

MENDLESHAM NEWSLETTER



Issue 450

May 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 June Issue
6th May 2021

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

Dates for your diary

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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 paper issue for May. I am sure that this will be good news for those with no internet connection. Do you share my feelings that we are moving forwards to a more optimistic future or is it that nature is showing us the way? Out of the winter darkness the flowers burst with colour alongside the birds and animals joyfully looking after their young. Take time to enjoy!

*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: <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 we have had to change the date of the meetings below from 12 May to 5 May. This is because at the time of writing, legally we can only meet virtually to 7th May, but then need to meet physically with whatever Covid mitigation actions will be required at that time, from 17th May. Therefore we have a gap of some ten days! Whilst we are not the only parish council with this issue and details are being sought/challenged, it is just easier for Mendlesham to bring the meetings forward. Hopefully by the next newsletter we can provide more news about physical meetings.

Wednesday 5 May 2021 virtual Annual Parish Council meeting 7pm followed by AGM's for Mendlesham Community Centre Charity and Mendlesham Memorial Playingfields Charity and Ordinary Parish Council meeting.

Wednesday 9th June 2021 Ordinary Parish Council meeting (virtual or physical location to be confirmed) 7pm.



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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 Neighbourhood Plan:

Thank you to everyone who has responded to our informal consultation for the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan. When we have reviewed and dealt with the comments, the Plan will be submitted to Mid Suffolk District Council (MSDC) for its consideration. Once approval is received from MSDC the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan can be put forward for a local referendum where all residents have the opportunity to vote for, or against, its adoption.

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 Zoom meeting will be on Tuesday
4th May at 1900 hours and last about an
hour. The photo theme for this month is for a picture or short video
taken on your phone - 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



Film Nights

We will return!



.....But not just yet.....

Sadly we do not feel that we can sensibly run film nights
this year. Our thanks to go to the team that has helped run
them in the past and I am sure will be there for the future.
Meanwhile, if you fancy borrowing a clutch of DVDs to
view at home with your family and friends (in a Covid
Secure situation!) please let us know. We will happily
deliver through your letter box.

Contact: Judith 01449 766327 or Text/WhatsApp 07770 746619 or
judith@milllodge.co.uk
or Geoff & Meg 01449 766447

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK



The climate crisis is having a devastating impact on communities in Kenya. Right now, families struggle to survive without a reliable water source. Every day, they walk further, dig deeper and build stronger to survive. Unrelenting. Determined. Join us this Christian Aid Week as we stand together

with those on the frontlines to battle coronavirus and fight for climate justice. Because of covid restrictions we are not having a house-to-house collection in Mendlesham this year, but you can either place a donation in the churn near the porch in St Mary's church or make a gift online, which will go directly to Christian Aid. Val Arnold, who volunteers as our Christian Aid rep, has set up a Just Giving page: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/mendlesham and if you are a taxpayer, you can Gift Aid your donation at no extra cost to yourself. Please think about giving a donation. Thanks.

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*)

Proud to be in our Parish

I am a member of Stowmarket U3A. <https://u3astowmarket.wordpress.com/> and have enjoyed many interesting talks and activities over the past few years and in particular the regular walks to all sorts of places.

The Pandemic has of course put pay to all the social interaction and opportunities for learning. Keeping the grey cells active, sharing interests, talents and skills and making new friends is paramount to the success of a local U3A group. And, in the past, visiting other U3A branches all over the UK is another advantage.

Keith and Lorraine Shelton are active members of the Stowmarket Branch and I want to share with you the most amazing talk Keith gave in March – on line! Yes, with the assistance of other committee members, meetings are held on line using You Tube. That in itself, to me, was an amazing feat! (Although I think during the past year we have all improved on our Social IT Skills!)

But what I really want to share with you is the content of this wonderful talk called “Record Breaking and the Unusual in Suffolk”. This link will take you straight to it.

<https://u3astowmarket.wordpress.com/> and click on Meetings and follow the link.

The research gone into creating this presentation has not only used his skills as a teacher, but highlighted so many great things about our lovely county of Suffolk. Keith and Lorraine have lived in our parish for 7 years and during that time have embraced ‘country living’ and contributed so much to our community. From helping to run Mendlesham Walks, Film Nights, managing the adverts for our newsletter and many other things behind the scenes as well as volunteering at The Mix Youth Centre and helping to run the Stowmarket U3A branch. I highly recommend to you view this You Tube talk..... And why not become a member of the Stowmarket U3A, without leaving your arm chair! (But attending meetings when we can will be just great.)

If you know someone who has made a difference to our local community, perhaps recently moved here or been here for decades – why not write an article to show how proud we are that they live in our parish? You can either submit a short article to the Newsletter Editor or let me know and I will be very happy to hear your story and write an article on your behalf. Word of warning! Make sure you ask the person you are proud of before submitting their story in print!

judith@milllodge.co.uk 01449 766327 or Text/WhatsApp 07770 746619

Completing the Mendlesham War Memorial articles from the previous online newsletters

In 1978, 4 acres of land, adjoining the Mendlesham Memorial Playing Field was bought for £6750 by the Parish Council to extend the field and in 1982 it was decided to replace the existing Village Hall in Chapel Road with a new Community Centre. In 1985, one and a half acres of the land bought in 1978, was sold to Suffolk County Council for £40000 for the purpose of building a combined school/community centre. In order to satisfy the requirements of the Charity Commission, a further 0,386 acres of land was gifted to the Village Hall Trust on which to build Mendlesham's share of the Community Centre. In 1986 the remaining 2.114 acres were sold to the Village Trust for £6500 and the proceeds of the sale used to provide facilities for the Community Centre and Playing Field.

The old village hall property was sold, the Village Hall Trust was reformed into the Mendlesham Community Centre Committee, the School and Community Centre were built and in May 1987 the Community Centre was officially opened.

In 1993 it was agreed to build a new small hall adjoining the Community Centre and in January 1995 the small hall was completed. As a result of the question '*Why doesn't the village have a memorial to the fallen in WW11*' we have found out that we commemorated the brave men of the Parish of Mendlesham who died in War with plaques, the service of district nurses, playing fields, a legacy of which they can be truly proud and which we need to keep alive by making sure the facilities are used and people are aware of their origins. If you have additional information, stories or experiences relating to this article, please tell us.

Reference

Colchester R (2018), *A Landscape and General History of the Parish of Mendlesham*, Suffolk Gipping Press.

Mendlesham Walks

It's here! It's arrived! We've made it!

Discover Suffolk Mendlesham Village Walks Leaflet

A most wonderful description of 3 circular walks around Historic Mendlesham

You can pick up a copy from our Village Shop and at the entrance to the Woodland and, very shortly, a copy will drop through your letter box.

We are also updating the webpages on the parish website where you can still access the other walk routes, find more information about walking and, when we are able, join us for walking out together again.

Our thanks go to the Mendlesham Community Council and Suffolk County Council for assisting with the production and funding of the leaflet

Enjoy the Spring and the gradual lifting of the pandemic restrictions.
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'

Friends of Debenham Library

See www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/coronavirus for the latest details

Debenham Library reopens from Tues 13 April, as do most other libraries, for browsing. Computer use and printing are now also available.

Sarah Carruthers' BFG "Scarecrow" remains at the Library (Sue standing next to him in the photo). See a video slideshow of him at https://youtu.be/2_zrOgx-Xd4 or on the Facebook page below.

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

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

Tuesday:	0930 am – 1300 pm	Wednesday :	1500 – 1800 pm*
Saturday:	0900 am – 1300 pm	Sunday:	1200 – 1600 pm

** Please note that the library will close at 6pm on Wednesdays until further notice, during the winter.*

Tel: 01728 861940 www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/visit/locations-and-times/debenham-library

Facebook: @DebenhamLibraryFriends Email: debenham.library@suffolklibraries.co.uk



Parish Council:

Quiet Lanes consultation:

Thank you to everyone who has sent comments for our Quiet Lanes consultation. There is still an opportunity to provide comments either at our virtual Annual Parish meeting on 20th April when there will also be a short presentation or to the Clerk before noon 5th May 2021.

Details of links to the meetings and agendas will be circulated via E News and on the Parish Notice Boards. Please contact the Clerk tel 01449 766139 or email: parishclerk@mendleshampc.org as required.

Parish Council:

Opportunity for more trees, hedgerow areas and wildflower areas:

Whilst we are fully aware that we have already asked for your thoughts further to the Neighbourhood Plan and Quiet Lanes project and no doubt will shortly need to contact you again re replacement hall for the current Small Hall if the proposed sale of the Community Centre goes ahead, the following news from Mid Suffolk District Council is too good to ignore.

“ At Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils we’ve created an action plan to improve and strengthen biodiversity (wildlife and plant life) in our area.

We’d love it if you, our community partners, could be part of that work too!

As a starting point we’re offering free trees and hedgerow plants, as well as asking for your help in locating areas for wildflowers....”

“...We’re offering free trees and hedgerow plants to all our parishes - regardless of whether you are planting on council, parish, church, or private land. All you need to do is let us know what you want to plant and where”

“...Increasing wildflowers in the districts is also an important part of our plan.

We’ll be doing this by changing our mowing regimes to let the grass grow longer, and overseeding with yellow rattle or wildflower mixes. We need to get the seeds sown in the Autumn this year to be sure of getting wildflower patches established for Spring 2022”

Mid Suffolk District Council

Mendlesham Parish Council will co ordinate opportunities within the parish so that an application/expressions of interest can be agreed at our Parish Council meeting on 9th June, to meet a deadline of 20th June.

Continued on page 11.....

....continued from page 10

We will be considering this opportunity for Parish Council owned land, but are also aware, in the past, different residents have indicated a wish for other communal areas within the Parish. Please also note Church land and private land can also be included.

However, this has to be a community organised project(s) as whilst the Parish Council will do its very best to help, unfortunately our resources will not stretch that far for the near future.

So if you can co ordinate, help, want to suggest an area of land and the improvements you would like to see (trees, hedges, wildflowers etc) please contact the Parish Clerk tel 01449 766139

or email: parishclerk@mendleshampc.org as required by **noon Monday 24th May** . It would be very helpful if you could contact us sooner than 24th May if at all possible, as more information may be required from you or others to complete the application form(s) to MSDC.

Please include details about the area of land available, and any indications of the age and species of trees you would like to plant (for example, this could be new hedgerows, creating orchards, or planting to fill gaps in an existing tree or hedge row line).

We understand applications for more mature tree planting on the edge of developed areas, in towns or villages or as focal points in green open space are welcome.

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 6th May**.

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.



Stowmarket U3A

Have you heard of Stowmarket U3A? This is a group for those who are retired or semi-retired who wish to get involved in educational activities combined with socialising.

When life is normal, we meet on the third Wed afternoon of the month in the URC hall Stowmarket where we listen to a talk and then share a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit. Our activity groups meet in homes or the library once or twice a month.

Obviously over this last year, it has been very difficult for our groups to meet but now with the vaccination program and hopefully the easing of restrictions, we are looking forward to having more than just a few groups running on-line.

We have recently started having an on-line talk which attracted many of our members. If you would like to access it for yourself please follow the link here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d672fbpNv8Y>

We are also planning to put up some posters to let people know something about our group. Later in the year we hope to have a picnic for our members and an open afternoon in September. Please look out for information for both, and if you are interested please contact us on through our website <https://u3astowmarket.wordpress.com/>.

Membership from September will be £15, while until 31st August it is £7.50 due to the reduced activities we can offer.

Hopefully, we will see some of you soon,
Glynis Hunt
Chair

TOTE RESULTS

Mendlesham Lottery March 2021			
6th March		20th March	
Shirley Elliston	£35.00	Margery & Marcel Rouseau	£35.00
Jan Kelly	£25.00	Louise Sheppard	£25.00
Chris and Linda Marriet	£15.00	Christine Bruce	£15.00
Felicity de Burgh	£10.00	Debbie Parker	£10.00



MENDLESHAM WI

Today (7th April) our knit, stitch and yarn group 'met' on zoom – there were nine of us with much to yarn about – a bit of knitting and sewing was done too. This group will meet again on 5th May at 10.30am. Usually at the May knit and stitch, we are recovering from a day serving refreshments at the Street Fayre. Maybe again next year!

At our March full meeting we caught up on a bit of WI business and then were entertained by Lestyn Edwards with his performance 'My tutu went AWOL'. Lestyn, dressed in a tutu told us of his musical revue career, sang to us (he had a lovely voice, his father was a country and western singer and his mother sang opera) and told of his trips to Afghanistan and Iraq to entertain the troops. Eventful - of course.

Our May meeting will be on Zoom on the 18th at 7.30pm, the speaker will tell us about Water Aid. There are tentative thoughts for an outdoor meeting in June and in anticipation of being able to meet indoors, the U.R.C. has been booked for July and August. Fingers crossed!

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.

TIMES PAST

Of the many changes in the habits and ideas of the people during the last 150 years, none has been more striking than the attitude towards the observance of Sunday. Of course, we will all have our various opinions on this Subject and, depending on our point of view, some change will have been for the worse, some for the better. In my opinion one of the better changes that time has brought has been the freedom to observe as the individual desires and, with that choice, some form of equality. Possibly because of my roots, I cannot see any observance of Christian principle in the practice of labourers and their families having to line the church path whilst their "betters" paraded into the building to take up the superior seats nearer the front. As would have been the case in many parishes at the early part of the period under review. Likewise, I was shocked to hear from a ninety year old friend recently, that her father - then in his twenties - was sacked by a local Rector and turned out of his tied cottage for daring to attend a local chapel, instead of the parish church on a Sunday. From the description of their clothing, much of the account that follows would be that of a more wealthy family but the environment of the day would have been common to all. The Sabbath or Lord's Day used to be looked forward to as a time of rest and respite after a long and laborious week of toil consisting of 70 or 80 hours with no half-day's holiday. In all the towns and villages of North Suffolk - indeed, all of East Anglia - the Sabbath was strictly observed. It was indeed a day of rest. No work of any description was allowed to intrude upon it. All the material needs of the day were prepared on Saturday. Clothes to be worn were already laundered and repaired. Boots and shoes had to be cleaned and polished before the Sabbath eve. This strict and narrow observance of Sunday sometimes resulted in acts of cruelty and injustice which had on the victim the opposite effect to that intended. One case was that of a minister in a village in the north-west of Suffolk. His small sons had neglected to clean their boots on Saturday after playing football. They were not allowed to clean them on Sunday so were compelled by their father to attend chapel in their dirty boots and listen to him expounding the gospel. All food necessary for Sunday was prepared and cooked the previous day and cold collations were accepted as holy rite. No toys or games were allowed to be seen. Little girls were not even permitted to play with their dolls. Reading was confined principally to the Bible, Pilgrim's Progress, Foxe's 'Book of Martyrs', Thomas a Kempis 'Imitations of Christ' and certain weekly religious periodicals. Novels were taboo. There were no Sunday papers and all shops, except public houses, were closed.

.....Times Past continued

Whistling, even in the home, was forbidden and running in the streets, even though one might be late for Sunday School, was considered unseemly. Of course there were no buses or motor cars and everyone walked everywhere, except those who drove in from the country by pony cart to attend places of worship. The day began early. There was no such thing as breakfast in bed or arrival downstairs just in time to partake of the mid-day meal. The children had to be prepared for Sunday school, which began at 9.30. After their departure the parents prepared themselves for morning service at 10.30. And what a preparation it was! Father would be arrayed in a black frock coat, a silk top hat, a gold watch chain festooned across his waistcoat. He would carry his kid gloves and an ebony, gold mounted walking stick and would most probably sport a choice buttonhole. Mother would adorn herself in her rustling silks and satins, flounces and laces, and would wear a bonnet gaily decorated with ribbons and flowers. It was considered most immodest for a married woman, however young, not to wear a bonnet. We youngsters did not find the day at all dull.

We looked forward to meeting our friends and acquaintances at Sunday school to chatter over experiences of the past week. There was no such thing as grading in Sunday school at that time. All except the infants met in the large hall for the opening exercises and then repaired to tiny classrooms for the Bible lesson. Most of the teachers were very young although they appeared to us youngsters to be somewhat ancient. However, there were generally one or two graybeards with very stem visages. Morning school ended at 10.30. We were then shepherded into church from which there was no escape. Herded in the gallery at the back of the building we had inflicted upon us a service lasting at least an hour and a half in which we had no part nor interest whatsoever. The 'long prayer' lasted 20 minutes and the sermon from three-quarters of an hour to an hour. Should an irreverent youngster dare so much as to raise his head during the prayer he received a crack from the walking stick of one of the accompanying teachers. Almost everyone went to some place of worship. All the churches and chapels were full. Those who did not conform to this practice were considered to be lost souls. A good deal of snobbery existed, however, among professing Christians of that age. The 'working classes' were patronisingly tolerated. In Nonconformist chapels the ground floor of the building was occupied by the well-to-do, the 'employer class' or trades-people. The working people and servants were relegated to the galleries. One concession, however, was made to them. No collection was made up there.

Look out for the next installment in the June issue.

Newsletter Distribution Volunteers

For many, many years, Jean Abbot has organised the distribution of our much loved newsletter. She first took on the job in the 1980's when Carolyn Triscott was Editor and computers and digital printing was way off in the distance. In February 2014 Gemma Green took on the role as Editor and during the pandemic we went digital! If you missed them you can hop on to the Parish Website and look back. Just Google 'Mendlesham Newsletter' and it will take you straight there.

Over the years there has been an army of people who, whatever the weather, have dropped a newsletter through your letter box. It is packed full of all sorts of information from what's going on in the village, be it events or clubs, to stories of the past, church services and finding a local service provider.

There have been many stories from people new to the village who were so glad to immediately get to know what's happening locally and where to go for help in making Mendlesham and Mendlesham Green their home.

Jean's Army of Distribution Volunteers has over 30 stalwart people, but could always do with some more walking shoes and gloved hands that can deliver the newsletter to your door! Could you spare about an hour or so each month to collect a bundle and then deliver? You will be shown your route and supported by Jean. In some cases you may need a bicycle or a car And sometimes wellies and an umbrella! But in the sun shine, what a lovely community job to do!

Thank you to Jean and her team

If you can spare the time – please contact Jean Abbott on:
01449 766895

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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- Elmswell
- Needham Market
- Ipswich
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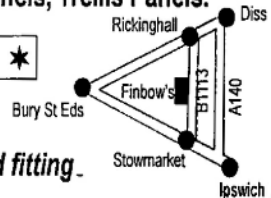
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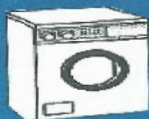
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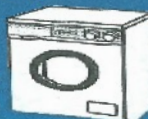
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“Yes, even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will proclaim my message.” (Acts 2 :18)

Dear Friends,

Over the past year we have had many changes to cope with, both in our everyday lives and church lives, coping with the pandemic. As Easter gave us hope that things will get better, in the Christian calendar the Month of May also brings us hope, we first have Ascension Day and Pentecost, May therefore could be looked on as an ending, and a new beginning. In the same way that we are slow coming out of the lockdown.

Ascension Day is when we remember Christ ascending to be with his Father in Heaven, the last time he was to appear to his disciples here on earth. Pentecost is the Birthday of the Church, when the spirit was poured out on the Disciples, which marked the beginning of the Church.

As a Church, we could be said to be having endings and beginnings all the while. The Church over the centuries has gone through many changes both in worship, and the buildings in which we worship, this can be partly seen in the many denominations that we have. The Church of the past year has had to find new ways of being Church, perhaps the biggest change for us was to take our services on line.

For the Church to be vibrant and relevant it has to be prepared to change, but not to go along with secular fads, the Church needs to be relevant to every generation, and sometimes for us that has been within the Church, for many years those changes may not always seem necessary.

The challenge that each Pentecost gives us, is first to look back to that first Pentecost, to when the first Disciples were thought to be drunk, but were indeed infected by the Holy Spirit, to learn from them and to move forward in the power of the Holy Spirit. In our secular society Church is not as relevant as it once was, and our challenge is to show the world that the Church can still be relevant to them, and to us.

In his speech to the fledgling Church, at that first Pentecost Peter spoke the words of the prophet Joel:

“This is what I will do in the last days, God says “I will pour out my spirit on everyone. Your Son & Daughters will proclaim my message, your young men will see visions, and your old men will have dreams, yes even on my servants both men and women, I will pour out my spirit in these days, and they will proclaim my message.”

Continued on page 40.....

....continued from page 39

Even today these words still have relevance for us, even in our days where science seems to have all the answers, if we only let the Holy Spirit in, it will be amazing to see how much the Church will become relevant, especially to a society that thinks it has all the answers.

This Pentecost let us treat it as though it is our first, and ask God to send his Holy Spirit upon us, and see where it leads us.

Yours in Christ
Robert

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Wednesday - 10am

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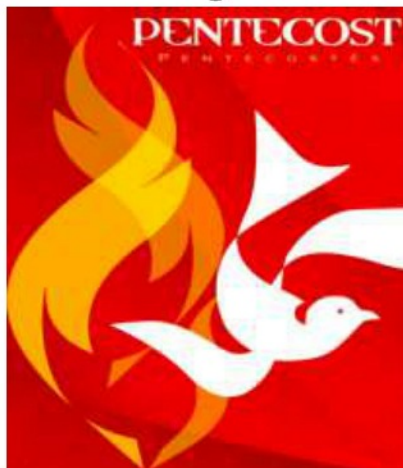
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Parish Mass on Sunday will also be LIVESTREAMED

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2nd May	9.30: Parish Mass & crowning of statue of Our Lady for the month of May
9th May	CHRISTIAN AID WEEK begins- concluding on 16 th M 9.30: Parish Mass. At end (10.20 approx.) Annual Parochial Church meeting, followed by brief PCC meeting
12th May	EVE OF ASCENSION OF OUR LORD 7.30 pm: Mass & address
13th May	ASCENSION DAY 9.30: Mass & address
23rd May	PENTECOST (WHITSUN) – end of Eastertide 9.30: Parish Mass
28th May	9.30: Requiem (May anniversaries)
31st May	Walsingham Online National Pilgrimage: https://www.facebook.com/ShrineOLW/

THANK YOU

Thanks to all who voted for St Mary's Mendlesham in the recent Goff Good Causes Campaign on Facebook. We were thrilled to hear our church had reached more than the required 1,000 votes to be awarded 500 litres of heating oil.

Father Philip writes...

Eastertide extends to the middle of May this year when we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost. In the Scriptures we see the most visible impact of Jesus on his followers. They lived as a community of prayer and worship which showed in their love and care for one another:

“They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community....” (Acts 2 v 46-47)

The celebration of the Mass (here called ‘*The Breaking of Bread*’) was the centre of their worship of God and service of each other.



On a human level we all have a deep need for community and we have missed it during the restrictions brought about by Covid. We need

to re-invigorate our support for each other in faith, hope and love. In his book ‘Small Christian Communities’ the author Thomas Kleissler tells the following story of a young woman called Sylvia. She lived on the outskirts of Nairobi and every Sunday travelled by bus to the city centre to a church which had a large congregation. She hardly knew anyone and felt alone and depressed. Soon after she found a smaller church in her own area and everything changed. She did not simply hear about love but actually experienced it. She grew spiritually, made good friends and worked in the neighbourhood.

God does not mean us to do it alone. We don’t know why St Thomas was not present in the upper room when Jesus appeared to the apostles after the resurrection. It may be that he had made a big mistake by cutting himself off from the other apostles and walking alone in his grief... and it was only when he



rejoined the community and encountered the risen Jesus that he found faith again. It is with the help of our community that we are able to resolve our doubts and fears and sustain our faith.

Many people today do not believe that Christ is risen and that he can be encountered. They will not change their minds or believe unless they can see Christ alive in his followers. He must be seen to dwell in us and among us. It is only in us and through us that others can see and touch him and be healed of disbelief.

*Lord help me remember when others I see
That they're reading the gospel according to me...
Mathew and Barnabas, Peter and Paul...
The world looks upon them as names. that's all...*

*For verses of Scripture, lost men merely grope,
But my life goes under the microscope.
Make me a text, Lord, easy to see
When men read the gospel according to me.*

The month of May is traditionally called 'Mary's month'. Mary is our example of communal prayer. We find her in the midst of the early Christian community after the Ascension as they assembled in the upper room and prayed for the gift of the Holy Spirit (*Acts 1 v 14*):

"All these joined in continuous prayer, together with several women, including Mary, the mother of Jesus...." Mary is a perfect model of prayer because she knew what the power of the Holy Spirit could work in the lives of those first followers of Jesus. Her complete union with God as the special temple of the Holy Spirit caused her to radiate God's loving presence to those near her. When the Holy Spirit gives life, He does not do so first for an individual, but to create a new community. **May this be our hope and prayer for our church in this month of May.**



PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY'S MENDESLEHAM - CHURCH CALENDAR FOR MAY 2021

Date	Church Festival	Mass	Intention (we pray especially for....)	Parish Intention
1	St Joseph the workman	7.30 pm	all craftsmen	Front Street / Old Orchard
2	FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	9.30	Parish and Congregation	Old Market St / Braybrooke Close
3	SS PHILIP & JAMES, Apostles	9.30	FIF/The Society	Mill Road and Hobbies Lane
4	THE ENGLISH MARTYRS	9.30	all who suffer for their faith	Chapel Road
5		9.30	Christian unity	Church Road / St Mary's Gardens
6		9.30	peace of the world	Brockford Road
7		9.30	renewal of our spiritual lives	Glebe Way
8		7.30 pm	all elected to the PCC	Freelands
9	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	9.30	Parish and Congregation	Duckens Road
10		9.30	Christian Aid Week	Horsefair Close
11		9.30	all who are hungry and homeless	Mason Court
12	EVE OF ASCENSION	7.30 pm	the mission of the Church	Mayfield Way
13	ASCENSION OF OUR LORD	9.30	Parish and Congregation	Mead Way
14	ST MATTHIAS, Apostle	9.30	our bishops	Old Station Rd / Cuttings Close / Schools Close
15		7.30 pm	Christian Aid	Middy Close / The Sidings
16	SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	9.30	Parish and Congregation	Wash Lane / Oak Farm Lane
17		9.30	all newly Baptised & Confirmed	Norwich Road / Bluehouse Lane
18		9.30	the Church in Kagera	Mendlesham Green
19		8.00 am	vocations to the priesthood	Tan Office
20		9.30	persecuted Christians	Outlying houses
21		9.30	Additional Curates Society	Farms in Mendlesham
22		7.30 pm	Walsingham	Local industries
23	PENTECOST	9.30	Parish and Congregation	Pub, Community Centre & places of recreation
24	Mary, Mother of the Church	9.30	Society of Mary	Mendlesham School
25	St Bede the Venerable	9.30	all called to the religious life	SMF: Patrons of Mendlesham
26	St Philip Neri	9.30	HM Queen Elizabeth & her Government	Village Organisations
27	OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, Eternal High Priest	9.30	all who are ordained	Fr Philip
28		9.30	the departed (May anniversaries)	Other places of Worship
29		7.30 pm	future of St Joseph's Centre	PCC, Parish and Community Councils
30	MOST HOLY TRINITY	9.30	Parish and Congregation	Local Doctors and Nurses
30	VISITATION OF OUR LADY	9.30	the Walsingham National Pilgrimage	Neighbouring parishes
SB: Please see Church website and weekly bulletin				



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