard. During the first lockdown it had become very overgrown, but thanks to their hard work it is now immaculate.
- ❖ Thank you to Chris, our churchwarden, for livestreaming the Sunday Mass each week since Remembrance Sunday on the newly set-up Facebook page. It is much appreciated.

Fr Philip Writes...

The Christmass season in the Church concludes on 10th January with what is called 'Epiphany' – the 'showing', 'revealing' or 'manifestation' of Christ –

first to the Wise Men. The 'stable' of the crib is transformed to look like a house. The visit of the wise men was some time after the birth of Jesus; certainly more than 40 days, because when Christ was presented in the Temple 40 days after his birth, Mary and Joseph gave the offering of poor people, which would not have been the case if they had received the gift of gold from the wise men. We need also to recall that Herod had all boys killed up to the age of 2 – another indication that Christ's birth could have been as long ago as two years.



Because the Bible specifically states the wise men went to the house (not a stable), it has become a custom to bless chalk at this time and mark our own homes to help us remember to be God-bearers like Mary, to those around us. The custom is to mark with blessed chalk near the main doorway of your home with the traditional initials of the wise men, whose names were given in the 6th Century:

C for Caspar, who brought the gift of incense, a symbol of prayer and priesthood;

M for Melchior who brought gold, a symbol of kingship and

B for Balthazar who offered myrrh, a symbol of death. Those letters – CMB are also the first letters of a Latin blessing –

CHRISTUS MANSIONEM BENEDICAT

-May Christ bless this house.

Christmass and Epiphany are reminders to us that we are to show Christ to those around us.



Fr Michael Hollings writes in

one of his books: *"When I worked in Southall a few years ago, there was an old lady living some distance from the church at the end of a long straight road. She was quite undistinguished except to her relatives and friends, but she was absolutely regular, winter and summer – even at the age of 80 – on Sunday morning for the 8.00 am Mass. Soon after her death I was visiting another person along her road. As I walked along I heard a loud tapping on the window. I saw an old man beckoning me. I went to the door and asked what he wanted. He said: **"That old lady down there – I've not seen her! Where is she?"** I told him she had died. **"Oh dear!"** he said, **"She was my religion."***



*I could not understand, so he explained. Each Sunday he watched her walk past, knowing she was going to Mass, and watched her walk back afterwards. They had never spoken, but as he said a second time, **"She was my religion"**.*

Fr Hollings said he related that story because, although she did not know it, that elderly woman was a Sacrament – i.e. an outward sign of God's love to that old man and a sign to him of the presence of God.

Christmass means the **Mass of Christ**; We are all called to be signs of the presence of God. People see us come to Mass and leave again. **Do they see**

God's love radiate from us? The blessing of our homes is one way we show we belong to Christ; I find several people ask me what the letters mean on my house and it gives an opportunity to explain - and hopefully show his love.

**Happy Christmaside –
Happy Epiphany – Happy New Year!**

PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY'S MENDESLESHAM - CHURCH CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 2021				
Date	Church Festival	Mass	Intention (we pray especially for....)	Parish Intention
1	MOTHERHOOD OF OUR LADY	10.00	God's Blessing on the New Year	Front Street / Old Orchard
2		3.00 pm	All pilgrims	Old Market St / Braybrooke Close
3	EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD	9.30	Parish and Congregation	Mill Road and Hobbies Lane
4		9.30	the ministry of healing	Chapel Road
5		9.30	Christian Aid	Church Road / St Mary's Gardens
6		9.30	all imprisoned in fear	Brockford Road
7		9.30	the homeless	Glebe Way
8		9.30	the sick	Freelands
9		3.00 pm	farmers and all agricultural workers	Ducksden Road
10	BAPTISM OF OUR LORD / PLOUGH SUNDAY	9.30	Parish and Congregation	Horsefair Close
11		9.30	the departed: January anniversaries	Mason Court
12		9.30	the ministry of deliverance	Mayfield Way
13	St Hilary	9.30	covid-19 sufferers	Mead Way
14		9.30	leprosy sufferers	Old Station Rd / Cuttings Close / Schools Close
15		9.30	forgiveness and reconciliation	Middy Close / The Sidings
16	St Fursey	3.00 pm	the Church in East Anglia	Wash Lane / Oak Farm Lane
17	2nd Sunday of Year (B)	9.30	Parish and Congregation	Norwich Road / Bluehouse Lane
18	CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK	9.30	Christian unity	Mendlesham Green
19		9.30	Christian unity	Tan Office
20	St Sebastian	9.30	Christian unity	Outlying houses
21	St Agnes	9.30	Christian unity	Farms in Mendlesham
22	St Vincent	9.30	Christian unity	Local industries
23		3.00 pm	Christian unity	Pub, Community Centre & places of recreation
24	3rd Sunday of Year (B)	9.30	Parish and Congregation	Mendlesham School
25	CONVERSION OF ST PAUL	9.30	Christian unity	SMF: Patrons of Mendlesham
26	Ss Timothy and Titus	9.30	all who study the scriptures	Village Organisations
27		9.30	The Guild of All Souls	Fr Philip
28	St Thomas Aquinas	9.30	all ordinands	Other places of Worship
29		9.30	peace of the world	PCC, Parish and Community Councils
30		3.00 pm	all seafarers	Local Doctors and Nurses
31	SEPTUAGESIMA: 4th of Year (B)	9.30	Parish and Congregation	Neighbouring parishes

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



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