



MENDLESHAM NEWSLETTER



Issue 469

December 2022

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Newsletter supported by Mendlesham Community Charity

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

Deadline for January Issue

4th December 2022

Front Cover

Meg Clarke

Don't forget the Parish Church & URC from page 43

50/50 shop open -
Every Tuesday & Friday
see page 3 & 6 for further details

Dates for your diary

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Editorial

Welcome to the December issue. We arrive at the final month of our calendar year reflecting on the unseasonally warm journey this far. It seems that 'a white Christmas' is more of a long ago memory than expectation these days but we do like our traditions. In this Advent season I suspect that many of you will bring out the decorations for home and tree, enjoy wrapping and giving presents and plan a family feast as best you can.

Whatever you do this Christmastime I hope that love, laughter and friendship stays at the heart of everything.

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
- Daniel Lummis 07584630988
- David Nunn (Emergency Planning Co ordinator for Mendlesham Green, Tan Office and outlying properties) tel 767158
- Helen Orton tel 767741
- Liz Ward tel 766562

Wednesday 7 December 2022 Ordinary meeting 7pm, Old School Room, Mendlesham

Wednesday 11 January 2023 Ordinary meeting 7pm, Old School Room, Mendlesham

All 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 15th December**

MENDLESHAM XMAS 'SAT-CAF'

Saturday, 3rd December 10.00 – 14.00

OLD SCHOOL ROOM, MENDLESHAM

Menu includes CHRISTMAS SPECIALS; plus GRAND DRAW!

November Draw Winner

(Sat-Caf Meal for Two))

GUY WILTSHEAR

Reminder that the first 2022 Sat-Caf will be on Saturday 4th February

MENDLESHAM *50150 STOP*

Browse our range of clothing and shoes for all the family, plus jewellery, accessories, homewares, books and more.

Have clothing to donate? You receive 50% of the sale price, with the rest to the Mendlesham Community Charity.

Open Tuesdays and Fridays 2 - 4pm

Find us in the green pavilion near the toddler play equipment on Station Road, Mendlesham. What3words: ///novelist.thin.tint.

Parish Council:

Mendlesham's Neighbourhood Plan Modification :

By the time you receive this newsletter our Referendum on 17 November 2022 will have taken place

As soon as we know any outcomes, we will let you know via E News, the Parish Noticeboards and this newsletter.

Thank you very much if you voted.

Our Neighbourhood Plan work has taken some ten years to reach this stage with so many hours of work and expenditure. Thank you to everyone who has contributed in whatever way.

Parish Council:

Cost of Living Support

There is a wealth of information and help covering so many different areas which we are circulating via E News as received. However, this is for those of you without internet access. If possible, ask a family member, neighbour or friend to help you investigate your particular need via the internet.

Alternatively, please contact SCC/MSDC Cllr Andrew Stringer tel 07774199061, email andrew.stringer@suffolk.gov.uk , a Mendlesham Parish Councillor or the Parish Clerk and we will try to help.

Unfortunately there is so much information and different organisations providing support, it is not a case of providing you with one telephone number.

Suffolk Infolink is a very good place to start:

<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/family.page?familychannel=6>

Areas covered include Food; Fuel, Energy, Utilities and Household Bills; Finance and Debt; Housing; Warm Spaces; Support for families; Support for Older People; Support with Mental Health; Other: including NHS treatments, help with Household Essentials, help to combat Domestic Use, Help to reduce addictive behaviour, Business help; a link to Mid Suffolk District Council and How to provide others with help.

Other sources of support can be found on the Suffolk County Council website

<https://suffolk.pagetiger.com/cost-of-living-support/scc1>
www.suffolk.gov.uk/wintermatters

Sunday 18th December

Santa Claus visit to Mendlesham & Mendlesham Green with Carol Singers

& stopping in a street near you.

Stopping places (all times approximate)

Mendlesham Green – The Green junction	17.00	Old Market Street – near village sign	18.20
Mendlesham Green – by telephone box	17.10	Ducksen Rd /Horsefair Close junction	18.30
Middy Close – far end (cul-de-sac)	17.30	Ducksen Road – near wooden bungalows	18.40
Middy Close / The Sidings junction	17.40	Mayfield Way – halfway – at first bend	18.50
Old Station Rd – near front of MGA	17.50	Glebe Way – far end (cul-de-sac)	19.10
Mill Road/Front Street by Fleece House	18.00	Glebe Way / Freelands junction	19.20
Old Market Street – near King's Head	18.10	Church Road – in Ropers Farm yard	19.30

**finishing at approx. 19.50 in St Mary's Church
with coffee & mince pies**

**Collecting for St Martin's Housing Trust
Norwich: supporting the homeless**

ALL WELCOME TO JOIN IN!

News from “The 50/50 Shop” - wrap up warm with our winter wear selection

Our community shop is bursting at the seams with warm and cosy winter wear for men, women and children, plus we have a wide selection of partywear too - perfect for looking the part without breaking the bank!

Jumpers, coats and more.

To help you keep warm and layer up we have a range of winter wear in most sizes and styles in stock for all of the family, often featuring brands such as Joules, Seasalt, M&S, Next, Regatta and many more. We often have a good selection of waterproof clothing too. Come and have a rummage through our rails and see what we have on offer.

Get dressed up.

If you're making the most of the festive season we have many options available, including a fabulous range of women's dresses and evening wear, along with shoes and handbags too! Whether you are attending a work event, casual gathering or a cocktail party, come and have a look at our well priced stock.

Visit us:

- Open Tuesdays and Fridays from 2pm - 4pm.
- Head to the toddler play equipment and you'll find us in the green pavilion facing the main field. For users of What3Words just type in: [novelist.thin.tint](https://www.what3words.com/novelist.thin.tint).
- Cash only.
- Find us on Facebook, search “Mendlesham 50/50 Shop”.

We hope to see you soon and don't forget your purchases support the Mendlesham Community Charity.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Festive closing period.

Our last day will be Friday 16 December, when the shop will then close for the festive period and to restock ready for the New Year. We will reopen on Tuesday 10 January.

We would like to thank all of our customers, supporters and volunteers and wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mendlesham Parish Party 2023

SAVE THE DATE

The Mendlesham Parish Party Committee held their Annual General Meeting on Thursday 15th September 2022 and it ended up being a very positive, albeit a lengthy meeting. There were several key topics that we needed to discuss (hence the long article!!) For those of you that are new to the village or may have come of age, the Parish Party is held for members of the parish that are 66 years old or above or registered disabled. It doesn't matter how long you have lived in the village but you do need to live permanently within Mendlesham.

The first important discussion was around the Covid situation and we felt it would be up to the individual if they wish to attend. We have decided to move the Parish Party to **Saturday 22nd April 2023**. The thoughts behind this are that seasonal colds and flu would have past and the weather would be warmer for people coming out in the evening. If we need to keep doors and window vents open for better circulation, it will be less of a problem.

The second important discussion was around the Community Centre Hall. In the past, we have always used all the building's facilities. Now the small hall is no longer available, we will have to adapt how we organise the party. For us, the most important part is keeping this wonderful tradition in our village going, even if it means a few tweaks here or there. We are going to have to slightly reduce the numbers of guests we can seat due to needing an area at the back of the hall to organise things, so we will be doing a first come first served booking system. **We will no longer be visiting every guest with an invitation so if you wish to attend, you will need to contact the committee to book your seat. We will provide a telephone number and email address in January NEWSLETTER and we will not be taking bookings before this date to keep it fair for everyone.**

The third important discussion was around the structure of the party. We want the party to be a success and so the menu for the next Parish Party will be a Ploughman's Style meal with dessert, tea and coffee and drinks. There will be entertainment and hopefully and good time will be had by all.

We will also be holding a Coffee Morning on **Saturday 14th January 2023** and it would be lovely to see you all there.

There will be regular updates in the Newsletter and through eNews so keep an eye out. Best wishes to you all and look forward to seeing you in 2023.

Mendlesham Community Charity (MCC)

Charity No: 282391



MCC update

As the year draws to a close, we send you best wishes for the festive season.

Times are indeed challenging, but we live in a beautiful part of the world in a very lovely community and we are pleased to be planning good things for 2023. If you have an initiative to raise funds or provide support to enhance the lives of those in our community, please let us know. Just go to the Parish Website and look for our page or Google 'Mendlesham Community Charity' and download, complete and return the application form to a Trustee. Or just give us a ring, details below.

We are uncertain which date our Street Fair 2023 will be on as we wait the news about the bank holiday date to celebrate the Coronation of The King – but we will still have one! The application for a Temporary Street Closure Order in respect of Old Market Street will go in during December for the first bank holiday in May 2023. Meanwhile we are developing the plans to make the event even better than before. We have listened to feedback and need your help to implement the changes. John Player has started the plans and we are sorry that, due to personal circumstances, he has had to step down as **Master of Ceremonies and the Co-ordinator**. Could you fill his shoes? Contact me, Judith, to find out more. We are also seeking help with **Marketing and Sponsorship, Marshalls for Car Parking**, running the **Draw Prize** and **Managing the Stall Holders**. Could you help?

A big thank you to the volunteers who are leading the plans for the entertainment, the food stalls and a food market, traffic and people management and the booking system. Many hands make light work and we'd love you to join in.

If you are an organisation that would like to participate in the event to help raise your own profile and funds, please let us know.

Happy New Year
MCC Trustees



Judith Howard-Rees (Lead Trustee) 01449 766327 judith@milllodge.co.uk	Sally Lovatt (Treasurer) 01449 541725 sallypongo@gmail.com	Teresa Mills 01449 766582 Teresa.mills56@yahoo.co.uk
Letitia Goode 01449 768861 LetitiaAnnCollins@gmail.com	Andrew Cullum 01449 767877 Cullumandrew@hotmail.com	Nathalie Crisp 07795 491781 Ncrispcommunication@gmail.com



Mendlesham Writers Group

Back in action

FREE !!

First visit
Intro Guidance Pack
Advice and encouragement
Guest speakers
Refreshments

2nd Tuesday Every Month
Old School Room
Mendlesham
7.30pm

Contact: Noel on 01449 766968
Or Just pop in
Bring a friend if you wish

Create something worthwhile in your own special way
No previous writing experience necessary

The Friends of St. Mary's Church

Invite everyone to their coffee mornings in the church
every Tuesday between 1030 am and 1230 pm



Donate New Socks for the homeless

cared for by St Martin's Housing Trust, Norwich.

... hats, gloves & scarves needed too - and any wearable trainers!

box in St Mary's Church from 4th Dec to 8th Jan



Red boxes in St Mary's Church for donations of food & toiletries at Christmass & all year round

Stowmarket
FOOD BANK



Helping individuals and families in need in this area.

A gift of
love
this Christmas



In Malawi most families depend on farming, making them extremely vulnerable to climate change and living on the brink of hunger.

St Mary's Christmas Eve Carol Service Collection

+

Crib Appeal from 6th Dec to 8th Jan is for

Christian Aid to help support them.

christian
aid

Mendlesham Walking Group

Saturday 3rd December 2022

Meet at

Community Centre Car Park 10.00a.m.
2-hour walk led by Alan around Thornham

AND

Walking on a Wednesday

**Shorter, slower walk of about 1½ hours led by Alan
around Great Finborough**

Wednesday 14th December 2022

Meet at

Community Centre Car Park 10.30a.m.

PLEASE WEAR STURDY WATERPROOF BOOTS

Dogs on leads welcome



Come and join us

Stay safe and keep walking

For more information please contact
Angela - 01449 766483
Alan – 07790 124 509



If you would like to join Mendlesham Walking Group, please e-mail Angela :
angiepickup@btinternet.com

Monday Morning meet-up



We are now open again!

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

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

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

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

To deliver our Mendlesham Newsletters

As you know our Mendlesham Newsletters are delivered free to every household in the parish. The Newsletters are delivered by our little army of volunteers, who typically deliver between 10 and 50 Newsletters, to neighbours near to where they live.

We are really grateful to our volunteers who carry out their role the whole year round. Thank you!!! We are particularly grateful to Stuart Larkin and Janet Clark who have given many years of service delivering in Mendlesham and Mendlesham Green respectively. They are no longer able to deliver the newsletter and we desperately need more volunteers to complete our team.

The more volunteers we have the less time it will take for individuals to deliver the newsletters. You can be young or old, you can walk , cycle or use your car and you can deliver at a time convenient to yourselves. Normally we receive the Newsletters from the printers on about 22nd of the month, distribute them as soon as possible to volunteers doors, who then deliver them at a time to suit themselves before the beginning of the next month.

If you would like to offer yourself as a volunteer, or a relief volunteer who can be called upon to fill in if people are away then please let me know, as well as the area(s) of the Parish in which you would be willing to deliver. I can be contacted at lorraineshelton9@gmail.com or 01449 768744

Last year I fell for a scam when I was doing my Christmas shopping. The scam was clever. I thought I was getting a good deal but didn't realise I was being scammed until it was too late. How can I avoid the same thing happening again this year?

Scammers' tactics become more sophisticated every year, making scams tricky to recognise, but there are things you can look out for.

If it seems too good to be true, it probably is. For example, tickets to an event that are much cheaper than they're being sold elsewhere, or a holiday that's a lot less than you'd expect to pay.

Be wary of people contacting you out of the blue on social media sites or via text and email offering an item for sale or deal on something.

Do your research. If you're buying from a website you haven't used before, spend a few minutes researching it. A good place to start is finding a website's terms and conditions. You should also look up the company's address, this can normally be found in the website's 'contact us' section and should have a street name, not just a PO box. If it's a registered UK company you can check its details on the Companies House website at gov.uk/get-information-about-a-company

Check to see what people have said about the company. It's worth looking at different review websites to see other people's feedback – don't rely on reviews the company has put on its own website.

Scammers will often ask you to pay in an unusual way, or very quickly. For example, you're asked to send money through a transfer service like MoneyGram or Western Union or pay via vouchers.

Remember never give away your personal information like a password or PIN and never click on or download anything you don't trust.

To hear about scams in Suffolk, you can sign up to the very useful Trading Standards email at suffolk.gov.uk/community-and-safety/suffolk-trading-standards/become-a-consumer-champion

If you've transferred money, speak to your bank and the police. You should also contact the police if the scammer is in your area or you feel unsafe.

Don't feel embarrassed about reporting a scam – scammers are clever and it can happen to anyone.

Reporting a scam helps track down and stop scammers, helping to prevent it from happening to others too.

Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk can provide advice on this and other issues, including debt, employment, benefits and family law. You can contact them on 01449 676060 or use the contact form at midsuffolkcab.org.uk/contact-us. More information and our opening hours can also be found at midsuffolkcab.org.uk/contact-us.

Shoeboxes for the homeless and their dogs

It's been a very challenging year for everyone, not least for the homeless and their dogs. With everything going up, its been tough for those on the streets as people have had less to spare to help.

It's no life for any person or dog to live on the streets with no place to call home. This Christmas we are again hoping to bring a little Christmas cheer to these people and their 4 legged friends to say that they have not been forgotten.



I am organising shoeboxes for homeless people and their dogs and I am hoping that you will be able to help.

Suggestion for the shoeboxes Thermal gloves, socks, hats, scarf, roll-on deodorant (no aerosols) toothbrush & paste, soft sweets, chocolate, plasters, wet wipes, windup torch, aluminium thermal blanket, dried coffee/soup sachets, notepad, pens, envelopes, stamps and a really nice touch would be to include a Christmas Card.

Doggy box Dried dog food, treats, chews, toys, collar, lead, bowl, dog coat, fleece blanket.

All the above are just suggestions please feel free to add anything you think would be useful.

All the shoeboxes stay local. They are taken to the night shelter in Ipswich and also to the soup kitchens and hostels. Any extra go to Bury and Norwich.

If you cannot do a shoebox but would still like to help with a donation, any of the items listed would be very much appreciated. I made an extra 15 boxes from donations last year which really boosted the total.

Boxes or items can be dropped off at my house any time from now
until Saturday 10h December.

My contact details are - Julie Williams 17 Front Street,
Mendlesham, 01449 766006 neil.williams38@btinternet.com

***Many thanks in advance for your
kindness and generosity xx***

Mendlesham Community Charity TOTE RESULTS

Mendlesham Lottery October 2022			
13th October		27th October	
Drawn at Mayfield Way		Drawn at Mead Way	
Elaine Evans	£35.00	Mr. D. Deeks	£35.00
Val Lawes	£25.00	Gareth Colne	£25.00
Jane Jones	£15.00	Lisa Hauwert	£15.00
Louise Matthews	£10.00	Mr. D. Parker	£10.00
<p>If you would like to purchase Tote Tickets, Contact Angela Pickup on 01449 766483 or angiepickup@btinternet.com</p>			

United Reformed Church

MURCies Coffee Bar

Friday - 9th December 2022 10am - 12pm

Knit and Natter

Monday - 13th December 2022 2pm - 4pm

MENDLESHAM CAMERA CLUB



The next meeting will be on
Tuesday 6th December
in the Old School Room at 1930.



No challenge in December, but bring along your camera and a tripod and macro lenses if you have them. The plan is to have a table top exercise of miniature photography - taking pictures of miniature railway figures (1:50 scale). Mince pies and gluhwein for refreshment.

There will be no meeting in January.

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

Anita welcomed 26 members to the October meeting. Lovely birthday posies were presented to members celebrating a birthday this month. Our speakers for the evening were welcomed – Louise and Kirsty from the Deaf and Blind UK Charity. Louise became profoundly deaf when she was seven years old and she gave us an insight into some of the problems encountered and overcome. She explained how the charity can help with practical issues and open up opportunities for social groups plus the help technology can make. Louise is now aided by a hearing dog – he did not accompany her as she said he can sometimes be naughty. Membership to the charity is free. We are grateful to Louise and Kirsty who came to speak to us at short notice.

Our calendar for December:-

7th: 10am – 12 noon knit, stitch and yarn, Old School Room, followed by a catering group meeting for approx. half an hour. (Postponed from November.)

13th: 7.30pm in the U.R.C. our monthly meeting and a craft evening with refreshments. Note our December meeting is a week earlier than usual.

Do drop into Abbots Hall to see the display of Christmas trees as part of the Stowmarket Christmas Tree Festival – we will have one there. Check their web page or local press for opening times.

Before the December meeting we will be planting bulbs around the village, thank you to those members who donated bulbs and planted them. We hope for a good display to brighten up the village next spring. The coach trip to Thursford will also have taken place and the Christmas crafty morning tutored by Jane, plus the monthly coffee/lunch club date. Who said the WI was all Jam and Jerusalem!

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

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 Charity. 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.

Over 60s Meeting – 26th October 2022

Twenty Seven members were welcomed to today's meeting, plus guests, Wendy and Lulu.

Our speaker, Jeanne Mason, could not make it to our meeting. So at very short notice Mr Will Grey stood in for us with the topic "When is a flower not a weed?"

He explained that different soils grow different weeds and he had lots of slides showing weeds in other areas. Most weeds are self-seeding and grow on verges and wasteland. Farmers do not like poppies growing in their crops as they can cause damage to the crops when harvested. A lot of these so called weeds are very pretty, but if they turn up in your garden they soon take over. Bluebells, daffodils, snow drops are usually welcome, but nettles, dandelions and burdock not wanted. White heather is supposed to be lucky and sea poppies are very pretty but I doubt we will be finding them in Mendlesham.

It was an interesting talk and lovely slides.

We did not have a competition this time. We had the raffle after tea and sang the anthem to close the meeting.

Next meeting - December 7th - The Old Codgers sing along!
Competition - A homemade bauble

Coffee Morning

In aid of Mendlesham Annual Parish Party



Saturday 14th January 2023

10am – 12noon

at United Reformed Chapel, Mendlesham
Refreshments, Raffle, Tombola and Cake Stall

It would be lovely to see you all for coffee and cake to raise funds for such a special village event.

Any donations towards the stalls would be gratefully received, please contact Christine on 767841 or Rachel on 07881816622

Greetings from the Foresters Friendly Society local branch 'Brave Old Oak'

The name Foresters originated from its first members who recognised their shared duty to assist their fellow men and women who needed help 'as they walked through the forest of life'. The Victorian Era in Britain saw the rise of the Friendly Society as members acknowledged that by paying small amounts into a common fund, they would be able to offer sick pay and funeral grants. The Suffolk area was home to many branches, including 'Brave Old Oak', based in Mendlesham. Each branch met at local halls, pubs or branch owned buildings, such as the former 'Foresters Hall', which still stands on Debenham High Street.

You may remember some of the historical branches which were based in the Suffolk area, from 'Star of Suffolk' and 'Friend in Need' to the 'Duke of Edinburgh' branch of Bacton and Stowmarket's women's only branch 'Gertrude Marriot'. Branch 4195 'Royal Oak' met at the Boar Inn, High Street, whilst branch 'Prince of Wales' met at the King's Head in Stowmarket. Over sixty active branches were listed in the 1904 Society Directory, an example of the Foresters history that resides in the Suffolk area. Providing financial and social support to its members has been the main purpose of Foresters Friendly Society and has remained their ethos to this very day.

Over the years, members have participated in Foresters processions on Front Street, Mendlesham, where 'Brave Old Oak' still meet today.



Beatrix Wrinch, branch Secretary said "Years have gone by, but the need for mutuality and support has remained the same. Foresters Friendly Society has a wealth of history in the local area for supporting members and our active branch, situated in Mendlesham, has lots to offer. From regular social events, such as band concerts, quizzes and meals out providing a sense of friendship and community, to supporting charities every year. If you'd like to know more about becoming a member or if you have Foresters stories from past times, we'd love to hear from you!"

For further information please contact:

Beatrix Wrinch, court3658@forestersfriendlysociety.co.uk

Telephone: 07885 909869

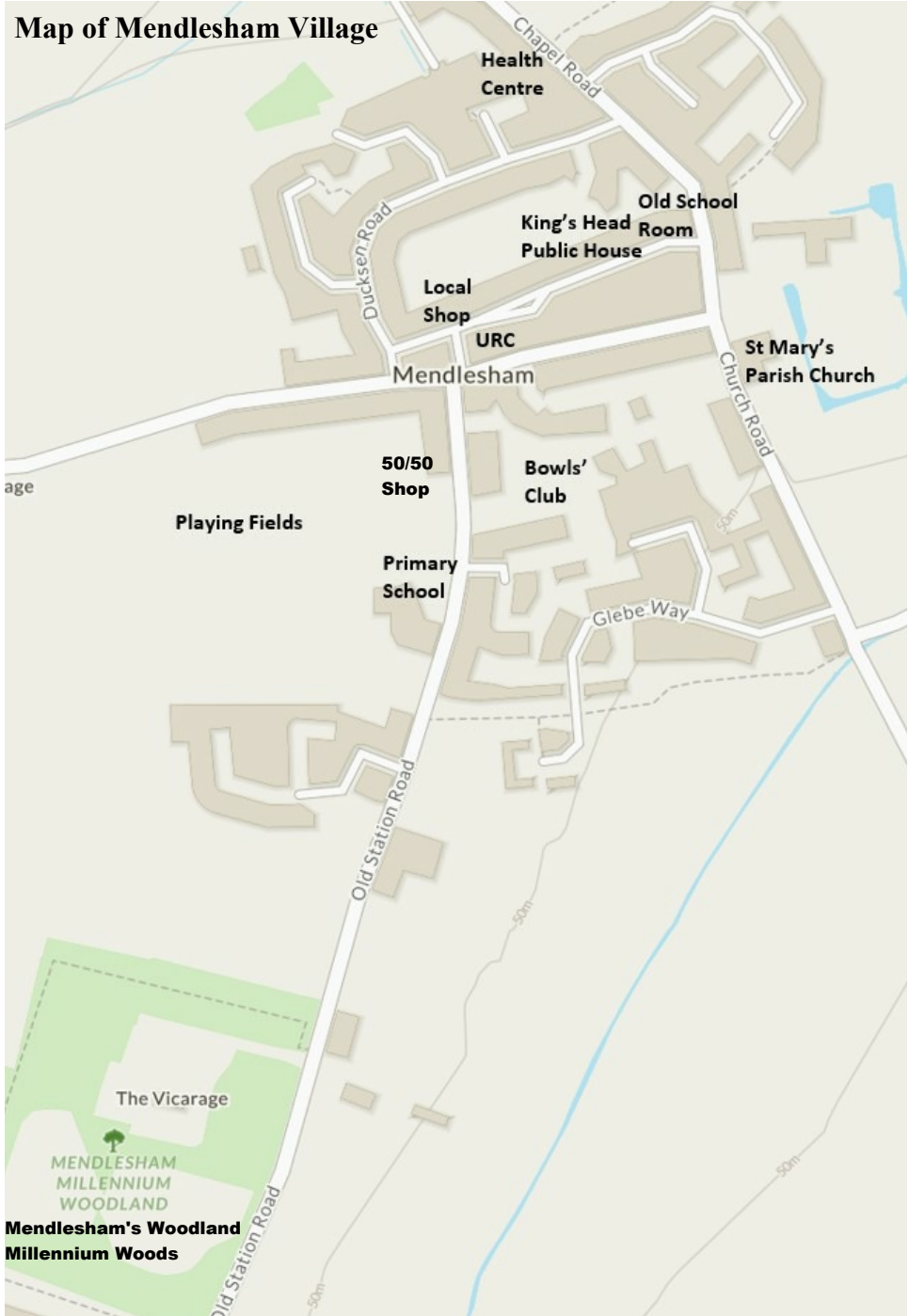


MENDLESHAM DIRECTORY

1 st Mendlesham Guides	Emma Munday	01449 768843
3 rd Monday Book Club	Doug Williams	01449 766498
Ancient Order of Foresters	Beatrix Wrinch	07885 909869
Beavers, Cubs and Scouts	Martyn Bryant	01379 788998
Bowls Club	Peter Coleby	01449 766985
Brownies	Brenda Stannard	01449 766308
Camera Club	Mike Favager	01449 766007
Carpet Bowls Club	Roger Fouracre	01449 766229
Church and Town Estate	Mike Favager	01449 766007
Community Centre Hall	Becky Herbert	01449 672531
Computer Club	Giles Godart-Brown	07500 042836
District Councillor	Andrew Stringer	01449 780339
Explorer Unit	Jonathan Freeman	07756 761590
Football Club	George Yardley Angela Lockwood	07894 512712 07845 471154
F.O.M.S.A	C.P School	01449 766224
Friends of Mendlesham Health Centre	Phil Tucker	01379 678400
History Group	Sue Michell	01449 766434
Mendlesham Community Charity	Judith Howard-Rees	01449 766327
Mendlesham Education Foundation	Mike Favager	01449 766007
Old School Room Bookings	Daphne Lambert	01449 766320
Over 60's	Annette Taylor	01449 766552
Parish Council & Playing Field	Sharon Jones	01449 766139
Parish Party Committee	Rachel Roshier	07881 816622
Rainbows	Becky Froude	07774 581503
Saturday Cafe	Brenda Player	01449 768101
St Mary's Parish Church	Father Philip Gray	01449 766359
St Mary's Church Council	Chris Elstone	07530 769676
Toddler Group	Simona Pounds	07585 093311
United Reformed Church	Margaret Jackson	01449 766321
Village Recorder for Mendlesham	Geoff Clarke	01449 766447
Walking Group	Angela Pickup	01449 766483
Walking on Wednesdays	Alan	07790 124509
Woman's Institute	Anita Scruby	01449 766902
Writers Group	Noel Fletcher	01449 766968

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

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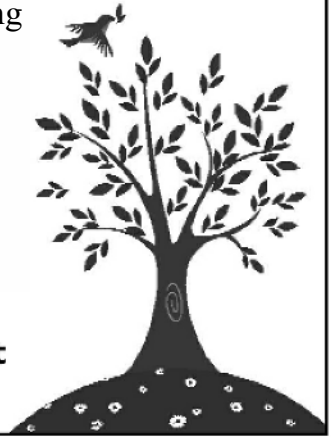
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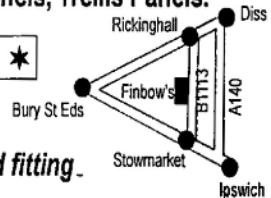
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


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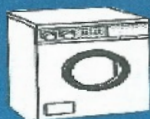
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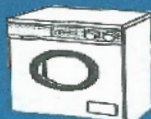
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Luke 2: 44-47

44 'For as soon as I heard your greeting, the baby within me jumped with gladness. 45 How happy you are to believe that the Lord's message to you will come true 46 Mary said, "My heart praises the Lord; 47 my soul is glad because of God my Saviour',

I think it is true to say that we all like to sing carols at Christmas, the telling of the Christmas story through carols. The traditional carol service still seems to be one service that is still well attended, with congregations expecting to sing their favourite carol. But did you know that the tradition of singing carols did not start in Churches?

We need to go back to Anglo-Saxon times, when we find a tradition of 'wassailing' the word 'wassail' probably comes from the Old Norse 'ves heill' meaning 'be well and in good health' and was a toast. It was accompanied with a bowl of beer or cider which could be hot and spiced known as 'wassail'. The singers would go round pubs, village greens and households to give a blessing for the season. In some places villages would gather on the Twelfth Night in orchards and select a King and Queen in an elaborate ceremony who would then walk around the trees with bread soaked in cider and place this at the trees, as the other villagers would bang pots and pans to wake the trees up from their winter sleep.

Continued on page 44.....

....continued from page 43

You may remember the carol 'Here we come a-wassailing' which speaks of this practice:

Here we come a-wassailing
Among the leaves so green,
Here we come a-wand'ring
So fair to be seen.
Love and joy come to you,
And to you your wassail, too,
And God bless you, and send you
A Happy New Year,
And God send you a Happy New Year.

One of our earliest carols is O come all ye faithful, attributed to St Bonaventure who lived in the thirteenth century and being set to music in 1700's but it is not until Victorian times that the singing of carols takes off, when a lot of the carols we still sing today were written.

I hope you will attend a carol service this year to keep this tradition going but however you keep you Christmas, have a Blessed one.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Robert

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY, STOWMARKET - IP14 1AP

Parish Priest - Fr Simon Leworthy Tel: - 01449 612946

email - pp@ourladystowmarket.org.uk

MASS TIMES

Daily mass - Monday to Friday at 1000 (Our Lady's, Stowmarket)

Saturday - 1800 (anticipatory mass at St Mary's, Woolpit)

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

Confessions - Saturday 1000-1045 (Our Lady's, Stowmarket)

Please see parish website for the weekly newsletter and further information

<https://ourladystowmarket.org.uk>

Village contacts

Margaret Cutting - 01449 766334

Mo Favager - 01449 766007



**New USAAF 34th Bomb Group
Memorial Mendlesham Flower
Rota**

Anita Scruby
December



ST MARY'S MENDLESHAM

www.stmarysmendlesham.org.uk

You are welcome to any of our services.

SUNDAYS:

9.30 a.m. Parish Mass & Address

EXCEPT

Sunday 1st January: 11.00 am

Saturdays: 3rd, 10th, 17th, 31st Dec:

First Mass of Sunday at 10.00 am.

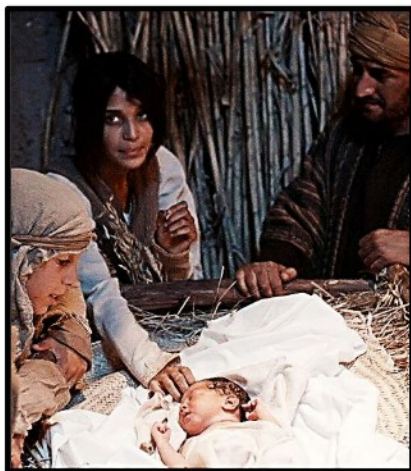
Daily Mass: *see calendar on inside back page & check porch notice, website or bulletin.*

Daily Morning & Evening Prayer
see porch notice.

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation

*Saturdays 3rd, 17th, 24th, 31st Dec 3.00 pm
extra before Christmas: 19th Dec: 2 pm;
20th Dec: 11.00 am; 21st Dec: 4.00 pm;
24th Dec: 3.00 pm or contact Fr Philip*



Vicar:

Fr .Philip T Gray, B.A, S.S.C
Mendlesham Vicarage
01449 766359

Churchwardens:
Andrew Fleming
01449 711065

Chris Elstone
07530 769676

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

4th Dec	ADVENT II 9.30: Parish Mass & blessing of first collection of socks, hats, scarves & gloves for the homeless people cared for by St Martin's Norwich
6th Dec	9.30 Mass; 10.30 -12.30: Coffee & cake in church
8th Dec	2.30 pm: Mass & healing service
10th Dec	Outside crib & tree lights put up today 12.00 – 3.00 pm: Soup & music in URC chapel for Friends of St Mary's
11th Dec	ADVENT III 9.30 Parish Mass & blessing of the outside crib.
13th Dec	9.30 Mass; 10.30 -12.30: Coffee & cake in church
18th Dec	ADVENT IV: 9.30 Parish Mass & blessing of door wreaths; 11.00 (approx) Christmass Draw 5.00 pm: Carol Singing & visit of Santa Claus around Mendlesham Green & Mendlesham (see separate notice) refreshments after in church
24th Dec	CHRISTMASS EVE 5.30 pm: First Mass of Christmass 7.00 pm: Candlelight Carol Service in church. Collection for Christian Aid
25th Dec	CHRISTMASS DAY 9.30: Blessing of Crib & Parish Mass of Christmass
	
26th to 30th Dec	Mass will be offered at 11.30 each day
31st Dec	10.00: First Mass of Sunday
1st Jan	Parish Mass will be at 11.00 am, not 9.30

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Holy Burial

14th Oct: **William Charles Albert Foster, aged 86**

Fr Philip Writes

St Luke tells us that when Mary and Joseph applied for hospitality it was refused because there was no

room. This is what happened to Christ during all of his life, for people so often rejected Him. They could find no room in their lives for Him because they were full of themselves or did not want him. Jesus said He had no place to live in and nowhere to lay his head. In the end His own people had no room for Him and crucified Him.



Today many people refuse to accept Christ because they are so full of their own activities that there is no room in their lives for Him. Christ knocks at the door of their hearts. He wants to share a meal with them but they keep the door closed against Him. Fortunately there are those who do invite Him in and He



promised that if they did welcome Him He would come and live with them. St Paul could say, ***“I no longer live, but Christ Jesus lives within me.”*** As we enter in imagination the stable at Bethlehem, let us remember that Christ is there so we can be born

again and live a new life and also say with St Paul: ***“For me to live is Christ.”***

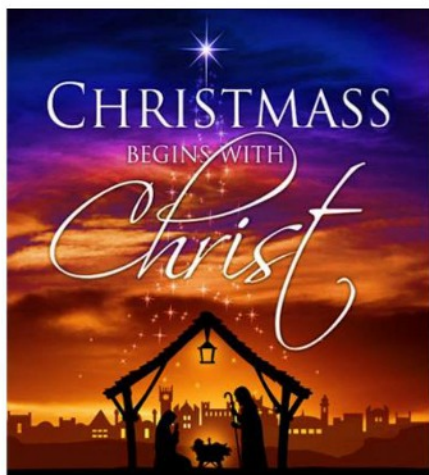
Christmass has several different levels, some more superficial than the others. It is hard completely to escape '*Consumer Christmass*' with the aggressive merchandise of goods: e.g. "You need a new sofa to make a good Christmass," though that can prove so empty.



The next layer is more subtle – a '*Dickensian Christmass*' – cards with snow, log fires, turkey and plum pudding etc. There is a lot to be said for what lies behind all of these because they stress goodwill and friendship, but without Jesus there is a hollow ring and they, too, become empty.

The deeper layer - what Christmass is really about – is a simple **CRIB**. Jesus is in Eternity, yet came to earth as a baby to show us how very much God loves us. He wants to be born in our hearts and lives. Please make room for Him today. It was Mother Teresa who said,

"Welcome Jesus at Christmas — not in the cold manger of our heart but in a heart full of love and humanity, a heart warm with love for one another."



Happy Christmass to all!

PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY'S MENDLESHAM - CHURCH CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 2022

Date	Church Festival	Mass	Intention (we pray especially for....)	Parish Intention
1		9.30	the departed (December anniversaries)	Front Street / Old Orchard
2		9.30	those who are blind or partially sighted	Old Market St / Braybrooke Close
3	St Francis Xavier	10.00	the mission of the Church	Mill Road and Hobbies Lane
4	ADVENT II	9.30	Parish and congregation	Chapel Road
5		9.00	forgiveness and reconciliation	Church Road / St Mary's Gardens
6	St Nicholas	9.30	Save the Children	Brockford Road
7	St Ambrose	9.30	Forward in Faith / the Society	Glebe Way
8	IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF OUR LADY	2.30 pm	the sick; healing ministry	Freelands
9		9.30	all who reject the Gospel	Ducksen Road
10		10.00	the church restoratorin	Horsefair Close
11	ADVENT III	9.30	Parish and congregation	Mason Court
12		9.30	HM King Charles & his Government	Mayfield Way
13	St Lucy	9.30	all in prison	Mead Way
14	St John of the Cross	9.30	peace of the world	Old Station Rd / Cuttings Close / Schools Close
15		<u>9.00</u>	St Martin's Housing Trust, Norwich	Middy Close / The Sidings
16		9.30	all ordained in Advent	Wash Lane / Oak Farm Lane
17		10.00	carol singing in the parish	Norwich Road / Bluehouse Lane
18	ADVENT IV	9.30	Parish and congregation	Mendlesham Green
19		9.30	all expectant parents	Tan Office
20		9.30	all pilgrims	Outlying houses
21		9.30	the people of Ukraine	Farms in Mendlesham
22		9.30	Walsingham	Local industries
23		9.30	our crib appeal for Christian Aid	Pub & places of recreation
24	CHRISTMASS EVE	5.30 pm	home and family life	Mendlesham School
25	CHRISTMASS DAY	9.30	Parish and congregation	SMF: Patrons of Mendlesham
26	ST STEPHEN	11.30	hungry and homeless people	Village organisations
27	ST JOHN, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST	11.30	Bible Reading societies	Fr Philip
28	HOLY INNOCENTS	11.30	protection of unborn children	Other places of worship
29	ST THOMAS BECKET	11.30	the Archbishop of Canterbury	PCC and Parish Council
30	HOLY FAMILY	11.30	divided families	Local doctors, nurses & health workers
31	7th DAY OF CHRISTMASS OCTAVE	10.00	God's blessing on the new year	Neighbouring parishes

SB = See weekly bulletin - available on website



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