

KERSEY PARISH NEWSLETTER

May 2021



PHOTO: CHRIS PARTRIDGE

www.kerseychurch.org
www.kersey.suffolk.cloud

50p*

* **WHERE SOLD.** Delivered FREE to properties within the parish.
(50p is the approximate production cost per copy. All contributions gratefully received.)

CONTACT NUMBERS

Parochial Church Council –

Chairman: Jackson Crompton-Battersby 01473 657349

Vice Chairman: Lucy Oldham. 07753 626899

Church Warden: Rachel Wells 01473 822230

Bellringers – Bell Captain: Neville Whittell 01473 822616

Forgetmenots – Organiser: Veronica Partridge 01473 823188

Tuesday Club – Rachel Wells 01473 822230

Table Tennis Club – Adrian Blyth 01473 827805

Parish Council –

Chairman: John Hume 01473 810098

Clerk to the Council: Sarah Partridge 01787 210859

Footpaths – Chairman: Kevin Pratt 07854 390658

Kersey Community Playground Committee – Jonathan Marsh 01473 822927

Neighbourhood Watch – Vacant

Village Hall –

Chairman: Veronica Partridge 01473 823188

Bookings: Norah Orriss 01473 827513

or Natalie Blyth 01473 827805

VPA (Village Produce Association) –

Chairman: Peter Partridge 01473 827231

Secretary: Rachel Wells 01473 822230

The Lewis Mowles Trust Fund – Secretary: Rachel Wells 01473 822230

Grays Trust –

Chairman: John Robinson 01473 823247

Secretary: Philippa Harris 01473 827079

Nightingale Trust/Allotments – Info: Natalie Blyth 01473 827805

School – Acting Head Teacher: Jess Damant 01473 823397

Kersey Playingfield Assoc. (Glebe) – Mark Pertwee 01473 810227

Kersey Community Website www.kersey.suffolk.cloud

Hadleigh Health Practice 01473 822961

West Suffolk Hospital (Bury St Edmunds) 01284 713000

Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust 01473 712233

Police The non-emergency number to call if you want to contact the local police is 101 (when it's less urgent than 999) .

Please let us know of any changes.

Defibrillators – There are two AEDs located within the parish at The Bell Inn, Kersey IP7 6DY and Kersey Mill IP7 6DP.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Church Clergy:

Rev. Jackson Crompton-Battersby.
01473 657349 rev@kind.church

Church Wardens:

Mrs Rachel Wells 01473 822230.
and vacant position.

Elder: Mrs Julie Boast 01787 249511.

Weddings: For all enquiries regarding weddings at St. Mary's Church please contact the Benefice administrator 07706 188842 weekday mornings.

WELCOME

To Luke and May Mackay-Morris with sons Forrest and Teddy who have moved to Row House.

CHURCH CLEANING

10th May – Suzie Rudkin and Philippa Harris.

24th May – Janet Covell and Rachael Rogers.

FLOWER ROTA

If anyone would like to arrange the flowers at the altar the rota is on the notice board.

ST MARY'S APCM AND ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

...is being held on Thursday 20th May at 7.30pm in St Mary's church.

The PCC very much hope you will be able to join us. We shall observe social distancing and wearing of masks. It would be helpful if you could let me know if you are likely to attend.

We are required to publish our Report and Accounts 7 days ahead of the meeting, so if you would like a copy please contact Linda Newbigging. Links to the accounts will appear on the Kersey website to our KindChurch for electronic versions.

As you know, the Electoral Roll is being revised and will also be completed prior to the meeting. If you wish to stand for election to the PCC or help in any other way, please contact Linda for application forms. We look forward to seeing you. Please contact me on: **07905731431** or ***lindanewbigging@btinternet.com***

For those of you who may wish to Zoom in, here are links to the meeting (split into 3 slots so that the zoom is free!):

St Mary's APCM Part 1: 19.30-20.15 – Meeting ID: 785 2128 9331 – Passcode: 1hJT8F.
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78521289331?pwd=a25STCtSaFZwZTREd21PWmUveENmUT09>

St Mary's APCM Part 2: 20.15-21.00 – Meeting ID: 785 4686 1194 – Passcode: hLvvW6
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78546861194?pwd=UzVNbzV4ajBDZoU4NDUrM3ZJajVBdz09>

St Mary's APCM Part 3: 21.00 – Meeting ID: 753 2111 5080 – Passcode: 5gdCoo
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75321115080?pwd=RohtZUKwanVPVXVXKzdaVndadm1lQT09>

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PARISH NEWS

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

A few months ago Kersey was chosen as the backdrop for an adaption of the Anthony Horowitz novel “Magpie Murders”, a major new TV drama to be released in 2022.

Since then we have welcomed a growing number of Eleventh Hour Films Production



Crew and actors to Kersey culminating in the first “Action” last week as the village was cast back to 1955 and the halcyon days of shops.

With a butchers, bakers, greengrocers and antique shop alongside The Queen’s Arms the village was a hive of activity. Then back to the future with St Mary’s church and churchyard being used for 1955 and 2021 scenes.

Only when you get close to it is the meticulous attention to detail revealed and with crew, office team, vehicles, props and actors widely spread across the parish while day to day life goes on the logistics are indeed a feat to behold.

Kersey will be back to normal from the 10th May and we all look forward to watching the drama unfold next year. **CG**

BEATING THE BOUNDS

We had a successful inaugural social walk where six of us covered about 6 miles. Setting off in snow at The Bell, we finished back there about 2.5 hours later in sunshine.

We have pencilled in Sunday 27th June for a second excursion of a similar distance. As before everyone is welcome and with luck the COVID restrictions shouldn’t curtail us this time. No one will be left behind! We’ll meet outside The Bell again at 10am.

Viv Marsh, btb@moonridge.me.uk

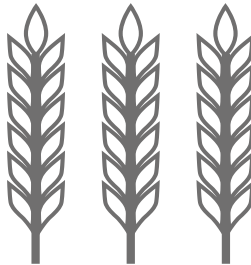
WEATHER – MARCH 2021

Rainfall26mm (1”)
Minimum temperature1°C (35°F)
Maximum temperature 20°C (68°F)

Thank you to Kate Banks who records the weather for us in Wickerstreet Green. The rainfall amount sometimes varies in different parts of the parish.



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PRIDE IN OUR PARISH

In early April, we held the Kersey Annual Parish Meeting, by Zoom. It was a reminder of how astonishingly resilient and resourceful Kersey residents have been in such a challenging year.

We are a small community of 350 people with many family, informal and social networks and businesses. In addition, remarkably, we also have 23 charity and community groups who have pulled together to help others in our Parish. We can be proud of what was achieved while facing the pandemic.

We should be proud that we were one of the first communities in the country to establish a team of volunteers in direct response to COVID-19. We have 24 members from all areas of Kersey helping with shopping, collecting prescriptions and providing practical support, not least with a friendly telephone contact.

The Kersey Volunteer Group and the Footpath Working Group continued keeping our roads, footpaths and bridleways litter free and usable so that we can enjoy the countryside again. The Nightingale Trust has provided access to a Community Car Scheme to help those who need to attend the surgery or hospital.

Although unable to operate as usual, our local charities and groups have supported people by donations, offering advice and upgrading facilities in readiness for the lifting of restrictions. One good example of this, is the successful effort to secure funding from several donors to enable work to start on the children's playground.

The Reverend Jackson's regular Zoom messages, kept us in touch, with positive, creative messages providing comfort to many.

On behalf of Kersey Parish Council, I thank everyone who has contributed to the well-being of our community. We would also like to encourage anyone with the time and energy – especially younger people – to take a more active role in Kersey life. If you wish to join any of our working groups, please contact Sarah Partridge, the Parish Clerk or me.

We have a strong community spirit and are fortunate to live in beautiful surroundings.

There is every reason to feel ***'Pride in Our Parish'***.

John W. Hume
Chair, Kersey Parish Council

More information is on the Kersey website:
www.kersey.suffolk.cloud.

If you don't have access to the internet, contact a Parish Councillor for help.



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FARMING NOTES

Arable:

Our weather pattern is definitely changing! Surely we have two new firsts for April – longest run of consecutive night frosts and driest April? Since completing the sowing of the last of our spring barley and the sugar beet around the first of the month we have had relentless night frosts and virtually no rain. As well as holding back all of our crops and grass, I think these two phenomena are now beginning to affect tree and hedgerow growth and I am sure most gardeners will have noticed the conditions. Most of our winter crops were not sowed into very good seedbeds in the autumn and are now suffering from the above mentioned conditions. The one exception for us is our Oil Seed Rape which is fully on flower and doing remarkably well. This is mostly due to the current drilling machinery employed that plants the seed along with a small amount of fertiliser above a subsoiled area that allows good root establishment and penetration. Helped greatly by the rain we had immediately post drilling in the middle of the second week of August 2020. Even this though will eventually run out of moisture and yield will be affected.

Most villagers will be aware that we have a film crew working on the Magpie Murders, but perhaps not that we have housed the props department in our grain store! We also have lots of vehicles using our farmyard for parking. The props people have had a large number of deliveries and I would like to apologise to my neighbours for the many miss-deliveries although we did our best to avoid them.

Livestock:

Despite the very cold nights through most of April there is no doubt that spring is here: lambing is completed and with only 2 cows left to calve all of the sheep and most of the breeding cattle have been turned out to grass. A steady rain and warmer nights would be very welcome as this would increase grass growth to keep up with the many (300+) hungry mouths which are devouring it.

Cattle numbers on the farm peaked recently just shy of 200 head, as most of the new calves had arrived while last year's were still on the farm. Having grown very well during the winter we have now started selling last season's calf crop aged 12 to 15 months, as finished animals. As previously mentioned the trade for beef and lamb is strong at the moment and the first ones sold through Colchester Market have not disappointed.

The premier national sale of Pedigree British Blue cattle is always on the third Saturday in May in Carlisle. In normal times this always clashes with the Hadleigh Show and therefore we have never been to the sale. So this year, one small positive of the show being cancelled is that Sarah and I can take a couple of bulls to the sale.

It was lovely to have our university students David and Josie home over the Easter break. They both enjoy life on the farm; David helps with lots of things while Josie is great with the bottle lambs, she loves spending time with them, naming them and has a particular skill of being able to feed 5 lambs at one time! (See front cover pic.)

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

Famous for Fifteen Minutes

Have I ever told you about my disastrous appearance on University Challenge? I was only on the team because the others from Vicar University were on a mission and when I got there I...

Actually this isn't the time or the place to hang my dirty TV laundry but suffice to say I did not cover myself in glory, I missed out on the delights of the Green Room and may still be barred from Granada TV studios. It was all to do with Jeremy Paxman's pants but like I say, this isn't the time or the place.

Anyway, like you when I heard about the telly people coming my first thought was "I hope this doesn't disrupt village life too much." Oh come on, like heck that was my first thought, my real first thought was "How can I get a part in this?" I quickly read the book, well I read enough of it to get to the bit with the Vicar, but he was described as being unusually ugly so no chance of playing the Rev; though Julie Boast on the Church Council suggested that I'd been playing at being a Vicar for some time. Good job I like her, otherwise she'd be on all the wrong bits of the rota for that comment.

Instead I hear that I am to be something like 4th mourner on the left and that the Director is unlikely to use the scene I'm in anyway. So like the rest of us I'm going to have to just enjoy watching Magpie Murders for the joy of the acting and the thrill of working out whose houses were which scene – instead of watching for me, the miscast mourner.

I'll be glued to the screen, revelling in seeing St Mary's shown for all its beauty. I love that this will be a small but permanent capturing of our stunning church. We all in the parish work so hard to maintain, clean, decorate, adorn with flowers and staff the services. For it to be seen by millions of people and for them to wonder at its simple and natural beauty is a gift that we are giving them. I like that it's being used for its real purposes – worship, hospitality and reassurance and not being used as a mock castle or dining hall as some churches have been. It's a place of worship; it's where we come together for music and other FOSM events; and it's a place where, when the time comes, we find comfort and reassurance from God as together we say goodbye to loved ones.

We can't go inside during these two weeks but I hope you'll be there in the churchyard on Sunday 9th May at 4pm for the Parish Rogation and Pet Service. Bring a dog, cat, ferret, pony, sheep, friend or just yourself. It's our turn that day to revel in its beauty, its location and its purpose...

God Bless you,

Rev Jackson

Vicar of Kersey

ST. MARY'S CHURCH SERVICES

In addition to our monthly BCP Communion here are services for the year ahead, there will be other services but these – we hope – we can be sure of:

May 2ndNo service in Kersey
May 9th – 4pm..... Rogation Sunday Pet Service: Pooches, Ponies and Parrots
June 20thFathers' Day
July 4th Rose Festival
September 26thHarvest Festival
October 31stThanksgiving service for the lives of those we love
November 14th Remembrance Sunday

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S 500 CLUB LOTTERY

This month's **500 Club** draw took place in the Church on Saturday 23rd April with independent witnesses and the winners were:

1st Prize – Chris Partridge
2nd Prize – Colin Grannell
3rd Prize – Matthew Grannell

Well done to all the winners and thanks to everyone who has already joined the club.

Details of the **500 Club** monthly lottery, plus all membership information can be accessed at: www.kerseychurch.org/fosm

Or for further details please contact either Mark Rigby on **07484 649235** or Bruce Newbigging on **07734 595404** or email fosmkersey@gmail.com.

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Kersey Community Website

Remember to check www.kersey.suffolk.cloud regularly
for latest news, information and updates.

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

The annual parish assembly was held via Zoom on the 12th April. Present were chair John Hume, five councillors, clerk, county and district councillors and nine members of the public.

Apologies were received from eight people.

Minutes of the 2019 assembly were confirmed as correct. Due to Covid 19 there was not one held in 2020.

Reports –

Suffolk County Council – Robert Lindsay: During this most challenging of years he was pleased to be able to continue to represent the people. His party was part of the political group which put forward an amendment on floods; Four motions were proposed to oppose Sizewell C; Reduction from 30mph to 20mph in certain areas; New biodiversity strategy and increased support for paid and unpaid carers. The group had previously proposed an increase in social worker pay; Five year cycling plan for Suffolk and climate emergency recommendations. From his Babergh awards budget he contributed to the Bildeston Food bank. There is a new school transport provider. Number plate recognition cameras are to be purchased. These will be used in villages where there are speeding issues.

District Council – Leigh Jamieson: During the last year Babergh council have been working with other local authorities to ensure communities have received the support they need. One of the main changes has been the move to virtual meetings.

Planning: The controversial application for seven properties in The Street was approved. The joint local plan has been finalised. The council has enough approved developments for 6.75 years. The Angel Court development in Hadleigh should be completed by June.

CIL funding has been awarded to help many projects across the district. On the Environment and Biodiversity the council's fleet of vehicles are switching from diesel to Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil. Further CO2 savings should come from solar panels and air source heat pumps being installed on council owned sites. A cycle motion was approved as lockdown has seen an increase in the number of cyclists. Also discussed has been the budget, car parking charges and Bell Vue House in Sudbury.

Kersey Parish Council – John Hume: This year had presented many challenges but the community had responded well. The council aim to represent the best interests of the residents. The footpath map has been updated and republished. Thirteen planning applications were discussed eleven of which were supported by councillors. Regrettably the application for dwellings behind 1-6 The Street was approved by Babergh. This caused lack of confidence and distrust in the planning and legal process.

The Emergency plan was finalised. Despite many complaints no action has been taken to improve safety at The Crossroads although the landowner has improved visibility to the south. Since April 2020 all council meetings have been held via Zoom. This has

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY (cont.)

worked well. A system of volunteers was set up to help with shopping, offer practical support and be a friendly contact. KVG were reallocated areas of responsibility. The council were saddened to note the deaths of four local residents long associated with the Parish Council. He thanked councillors, clerk and everyone who had contributed to the well being of the community during a difficult year.

Footpath Working Group – Kevin Pratt: An exceptional year for the group with many challenges. The very wet weather resulted in the paths being heavily worn but members continued to cut and maintain them. Some posts and signs were repaired or replaced. With the easing of lockdown there is expected to be an increase in walkers who I trust will enjoy walking in the beautiful Kersey countryside.

A member of the public reported overhanging branches on a footpath. A new footpath walking group was a welcome initiative to help people become familiar with the paths.

KCPC – Jonathan Marsh: Due to Covid the grass cutting rota was abandoned but kept maintained by the committee. No fundraising took place. It is hoped work will start in the next month or so on the refurbishment. He was grateful to the parish clerk who had helped to secure grants. The cricket net has seen more use and is very popular with some dedicated individuals. The mower continues to work well.







Kersey Volunteer Group (KVG) – John Hume: This group was launched in 2020 with eighteen volunteers. All were allocated an area in which to collect litter, report potholes etc. Thank you to all on the KVG for their contributions.

cont./



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ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY (cont.)

Art Group: This popular group was no longer taking place, it was hoped something could be resolved so that it could start again.

Forget Me Nots – Veronica Partridge: The group have been unable to meet for a long time but most members remain in good health. We are looking forward to greeting our friends over a cup of coffee soon.

Franey Rand and Pest House Charities – Rachael Rogers: Although trustees have been unable to meet several grants were made over the year to individuals and groups. The charity has proposed a road be named after it on a new development in Hadleigh. They are awaiting a reply.

Friends of the Bells – Neville Whittle: A quiet year, their last practice being March 2020. Bells have been rung for three services maintaining social distancing. Ringing should resume at the end of June. It was commented on that the bells have been missed and that parishioners were looking forward to hearing them again.

Friends of St Mary's – Mark Rigby: This is the second year since the trust was founded. Due to Covid 19 there were no events last year. They have set up a membership process for "Friends" to join the trust and a 500 club. They have contributed to works on the west door and the bell tower.

Grays Trust – Philippa Harris: The purpose of the trust is to promote education of residents of Kersey. During the year seventeen individuals have been helped. A donation was made to Kersey school and five school leavers were given a leaving present.

Kersey School – Jess Damant: We were very fortunate to have set on line provision during the first lockdown so were able to begin the Spring term with confidence and strength in our remote learning but it has been a real joy to have all the pupils back in school. We held a well received sports week which enabled children to take part in climbing, archery, fencing and yoga. They also learnt about Space and were able to watch a live streamed performance of Jack and the Beanstalk from the New Wolsey theatre. The school nativity was recorded so families were able to watch at home. We have a new Interim Executive Board of Governors. We hope they will move forward with plans to join the Tilian partnership of schools. The Friends continue to support the school thinking of new ways to fundraise. The school is very aware of the involvement in the community through shared venues and facilities without which they would struggle to fully function. We thank them for their continued support.

Kersey Playing Field Association – Mark Pertwee: We have been lucky to have the benefit of the Glebe as a large open space that we have been able to utilise despite the rules. Funding has been secured for repairs to the pedestrian gate posts and fence into the field. We are grateful to the KCPC for their ongoing maintenance on the areas they lease and to Suffolk CC for the grass cutting.

Kersey Projects – Suzie Rudkin: A frustrating year with planned functions curtailed in the light of the pandemic. We were still able to supply, erect and decorate a Christmas tree which did give much cheer.

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ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY (cont.)

Lewis Mowles Trust – Norah Orriss: No expenses over the past year and the only income came from some interest.

Millennium Book Fund: The council agreed to spend the majority of the funds on the playground improvement project.

Neighbourhood Watch: There is a vacancy for a co-ordinator.

Nightingale Trust – Mark Rigby: The trustees have ensured the smooth running of the allotments and charitable work during this difficult year. The twenty six allotments are all let and there is a waiting list. Those in need were supported and a contribution was made to the local food bank. Kersey taxi service was started in conjunction with Boxford and Hadleigh community car scheme service providing safe and reliable transport for medical appointments.

St Mary's Church – Linda Newbigging: The year started with the re-dedication of The Shrine. Plans to use the space for local artists was thwarted due to the pandemic. Rev. Jackson took on the challenge of on-line services which proved very popular and reached a far wider audience than expected. All fund raising events were cancelled except the gift fayre in December which raised much needed funds. Grateful thanks were expressed to all the volunteers who help in anyway. The shrine has continued to be a focus of support and comfort to visitors who take the opportunity to sit in a beautiful place. We have places on the PCC if you feel able to help us secure a long and loving future for our worship and building or by just helping out behind the scenes.

Table Tennis – Adrian Blyth: The club only met during a six week period in 2020 following all the guidelines for a small club. It could start up again in May. They meet in the Village Hall on Thursday evenings 7.30-9.00 The purpose is social and recreational. All abilities are welcome.

Tuesday Club – Rachel Wells: Members only met once last year when we enjoyed a talk on "A Holiday in Central Asia". The club continues to support Tilly at The Shelley Riding School.

Village Hall – Veronica Partridge: A very quiet year with hardly any use. The exterior of the hall was painted, the flat roof re-felted and other minor repairs done. We look forward to being able to return to all the activities that have been halted.

Village Produce Association – Rachel Wells: Marquee bookings were very low with only three lets. The outing and the flower show were cancelled. We hope to hold the show this year on the 11th September using last year's schedule.

AOB: There is a Kersey events calendar on the website.

The chair ended the meeting by commenting on the last year. He said Kersey is served well by more than twenty voluntary and charitable groups something to be proud of for a small village.

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PARISH COUNCIL

An ordinary meeting of the Parish Council followed the Annual Parish Assembly. One councillor declared an interest in a planning application.

Minutes of the March meeting were confirmed as correct.

Planning:

Boutells – Work to trees. The application was for felling of one and crown reduction on a second. Councillors fully supported this work.

1 Ancient Houses – This was a revised scheme for internal alterations and renovation. Councillors fully supported.

Content for newsletter article “Pride in your Parish” was agreed.

AOB: The broken manhole cover at The Row had been repaired.

Face to face meetings may be allowed from mid May. If legislation allows remote meetings to continue councillors would support this.

Next meeting 4th May 6pm via Zoom is the annual meeting of the Parish Council.

Can you help secure and manage newsletter advertising?

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The Kersey Parish Newsletter

The Parish Newsletter is sponsored and distributed by St. Mary’s Church on behalf of all parishioners.

The newsletter is delivered **FREE** to properties within the parish 10 times a year and is also available to download from:

www.kersey.suffolk.cloud/our-community/newsletter/

The approximate production cost is 50p per copy (£5 per year). All contributions gratefully received – please pass via your distributor or to:

Rachel Wells, 1 Vale Corner, Vale Lane, Kersey.

Or make online transfers (or arrange an annual standing order) to:

Kersey St. Mary PCC, 30-13-52 00694777.

For further parish details and events, please see www.kersey.suffolk.cloud

DIARY DATES

- 4 May – Parish Council Annual Meeting*
- 20 May – Church Annual Meeting. St Mary’s Church19.00
- 5 Jul – Parish Council*
- 6 Sep – Parish Council*
- 15 Nov – Parish Council*

If there are urgent matters that need considering that do not fit these scheduled meetings then extraordinary meetings will be called as necessary.

**Until further notice Parish meetings are being held online using “Zoom.us”.
Links are published on <https://kersey.suffolk.cloud/parish-council/meetings/>*



The next issue will cover **June 2021**.
Please send items for inclusion well before the deadline of 24th May to:

**Rachel Wells: 01473 822230 - rachel@kersey-village.co.uk or
Viv Marsh: 07747 175858 - kersey@moonridge.me.uk**

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