

MENDLESHAM NEWSLETTER



Issue 452

July 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

Paper Copies of Articles to:

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

**Deadline for August Issue
6th July 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

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7th	WI Knit Stitch & Yarn	14
9th	50/50 Shop Open	4
10th	Mendlesham Walking Group	8
13th	50/50 Shop Open	4
14th	Parish Council Meeting	2
16th	50/50 Shop Open	4
20th	50/50 Shop Open	4
23rd	50/50 Shop Open	4
27th	50/50 Shop Open	4
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30th	50/50 Shop Open	4

Editorial

Welcome to the July issue. What wonderful weather we have enjoyed over the last few weeks to lift our spirits. Birdsong and hungry fledglings have filled the air. Gardens and hedgerows have burst with colour. After the past year I think that most of us are longing to return to socialising with our friends in shared interests but there are significant barriers to picking up where we left off. The community has a lot of rethinking to do in order to move forwards and it would help enormously if you could complete and forward the enclosed questionnaire, details on page 3, so that everyone's views are considered.

Best Wishes & Thanks 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:

Please note during the Covid Emergency numbers attending the meeting are currently limited and additional precautions are in place to keep everyone safe. Please contact the Parish Clerk in advance of the meeting if you wish to attend to discuss further. Tel 01449 766139

Wednesday 14th July 2021 Ordinary Parish Council meeting Old School Room, Mendlesham 7pm.

Wednesday 11th August 2021 Ordinary Parish Council meeting Old School Room, Mendlesham 7pm.

Help shape the future of Mendlesham Community Council

Over the years thousands of pounds have been raised to support the community of Mendlesham and Mendlesham Green. As we come out of a very difficult 18 months, we need your help.

Please complete the enclosed Questionnaire

Return to the Box in Village Shop or
Mill Lodge Beehive Letter box (IP14 5RB)

OR

Google Mendlesham Community Council which will take you to the
Parish Council Website and follow the link

OR

Visit 'Spotted in Mendlesham' or 'Mendlesham Green Residence'
Facebook page
and follow the link.

The consultation is open until 1 August

Results will be discussed at the Annual General Meeting in
September

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 1st July & 29th July**

MENDLESHAM 50/50 SHOP



FIND US ON
FACEBOOK

Fully stocked with spring/summer clothing for all the family

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

Parish Council:

Mendlesham Village Sign:

The sign in Old Market Street is in need of some love and care. The Parish Council have been in contact with the original manufacturers and have accepted a quote for the actual sign to be rejuvenated. This may not happen until next year, but please note arrangements have been made. We are also aware the base also needs attention and will sort this when the sign is away.

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.



MENDLESHAM CAMERA CLUB



The next meeting will be on Tuesday 6th July - if on zoom at 1900 hours and last about an hour. Keep an eye on the web page to check if we can meet face to face in the Old School Room. Following on the June presentation, our photo theme for July is minimalism - we submit the photos to a Dropbox, these will be displayed and discussed. In the second part of the meeting Alan's presentation will be ideas for postcards.

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

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*)

Litter Pickers

A HUGE thank you to all those people who, without being asked, simply litter pick! Let's hope more people will take their rubbish home and put in their own bins – for the beauty of our countryside, the wild life and for those lovely people who bend and stretch to collect litter when out walking. Judith

Parish Council:

More Trees, hedges and wildflowers:

Further to the E News and May paper newsletter, thank you to those of you who have contacted us with ideas, locations or to help, to take advantage of the MSDC project to offer free plants and assistance.

The response has been extremely positive thank you. Since then, there seem to be many other projects to achieve the same ethos of more trees and an improved environment for us all.

As mentioned previously , this is not a project the Parish Council can take on at present due to our first priority to build a new village hall, assuming the sale of Mendlesham Community Centre happens as planned.

However Cllrs Mike Exley and Denise Foster have offered to coordinate this project further in a personal capacity. This was very gratefully accepted with thanks by Mendlesham Parish Council at its meeting of 9th June.

Mike and Denise now plan to contact everyone who has submitted ideas to discuss each project in detail and establish solutions wherever possible. However if you need to speak to them, please contact them by telephone or email (copying them both into the email please)

Mike Exley tel: 01449 766246 email mjexley47@gmail.com

Denise Foster tel: 01449 768978 email mpc@fostermail.co.uk

Proud to be in our Parish

We met in the queue at the Mobile Eco Friendly Fill Up Shop parked just opposite the Playing Fields. (www.chooserefills.co.uk it arrives on the first Thursday of the month). While chatting we realised that many years ago we had been walking together with a group of mutual friends. It was good to catch up.

Judy Wild has lived in the parish since 1974 living in 3 different houses in Mendlesham and one in Mendlesham Green – she clearly likes it here! She grew up in Suffolk, going to school in Waldringfield and Kesgrave and eventually became a teacher. Bringing up 3 children and now enjoying 5 grandchildren. The parenting classes that she used to teach towards the end of her career has come in very useful!

Judy recalls being Chairman of the Playgroup Group Committee and Parent Governor of the Primary School before the current school opened in 1986, using the old village hall that has now long gone and ‘new’ houses built on the site. Along with village friends (of whom she is still in touch with) she formed a Keep Fit Club and ran a Whole Food Shop from her house in Front Street, even making house deliveries and having a stall at the annual Street Fair.

As we chatted we both agreed that Mendlesham and the surrounding area is one of the best places to live. The community friendliness and support has not changed during the years. Time has not stood still and things move on. We now have a busy village shop, the school is expanding and new folk have joined the community. We might not have a Keep Fit Club but we do have Pilates Classes in the Community Centre Main School Hall (<https://larapepper.com>) and a Walking Group. Judy enjoys the Mendlesham Book Club and looks forward to the return of the Street Fair next year.

Thank you, Judy, for helping to make Mendlesham Parish a place to be proud of.

If you would like to feature someone you know who is proud to be in our parish, let me know. Judith@milllodge.co.uk or give me a ring on 01449 766327 or Text/WhatsApp on 07770 746619

Mendlesham Walking Group

Saturday 10 July 2021

Meet at

Community Centre Car Park 10.30am

2 hour walk within the Parish

AND

Walking on a Wednesday

Shorter, slower walks of about 1 hour to help get back
into the swing of it

Wednesday 7 July 2021

Meet at

Community Centre Car Park 10.30am

Come and join us!

Stay safe and keep walking!



Contact Judith on 07770 746619 or email mendleshamwalks@gmail.com

To added to the Email Circulation List or for more information

See Mendlesham Parish Website for further information about local walks

<http://mendlesham.suffolk.cloud/clubs-and-organisations>

Select 'Walking Group' or just Google 'Mendlesham Walks'

New to the village

They met on a Dating Site (www.match.com) and fell in love. An opportunity to beginning a new chapter after one losing their long term partner to illness and the other following a divorce. What made Linda and Chris Marriot move to Mendlesham? “We wanted to live in a village that was pretty, friendly, had a Health Centre, a Pub and a sense of community, and Mendlesham ticked all the boxes” Linda replied without any hesitation.

They moved into a brand new bungalow in 2018 and have no regrets. Born in Ely but living most of her life in Suffolk with a little dalliance to Essex, she wanted to return to the area and Chris, her ‘Essex Man’ was happy to take on a new county. As for many people whose husbands or wives fall terminally ill, caring for them and living your own life can be tough but as Linda says “Life is what it is and I have been fortunate to find myself and can hold on to many fond memories”.

Linda used to work in Child Care and in later years ran a pub. She has two daughters and 3 grandchildren with relatives in the USA, as her father was an American. Chris worked in London and has three children and six grandchildren. All the grandchildren were page boys and bridesmaids at their wedding and took seats on the top table.

“Coming to the village has opened up opportunities for new friendships and interests” she said. Having joined the Art Group (run by Irene Hart <https://www.irenehart.co.uk>) when Covid restrictions ‘stopped play’, she became part of the WhatsApp art group, consolidating those new friendships. As the restrictions lifted, meeting up for coffee on patios and back gardens was an added bonus. Even more so when her washing machine broke down and the parts took 4 weeks to arrive, she found that touting her washing around to friends increased her schedule of coffee mornings and chats!

The best thing about coming here? Having the availability of a Post Office during Lockdown and receiving the Mendlesham Community Council Welcome Letter during her first weeks of moving in.

If you know someone that has just moved in and would like to give them a warm welcome, visit the Parish Website (<https://mendlesham.suffolk.cloud/clubs-and-organisations/community-council>) and click on **Welcome Letter**, print out and pop through the letter box..... and maybe with a back copy of the Mendlesham Newsletter?

To feature someone you know who is new to our villages and would like a mention, contact me at Judith@milllodge.co.uk or give me a ring on 01449 766327 or Text/WhatsApp on 07770 746619

Church Goers and Chapel Goers (Mendlesham) by Walter Tye (1950s)

Continued from page 13 in the June newsletter

Thus, from morning to night, they moved in an atmosphere of restriction, the meals being the only break. Then, when the long winter evenings came, and church attendance was impossible, the family gathered round the fire singing hymns. This, being informal, was the most enjoyable part of the day. As a special treat, we were often allowed to choose our favourite hymns. It was a relief on Monday to don the weekday clothes.

I well remember one Sunday afternoon when my older brothers, for a change, played “hare and hounds” over a hedge, ditch and row. This, of course, met with strong disapproval from our parents. When returning home, looking dirty and dishevelled, we were met by a visiting aunt who, with arms raised, upbraided them for breaking the sabbath. Finally calling out, “You ought to be ashamed of yourselves, you wicked boys, you’ll all come to the gallows”. I’m glad to say that Aunt Sally’s prognostications did not come true. In fact, one of those “wicked boys” later, entered Holy Orders.

Every sabbath morning families could be seen making their way to church or chapel, mostly by road, others by devious foot paths and green lanes. Some carried little bags of food to stay the day. Elderly farmers, with their families, drove down in pony traps. Younger folks walked, saying that even horses needed a rest one day in seven. Should a penny farthing cycle, pedestrians soon called out, you ought to be ashamed of yourself, kicking up so much dust on the Sunday. Right when he wants of Sainsbury to do it now. Yeah, sooner or To avoid being soiled by passing traffic, older folks, proud of their Sunday clothes, often clambered into the hedgerows.

The most spectacular figure seen in this weekly procession was a smallholder from “The Green”, old Charlie Buckle always turned up on his donkey. With his long black coat, tall silk hat, flowing scarf and beard, he much resembled an Eastern patriarch. Unfortunately, Ned had a habit of shying at passers-by. Charles was most upset when Ned broke the ranks of the vicarage ladies, mother and six tall daughters. The more he tried to avoid them, the more that stubborn old ass pushed his hindquarters amongst them, much to the amusement of onlookers. Ned obviously had no sense of class distinction and preferential treatment.

For some minutes before St Mary’s services began the village folk gathered round the church gates, talking over the latest news, and incidentally casting an eye on the elite as they passed by. Not until the vicarage, doctors and farmers’ families had taken their seats did the lower orders ever think of entering the church. And not until the bell ceased tolling and strains of the organ came over the air, with that critical little crowd remove their hats and move slowly, but reverently, toward the northern porch, eventually taking their customary seats at the back of the church.

To be continued in the August newsletter....

Christian Aid Week in Mendlesham 2021

THANK YOU

Even though we couldn't have a house-to-house collection for Christian Aid this year and the URC could not hold a coffee morning, a magnificent £932.80 was donated on the online JustGiving page and in the churn in St Mary's and another £174.30 raised in Gift Aid, making a total of **£1074.10**.

Thank you to all who gave so generously to those in the world who are so less fortunate than we are and thank you to Val Arnold for organising it.



You can now download a free app on your phone, called 'Stowmarket Foodbank'

- **If you are in need**, it directs you how to find help;
- **For those able to give**, it lists the items wanted most urgently each week.
- **Thank you** to all who donate food, toiletries and essential items for families in the area who are in crisis. The red collecting boxes in St Mary's Church are emptied regularly.



THANK YOU

to everyone who donated bedding or clothing in May for the homeless people cared for by St Martin's. Thanks to Graham and Anita for taking it to Norwich, where it was gratefully received.

THE REFILL REVOLUTION

As a nation we are getting better at recycling and are becoming more aware of plastic waste and the effects it has on our planet but there is still a long way to go and single use plastics is something we can all reduce in our daily lives without too much effort.

Choose Refills are a new Stowmarket based mobile eco refill shop offering a range of eco friendly and vegan cleaning liquids and hair and body products. We also have our own range of natural self care products such as soap bars, hand lotions and more liquid refills that are locally made in Stowmarket, helping to support local producers too.

Refilling your empty bottles is becoming more popular but refill stations tend to be in the larger towns. We wanted to make it easier for everyone to refill so our mobile shop is making regular stops in smaller villages throughout Mid Suffolk, bringing the refill revolution to rural areas. Working with local communities we have regular refill shop locations giving customers the opportunity to bring their bottles along to be refilled from our bulk containers. Once these are empty we send them back to our suppliers to be cleaned, refilled and reused, ensuring the closed loop system of recycling.

So, after much planning and Covid delays, *Choose Refills* first rural pop up shop was held on Saturday 1st May at The Punchbowl Community Inn, Battisford which was very successful and in the space of two hours, we refilled over 45L of liquids, saving at least 60 single use plastic bottles. We are constantly striving to make our service available to all so have introduced free local delivery and doorstep refills as well as a click and collect service from our pop up shops.

Together we really can make a difference!

Visit our website www.chooserefills.co.uk for more information about our locations or follow us on facebook for the latest updates.



TOTE RESULTS

Mendlesham Lottery May 2021			
15th May		29th May	
Heken Orton	£35.00	Melania Handfield	£35.00
Roger Palmer	£25.00	Barry Bemmings	£25.00
Sian Williams	£15.00	Friends of St Mary's	£15.00
Sue Arbon	£10.00	David Howlett	£10.00

Parish Council:

Audits and Year end accounts 31.3.21

Mendlesham Parish Council

Mendlesham Community Centre Charity

Mendlesham Memorial Playingfields Charity

It's that time of the year again! The financial accounts and supporting documents for the Parish Council and the two charities for which the Parish Council is a sole trustee have been subject to an internal audit with the subsequent reports received, with no actions required.

The Parish Council now have to submit the required documents to our external auditor for a further audit to occur with an outcome expected in September.

All documents for this process will be available for you to view on the Mendlesham website as received or confirmed. Please see the pages relating to each organisation at

<https://mendlesham.suffolk.cloud/mendlesham-parish-council/>.

Please also note from 14 June - 23 July 2021 inclusive, any person interested is able to exercise their rights to inspect the accounts on reasonable notice by application to the Parish Clerk. (Further information on the website and parish notice boards).

WI continues to meet via zoom – our knit, stitch and yarn group ‘yarned’ last week (2nd June) and may, just may be able to meet face to face on July 7th in the Old School Room from 10.30am. It will be lovely to see everyone again – and enjoy a cup of coffee and slice of cake together, and of course some knitting and stitching. As the future ‘rules’ unfold we will keep in touch by email of the plans.

The zoom meetings are not so well attended of late, 15 logging in to the full May meeting. After discussion of some business, Murray Dale was introduced. Murray, sitting in Exeter, is a voluntary speaker for WaterAid with experience of working Africa. We so take clean water from the tap for granted and it is understandable that the lack of accessible water leads to poor hygiene. Murray certainly gave us plenty to think about with his slides and telling us of the need to provide low cost and cost effective methods of harvesting water.

The June meeting will be on zoom and then we hope to meet face to face in the U.R.C. from July, maybe, weather and legislation permitting, we can meet outside on the Playing Field one afternoon in late June. Time will tell! Again updates will be circulated of times and venues.

It is still proposed to have a competition for the knitted dog coat at our August meeting. The dog coats will be donated to charity for homeless dogs. The pattern was in our 2020 schedule; if you need a copy please talk to Shirley.

We continue to be grateful to Giles for facilitating our zoom meetings.

If you are a member or a prospective member who would like to be included please contact president Anita (766902) for the link into the meeting. You will be welcome.

It's back!!
MENDLESHAM'S BEST REAL ALE
ASSUMPTION CELEBRATION EDITION 2021



Mendlesham's Best will be back this year. The 11th limited edition, brewed by Earl Soham Brewery using locally grown barley, English hops and traditional brewing techniques will be sold in aid of St Mary's Mendlesham Church Funds.

You can order in advance on:

- **St Mary's Facebook page:**
<https://www.facebook.com/stmarysmendlesham>
- **St Mary's church website:**
www.stmarysmendlesham.org.uk – see the **Festival** page, or
- **on the list at St Mary's Church.**

Prices:

Bottles: £3, Pack of 12: £36

Payment on collection

Ready at the Summer Festival - 13th August

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

Parish Council:

Mendlesham Community Council:

Mendlesham Parish Council is aware that the future of Mendlesham Community Council is in question further to three Honorary Officers and two further members indicating a wish to stand down from their roles at the next AGM 27th September 2021.

Over the years, the Community Council has provided significant amounts of money which have benefitted organisations, parish projects etc. In addition they have provided community events such as Fireworks, Harvest Supper, Street Fayre that have also brought the community together, encouraging community spirit and well being, thus contributing towards our vibrant community. Every parish resident will have benefitted from their work, even if you do not realise it.

They are currently conducting a Survey Questionnaire within the community. Please complete it and seriously consider if you can volunteer to help ensure this valuable organisation continues.

Thank you.



Church Road, Stowupland IP14 4BQ

**Stowupland Sports & Social Club are
looking to employ: -**



PART TIME BAR MANAGER

Experience of working in a bar and customer service at supervisory level

The role will consist of working some evenings and weekends

Punctual trustworthy & reliable

Responsible of stock control

Organise staff rota & cover

Maintenance requirements, hygiene & cleanliness of bar & cellar area

Is aware of licence legislation and ensures he/she and staff adhere to it

Attend monthly evening committee meetings

BAR STAFF

Looking for bar staff to work in the Village Hall on a casual basis.

You will be available to work Friday and Saturday evenings from

6.30 – midnight when a bar is booked for a function

Bar experience would be useful but not essential

Punctual, trustworthy and reliable

If you are interested and believe you have the appropriate skills please

Contact: - Mark Dye, Vice Chairman Sports and Social Club
markdye18@hotmail.co.uk

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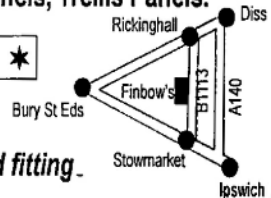
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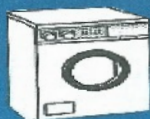
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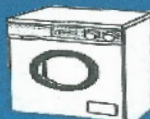
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11th 10.45am Mr Michael Topple

25th 10.45am Rev'd David Atkins

John 14: 4-6

⁴ You know the way that leads to the place where I am going." ⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going; so how can we know the way to get there?" ⁶ Jesus answered him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one goes to the Father except by me.

Dear Friends

Even though I've been here for a year, I have to admit that I still don't know my way around the area. Of course, this is due to the pandemic and not being able to get out and about, so when I come to a sign in the road saying road closed, follow diversions, it worries me a little bit. Does it mean that the way that I need to go is barred, or does it mean that it is further up the road, and I can take the risk and carry on with my usual journey?

This happened to me the other day, when I was going to take a service at our Mendlesham Chapel. The route I usually take said road closure, follow diversions, but it was not clear where the diversions were going, so I took the risk of continuing on my usual route, and hoping that I would get to the turning that I needed before the road I needed was closed, so you could say I went forward in faith. As I drove along the road I kept seeing more road closure signs, eventually I got to the road where I needed to turn off, and just after that turning I saw yet another sign, it made me think that if I had followed the diversions, where would I have ended up, nowhere near where I needed to be!!!

Continued on page 40.....

....continued from page 39

This is how life is, especially the Christian life. We all have roads that we travel on, sometimes they are planned, and other times we just let the road take us where it goes. As we travel, we can come across diversions, sometimes things or people block our way, or at other times it may be God leading us down a new road, to something different and exciting, but we have to put our trust in him because he knows where he wants us to go. Our roads will lead us in many directions, and some may not be in the way we want to go but if we dare to walk them, it will give us an interesting life and, on the way, we may get to know God better.

In the book *The Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan, we find the Story of Christian making a journey from his Home to the Celestial City, the City of God. But the Story could be about any Christians' journey through life. So, I would like to leave you with these words of Christian's which reminds us how ever hard life's Journey gets, its always worth pressing on with.

"I was climb up to the mountain,
top never mind if the path is steep,
for I know that through strife leads the way to life,
and the way-farer must not weep.
So courage my heart, don't faint, don't fear
Though the rough rock makes the way slow,
The easy track only leads me back,
up and on is the way I must go soon."

His progress was slow, then he went on his hands and knees because the way was very steep. But it was all worth it because, as he reaches the top, his burden falls from his back and is never see again.

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3rd July	10.00 am - First Mass of Sunday. Please note change of time
11th July	9.30 am – Parish Mass and 2 Adult Baptisms. I hope we can make this occasion a real welcome for Max and Harry
18th July	9.30 am – Parish Mass PCC meets afterwards: hopefully over a shared lunch (depending on covid restrictions)
19th July	9.30 am – Requiem Mass – July anniversaries
21st July	6.30 pm – Mass, followed by Confirmation rehearsal
22nd July	7.00 pm - Mass and Confirmation of George, Max and Harry by the Rt Revd Norman Banks, Bishop of Richborough.

We are unable to give dates of any more events owing to the uncertainty of the lifting of covid restrictions. Please consult our website and we will post updates when we have received definite guidance on the way ahead.

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More details in
Aug/Sept Newsletters

Father Philip writes...

This month I am continuing last month's theme about God's forgiveness, with thoughts based on the parable of the Prodigal Son in St Luke's Gospel, Ch 15 v 11-31, which we studied during Lent.



Some religious leaders were grumbling about Jesus, saying, "This man welcomes outcasts and even eats with them." So Jesus told them a parable:

"There was once a man who had two sons. The younger one demanded his inheritance, left home, spent all and returned broke. He was still a long way

from home when his father saw him, ran to meet him and kissed him. His father told his servants, "Put a ring n his finger and shoes on his feet.... And let us celebrate with a feast."

Kissing his son shows that the father welcomed him back totally. Putting shoes on his feet shows him that he had forgiven him totally. Shoes were a sign of a free person; bare feet the sign of a slave. Putting a ring on his son's finger shows that he restored him to full family status



The second half of Jesus' parable concerns the older son. He was angry that his father was celebrating his brother's return, even though his father begs him to do the same. Jesus ended his parable without saying what the older son eventually did. That older son stands for the religious leaders who resented



the fact that Jesus had chosen to celebrate with those who were 'lost' but had now been 'found'. Jesus constructed his parable in such a way that each religious leader must write his own ending to it. Each must decide whether or not to **'go inside and join the festivities'** or **'stay outside and sulk'**.

Jesus came for those who humbly recognise the need to change their lives. The Prodigal Son was determined to make a miserable 3-part speech as soon as he got home. He would not let his father love him or forgive him. Furthermore he decided unilaterally what his punishment should be.

The miserable speech ran like this:

1. "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you."
2. "I am convinced I am not worthy to be considered your son."
3. "I am determined that you should never accept me, but you should treat me as your slave."



God's forgiveness does not belittle sin as though it were a matter of small importance. How can it do so when it cost God-made-Man such intense suffering and his execution on the Cross? It is not God's will that we should leave our Father's home and become a prodigal. It is not God's will that we love him in a selfish way and become

narrow and hard towards 'prodigal sons', keeping them in a far country.

If the younger son on returning home had met his older brother before he met his father, it's highly likely he would never have reached home again at all. The older brother was cold. He spoke of his brother as "**your son**". He seemed to be one of those self-righteous types who would cheerfully kick someone down even further into the gutter by saying, "**He made his bed; let him lie on it!**"



He had a mind that jumped to conclusions. There is no mention of prostitutes until he brought up the subject. One gets the feeling that he accused his brother of things he would have liked to commit himself.

This parable reminds us that we can be brought to life again and found when we have lost our way. As the hymnwriter Fr Faber wrote:



**For the love of God is broader
Than the measures of man's mind;
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.**

**But we make his love too narrow
By false limits of our own;
And we magnify his strictness
With a zeal he will not own.**

I hope St Mary's is a church where all of us find a warm welcome to our Father's house

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

Date	Church Festival	Mass	Intention (we pray especially for....)	Parish Intention
1		9.30	The Guild of All Souls	Front Street / Old Orchard
2	of St Thomas	7.30 pm	all searching for faith	Old Market St / Braybrooke Close
3	ST THOMAS	10.00	mission of the Church	Mill Road and Hobbies Lane
4	14th Sunday of Year B	S.B.	Parish and congregation	Chapel Road
5		S.B.	sick children	Church Road / St Mary's Gardens
6		S.B.	Additional Curates Society	Brockford Road
7		S.B.	those recently ordained	Glebe Way
8		S.B.	those who are hungry or homeless	Freelands
9		S.B.	divided families	Ducksen Road
10		7.30 pm	all preparing for Baptism	Horsefair Close
11	15th Sunday of Year B	9.30	Parish and congregation	Mason Court
12		9.30	victims of slavery	Mayfield Way
13		9.30	persecuted Christians	Mead Way
14	St Camillus de Lellis	9.30	the sick	Old Station Rd / Cuttings Close / Schools Close
15	St Bonaventure	9.30	more occasions to Christian witness	Middy Close / The Sidings
16	Our Lady of Mount Carmel	8.00 am	all pilgrims	Wash Lane / Oak Farm Lane
17		7.30 pm	future of St Joseph's centre	Norwich Road / Bluehouse Lane
18	16th Sunday of Year B	9.30	Parish and congregation	Mendlesham Green
19		9.30	the departed - July anniversaries	Tan Office
20		9.30	refugees	Outlying houses
21		6.30 pm	Walsingham	Farms in Mendlesham
22	ST MARY MAGDALENE	7.00 pm	our Confirmation candidates	Local industries
23	ST BRIDGET	9.30	the people of Europe	Pub, Community Centre & places of recreation
24		7.30 pm	Communicants	Mendlesham School
25	17th Sunday of Year B	9.30	Parish and congregation	SMF: Patrons of Mendlesham
26	Ss Joachim and Anne	9.30	all parents and grandparents	Village Organisations
27		9.30	the ministry of deliverance	Fr Philip
28		8.00 am	the furtherance of God's Kingdom	Other places of Worship
29	St Martha	9.30	the bereaved	PCC, Parish and Community Councils
30		9.30	all seeking forgiveness & reconciliation	Local Doctors and Nurses
31	St Ignatius of Loyola	7.30 pm	schools and universities	Neighbouring parishes
MASS TIMES MAY CHANGE BECAUSE OF GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS: PLEASE CHECK CHURCH WEBSITE AND WEEKLY BULLETIN				



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