

KERSEY PARISH NEWSLETTER

February 2024



PHOTO: VIV MARSH

50p*

www.kersey.suffolk.cloud

* **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 –

Vicar: Rev. Geoffrey Clement revgclement@gmail.com or 01473 657316

Vice Chairman: Lucy Oldham 07753 626899

Church Warden: Rachel Wells 01473 822230

Bellringers – Bell Captain: Neville Whittell 01473 822616

Forget-me-nots – 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

Secretary and Bookings: Natalie Blyth nablyth1@gmail.com or 01473 827805

Treasurer: Norah Orriss

VPA (Village Produce Association) –

Chairman: Peter Partridge 01473 827231

Secretary: Rachel Wells 01473 822230

Grays Trust –

Chairman: Peter Martin 01473 828361

Secretary: Philippa Harris 01473 827079

Nightingale Trust/Allotments – Info: Natalie Blyth 01473 827805

School – Joint Headteachers: Jess Damant and Claire Dunnell Paley 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 Geoffrey Clement
01473 657316, revgclement@gmail.com

Church Warden:

Mrs Rachel Wells 01473 822230.
and vacant position.

Weddings: For all enquiries regarding weddings at St. Mary's Church please contact adrianwaller@mac.com or phone 01473 652561.

SUFFOLK GUILD

On Sunday 3rd December 2023 in 48m. At St Mary's. Tenor: 14-2-2 in F. 1320 Plain Bob Doubles.

First quarter inside 3. In thanksgiving for the life of Edwin Hynard 1924-2023 who taught the original band here following the restoration of the tower and bells in 1970.

The bells were rung at midnight on December 31st to welcome in 2024 by Kathleen Banks, Pauline Brown, Rodney Downer and Neville Whittell.

The Suffolk Guild of Ringers will be holding a practice on March 23rd from 3.00- 4.30.



Crawford Allen, Neville Whittell (C), Jill Apter, Kevin Ward, Robert Howe, Richard Finch.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The PCC met at Quiet Waters on the 17th January.

Rev. Geoff opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes of the November meeting were approved. The action log was checked and updated.

Safeguarding: Rev. Geoff is undertaking this role for the time being.

Services and side persons rota have been organised until July. Each church in the Benefice is having a Lent talk followed by a light lunch, Kersey will be hosting the last one on the 19th March.

Faculty: Application is required for meeting in February.

Financial report and quota was discussed. Fund raising ideas were suggested.

Newsletter: A new editor needs to be found.

Churchyard: Some tree work is required.

AOB: Rev. Geoff is holding intercession and altar preparation training. A U3A group have booked to look around the church in July. Suffolk Historic Churches plaque is on the notice board.

Next meeting 13th March the Annual meeting date is the 17th April.



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PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (cont.)

SERVICES

A well attended candlelight Carol service held on the 17th December was taken by Rev. Geoffrey Clement. Readers were Lucy Oldham, Linda Newbigging, Susannah Marsh, Mark Pertwee, Stuart MacQuaker, Nick Judd and Rev. Geoff. Mulled wine and mince pies were enjoyed after the service.

Christmas services continued with around fifty people attending the Holy Communion service on Christmas Eve which was taken by Rev. Adrian Waller.

INVALIDS

We send our best wishes to those who have been or are in hospital, having treatment or unwell at home. Jean Jarvis is currently in Magdalen House following a spell in hospital.

DONATIONS

Thank you to those who have donated so far to the cost of printing the newsletter. Donations are still being accepted.

FLOWERS

I will soon be arranging the flower rota for the coming year starting with Easter. We don't have flowers during Lent. **Rachel Wells.**

OLD YEAR-NEW YEAR

When silence lay, and the midnight cold
Spread like a silver tide across the night.
Ran glistening rims round thatch and tile.
And set the star struck window panes alight.

From up on high the laboured echoes rang
The muffled tones of solemn bells,
Their slow and sober measures playing out
An old year's requiem, their last farewells.

They tolled a vocal elegy.
An end, a muted final sigh,
The abacus of Time's enigma moved.
And gone forever, rest in peace, goodbye.

But like the dawn that comes each day,
The joy of life springs ever fresh and dear.
Revitalised and eager now the bells
Flood out on peals precise and clear.

From trebles chime to tenors blow.
Hear out our rounds all ye below.
They bring you tidings of good cheer,
And midnight song "New year, New year!"

Their stone walls trembled with the pulse
And promise of their floating symphony,
And all the waiting shadows joining hands,
Danced with the moonbeams lest they flee.

It touched the fading embers of the hearth
And caught the circling strains of Auld Lang Syne
An incantations spell, that, raising glass and bell
Then slowly whispered down in soft decline.

At last the sallies fall, and toasts
To this and that are mooted from the floor
Bed calls the weary, one by one
They slip from sight,
Gone where the night
Holds all within her velvet hand once more.

By Ray Banks



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PARISH NEWS

TUESDAY CLUB

Tuesday club members enjoyed a Christmas party in the village hall. Winners of the competitions were Natalie Blyth and Frances Whymark. The club doesn't meet again until March.

Rachel Wells.

VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

A meeting was held on the 15th January. The show schedule was worked out with many alterations. This will be delivered with the March newsletter. The outing was discussed and a possible venue is Hever Castle. AGM 25th March.

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S – CHRISTMAS SUPPER DANCE

On Friday 8th December, we held a Christmas supper dance at St Mary's. The evening kicked off with Trevor's amazing cocktails in the 'Bell Tower Cocktail Bar' followed by dinner whilst listening to the smooth crooning tones of Chris James, before dancing 'til midnight in our beautiful candlelit church.

A competition was held for the best themed table with fancy dress to match. There were some amazing props and costumes with first prize going to the "Kersey Kasbah". We also had the Great Gatsby, Quality Street and Pirates of the Caribbean to name but a few of the themes.

A huge thank you to everyone's generosity, as we raised just over £1,670 for the church repairs and had great fun doing so.

Thank you to Luke Whitwell and Nevelli for sponsoring the event along with Bryan Goodwin of BGA Print and to all our wonderful FoSM Trustees for working so hard with the PCC team to make the evening such a success.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPTION FOR KERSEY RESIDENTS

Hadleigh Community Transport Group provides accessible transport in the Hadleigh area.

They regularly run a bus between Kersey and Hadleigh, where you can access shops, doctors, dentists, opticians and catch onward timetabled buses to Ipswich and Sudbury.

Please contact them to book your journey up to one week in advance with at least 24 hours notice. Bookings are made on a first come, first served basis. The earlier you book your journey the more likely it is to exactly fit with your wishes. They can pick up from safe locations near to your home. The later you book the more likely you will have to fit with other already pre booked journey times.

To book a bus or for more information please call 01473 826242 9am – 3 pm Monday – Friday. You will be advised of the bus fare at the time of booking.

For more information see their website www.hadleigh.org

PARISH NEWS (cont.)



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COMMUNITY POLICING TEAM

Dear Kersey residents, a new policing model has been introduced by Suffolk Constabulary. There are now Community Policing Teams (CPT) who have responsibility for long term problem solving and engaging with the community. The area I will be responsible for includes the following parishes...

Aldham, Capel St. Mary, Elmsett, Hadleigh North, Hadleigh South, Higham, Holton St. Mary, Kersey, Layham, Wenham Magna, Wenham Parva, Nayland with Wissington, Nedging with Naughton, Polstead, Raydon, Semer, Shelley, Stoke by Nayland, Stratford St Mary and Whatfield.



I have help with my area from PCSO 3092 Jo Adams, we are based out of Hadleigh Police Station. Other officers, such as those on the Response Investigation Team (RIT) are responsible for dealing with most crime and emergency incidents reported to Suffolk Police.

My new role incorporates visiting schools, holding engagement events, identifying and tackling any ongoing issues, dealing with anti-social behaviour and some other specific matters. The new approach should mean you see police a bit more and gives me the flexibility to patrol around my area and target anything that is going on and hear from the public directly about any issues that need police attention.

When it comes to Kersey, it remains a typically very safe place (much like the rest of my area), with no recent crime reports. There have been some burglaries reported in surrounding areas though and these are not just isolated to the early hours of the morning either, with some occurring in the afternoon or evenings. If you are out, try to make it look like someone is home and consider getting CCTV, even if that is just a video doorbell of some kind. You can find good crime prevention advice on the Suffolk Police website – www.suffolk.police.uk. The website also has a map showing what crime and anti-social behaviour is happening around you, just click on the “Policing in your area” and choose “Hadleigh and Nayland” then view the crime map and zoom in on your home area.

Please consider following the Hadleigh Police Facebook and X (formerly Twitter) pages, as along with a colleague responsible for the east Babergh area, I post on there and will advertise where I will be for each of my monthly engagement events.

Hope to see you around, say hello if you see me.

Kind Regards, PC 1293 Niall Johnson.

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ST. MARY'S CHURCH

Dear Friends,

Christmas and New Year now seem a long way off, but I wanted to start by saying how nice it was to meet so many people at our Carol Service back in December.

Hopefully it is not too late to wish you all a Happy New year and may God continue to bless you this year and throughout all your days. A Tutor at Cardiff University came up with a mathematical formula which concluded that January 24th was the bleakest day of the year just one month after Christmas. It was a combination of bills coming in, credit cards to pay, failure to keep New Year's Resolutions and a sprinkling of bad weather. His advice to overcome the "blues" was simple: Get out more!

As a vicar when I think about the New year, I always see it as being split into 3 parts. Part 1 is everything relating to Lent and Easter, beginning with Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday. This year Ash Wednesday in 14th February and we will be having an Ash Wednesday service at 6:30pm in St Mary's Aldham. Then during Lent as well as our usual Sunday Services we are having some Lent Lunches (Bring and Share Lunch) every Tuesday starting at St Mary's Aldham on the 20th February, then Chattisham 27th, Elmsett 5th March, Hintlesham 12th and finally Kersey on 19th March. Starting 11am with a discussion and followed by a simple lunch at midday. Anyone is welcome to either the discussion or the lunch or to stay for both.

Part 2 is when things settle down with the coming of summer and the wedding season, this is then followed by part 3, the build up to Christmas. This build up to Christmas goes a bit like this: once the summer holidays are over we have Harvest Festival, Remembrance, Advent, and then we are back at Christmas again, and the cycle repeats.

You are all, of course, welcome to any of our services during the coming Lent and Easter.

All the very best for 2024

Geoffrey

Revd. Geoffrey Clement

KERSEY CALENDAR ON-LINE

We also have a Kersey Community *Google calendar* on the website:

<https://kersey.suffolk.cloud/events/>

If you are planning an event in Kersey please email the information to Sarah Partridge at kerseypc@gmail.com so it can be included.

(If you already use Google Calendar you can add this to yours.)

To advertise in the Kersey Parish Newsletter please contact:

Colin Grannell at hawckg@hotmail.com or 01473 829074

¼ page – £6.00 per issue, ½ page – £11.00 per issue

ST. MARY'S CHURCH SERVICES

4th Feb 9am	BCP Holy Communion	Rev. Geoffrey Clement
11th Feb 11am	Parish service	Rev. Liz Law
14th Feb 6.30pm	Ash Wednesday Holy Communion Aldham	Rev. Geoffrey Clement
18th Feb 4pm	Evensong	Rev. Geoffrey Clement
25th Feb	No service at Kersey – 11.00 Aldham	
3rd Mar 9am	BCP Holy Communion	Rev. Geoffrey Clement

CHURCH FLOODLIGHTS

If you would like the church floodlit to celebrate a birthday, anniversary or in remembrance etc. the cost is £10 per night. Contact **Rachel Wells** 01473 822230.

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S 500 CLUB LOTTERY

Latest **500 Club** draw results:

	December	January
1st Prize –	Jackson Crompton-Battersby	Mary Pearce
2nd Prize –	Chris Partridge	Linda Newbigging
3rd Prize –	Colin Grannell	Nick Hamblen

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

For details of the **500 Club** monthly lottery and FoSM membership information please contact either **Mark Rigby** on **07484 649235** or **Mark Pertwee** on **07919 166782** or email fosmkersey@gmail.com.

Kersey Community Website

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



Please remember to keep dogs under close control and to clean up after them.



FARMING NOTES



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Arable

I am glad to report that the final lift of sugar beet took place in December and that the resultant 1,400 tons of crop has been delivered to Bury beet factory, making 3,200 tons in all for the season. Although lower in sugar yield than we would have hoped, this has been an enormous crop and we have achieved an average yield of around 95 tons/hectare which equates to 38.5 tons/acre. This record yield is quite poignant as it will be our last for the foreseeable future. Those who know our farm will be aware of the difficulties this crop has brought us. As well as the damage the carting off the fields of these big yields has done to our land, there is the damage to gateways, farm tracks and roads to consider – to say nothing of the stress caused to all by the mud on the roads that we have all seen! I am happy to leave this crop to those farming on lighter/kinder land where these issues are less severe.

As well as the usual tasks we have been pre-occupied for much of January with a looming Health and Safety inspection on 5th February. There have been many updates in H&S rules since our last visit and we are being kept busy catching up. I look forward to reporting the results in future Farming Notes!

Rob Partridge

Livestock

Having just returned from a short but very enjoyable skiing holiday with Sarah and 3 of our 4 grown up children, attention now turns to the busiest time of the year on the livestock part of the farm. Thanks to Rob, Ryan and Adam for covering while we were away.

The main calving period is due to start in early February and lambing starts 2 weeks later. This year we will be aided by 3 new closed circuit cameras set up in the lambing and calving yards which will send real time video of what is going on to my phone and may help save lives. Their infra-red feature means that a decent picture is available even in total darkness.

Sheep

The ewes were ultrasound pregnancy scanned just after Christmas with pleasing results: 6 ewes were barren (these will be sold soon); 10 single lambs; 50 sets of twins and 8 sets of triplets. This gives an overall average of 1.81 lambs per ewe. In an ideal world all of the ewes would have twin lambs because singles (oversized) and triplets (lambing complications and small lambs) are usually what cause the most problems. It could be that 50 sets of twins from 74 ewes mated is as close as we will ever get to that.

Cattle

I am pleased to report that the results of our herd TB test which was done in December came back clear. Fortunately TB is not a big problem in this part of the country. Thankfully, the herd was also tested clear of Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) and Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR). One cow tested positive for Johnes disease – in order to maintain our high health status she has been isolated and will have to be culled soon. For the first time this year we also tested for Leptospirosis and Neospora which are less serious cattle diseases, as expected we found a handful of positive cases.

The ten or so pedigree calves which were due to be born in December duly arrived with no losses, although a couple had to be delivered by C-section. One of the emergency caesareans happened to be needed one Friday evening just when all of the vets were out on their Christmas jolly. The on-call vet did not seem to be too disappointed to be called away. Meanwhile a further six pedigree British Blue bulls have been supplied to the Cogent stud in Cheshire, if things go well we may achieve my slightly ambitious target of supplying 20 bulls to Cogent this calendar year.

Chris Partridge

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PRIDE IN OUR PARISH

The former Covid-19 support group is evolving into a permanent community support group for Kersey. The group will be called *Kersey Good Neighbours* as this best describes the nature of the support on offer.

Volunteers can offer help to residents in a time of need with things like: shopping, collecting prescriptions, dog walking or help during power cuts, water leaks or flooding.

The Parish Council will be producing a leaflet which will be delivered to every home in Kersey outlining the support available with contact information for volunteers along with local support available such as:

Doctor Franey's Charity which gives small one-off grants to people in need living in Kersey and other local parishes. They offer grants towards food, heating costs or for medical needs not covered elsewhere. The Charity can also help those with debilitating conditions in need of some form of respite. Contact Rachael Rogers on 01787 212242 for more information.

Nightingale Trust support for residents which includes the Hadleigh and Boxford Community Car Scheme. This is run by volunteers for residents needing transport for: medical appointments, opticians, dentists, GPs in Hadleigh and Boxford, hospitals in Bury St Edmunds and Ipswich. Contact Mark Rigby 07484 649235 or Jen Eastwood 01787 211853 for further information.

Kersey Good Neighbours will be a valuable and important part of our community. If you would like to be involved please contact Sarah Partridge kerseypc@gmail.com. The intention is that the support will be irregular and in a time of need so hopefully being a member of this group will not be a burden.

**John Hume
Chair, Kersey Parish Council**

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**

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- Local Welfare Assistance Scheme – This hardship grant offers payments up to £300 towards the cost of essentials, including energy. Visit the Suffolk County Council website for more information and to apply.
- Surviving Winter - offers help, such as fuel vouchers or support for alternative fuels like oil and LPG, to help you heat your home. Apply online via the Citizens Advice Ipswich website or call 01473 298634 to find out if you are eligible.
- Emergency Heating – if your home currently has no heating, Warm Homes Healthy People can provide free emergency heaters and help you find longer term support. Call 03456 037 686 or email whhp@eastssuffolk.gov.uk. Subject to availability.

Bringing down your bills:

- Warm Homes Healthy People Suffolk - offers free efficiency surveys and advice to help you use less energy. If you are a private tenant or homeowner, they can also tell you if you are eligible for energy efficiency grants. For more information visit www.warmhomessuffolk.org or call 03456 037 686.
- National Energy Action - runs a Warm and Safe Homes helpline which advises on ways to reduce energy use and improve efficiency. It also offers support to switch suppliers and advice if you get behind on payments. Call 0800 304 7159 or visit www.nea.org.uk.

Help for off-gas homes:

- Oil loans - Eastern Savings and Loan Credit Union offer interest-free loans of £500 to help spread the upfront cost of oil and LPG. To become a member and apply visit www.eslcu.co.uk or call 03336 000690. Subject to a manual decision process, affordability and a credit check.
- Oil buying clubs – Bulk buying reduces the cost of your heating oil. Find out if your community has an oil buying club by visiting www.oil-club.co.uk, you can also check the Community Action Suffolk website for details of their scheme www.communityactionsuffolk.org.uk or call 01603 881 888.

Dealing with energy debt:

- Supplier grants - many energy suppliers have grants to reduce or clear debt if you meet their criteria. Speak to your energy supplier to see what help you can get.
- Citizens Advice - offers advice for energy, debt and more. They can support you to create a budget, negotiate with your supplier and boost your income.
- Benefit entitlement – payments such as Warm Homes Discount, Cold Weather Payments, and extra Winter Fuel Payments can add up to hundreds of pounds to help you pay your energy bills – but you'll need to be claiming certain benefits to get them. Benefit checks can be done online at www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators, or by contacting your local Citizens Advice.

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Visit www.babergh.gov.uk/energy-fuel-and-utilities for more resources to help you keep fuel and utility costs down.

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Rachel Wells
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DIARY DATES

29 Jan – Parish Council Village Hall..... 19.30
13 Feb – Shrove Tuesday
4 Mar – Parish Council Village Hall..... 19.30
5 Mar – Tuesday Club Village Hall
13 Mar – PCC Village Hall..... 19.00
19 Mar – Lent discussion and light lunch St Mary’s church 11.00
25 Mar – VPA Annual meeting Village Hall..... 19.30
17 Apr – Church Annual Meeting St Mary’s church

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Could you be a **DIGITAL CHAMPION VOLUNTEER?**

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FOR MORE INFORMATION
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All volunteers must be 16+
Full training and DBS provided

Suffolk County Council
www.communitiestogethereastanglia.org Registered Charity - 1004198

The next issue is **March 2024**.

Please send items for inclusion well before the deadline of 26th February to:

Rachel Wells: 01473 822230 - rachel@kersey-village.co.uk

To advertise in the Kersey Parish Newsletter please contact:
Colin Grannell at hawkcg@hotmail.com or 01473 829074
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Please contact Colin Grannell at
hawkcg@hotmail.com or 01473 829074



NEWSLETTER PRODUCER REQUIRED

After 5 years the current newsletter production editor intends to stand down.

Would you be able to help design, layout and produce this newsletter?

No editorial input necessary.

FULL SUPPORT PROVIDED

For more details please contact:

Colin Grannell hawkcg@hotmail.com

01473 829074 / 07710096611