

# KERSEY PARISH NEWSLETTER

## JULY– AUGUST 2025

*"An evening stroll"*



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PLEASE EMAIL YOUR KERSEY PHOTO TO COLIN GRANNELL FOR CONSIDERATION BY  
THE EDITORIAL TEAM ([hawkcg@hotmail.com](mailto:hawkcg@hotmail.com))

This newsletter is delivered free to all Kersey residents. If outsourced the production costs would be £1 per copy. Please consider setting up a standing order of at least £10 per year to help with budgets.

Details inside.

## CONTACT NUMBERS

### Parochial Church Council

Vicar: Rev. Geoffrey Clement .....revgclement@gmail.com or 01473 657316  
 Secretary: Linda Newbigging..... 01787 210137  
 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..... 07765916162  
**Footpaths** – Chairman: Kevin Pratt ..... 07854 390658  
**Kersey Community Playground Committee** – Jonathan Marsh..... 01473 822927

### Neighbourhood Watch – Vacant

### Village Hall

Chairman: Philippa Harris ..... 01473 827079  
 Secretary and Bookings: Natalie Blyth . . . . . nablyth1@gmail.com or 01473 827805

### VPA (Village Produce Association)

Chairman: Pete Partridge ..... 07901913932  
 Secretary: Rachel Wells ..... 01473 822230

### Grays Trust

Chairman: Mary Pearce..... 07947079422  
 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.kerseyparish.gov.uk

### 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) .

**Defibrillators:** There are THREE cPAD (Community Public Access Defibrillators) accessible 24/7 in the Parish. 1) The Bell Inn, Kersey IP7 6DY. 2) West Sampsons Hall Farm, Uplands, Kersey IP7 6EN. 3) Kersey Mill IP7 6DP. A further one is available at Kersey School IP7 6EG when the school is open.

Dear Readers, the next Newsletter will be distributed in September. Content should be with me by the 24th August. Colin [hawkcq@hotmail.com](mailto:hawkcq@hotmail.com)

# St Mary's Church

Dear Friends

Many years ago. I went on retreat to a Benedictine monastery in Elgin, Scotland. I went because I had heard that they lived in very strict obedience to the Rule of Saint Benedict. I also went because I had been told that parts of the monastery were the original 13<sup>th</sup> century building that the monks had restored themselves.

It was a fantastic place to visit, we ate our meals in the original gothic refectory with stone vaulted roof. My room in the guest house was in the old cloister with wall about 5 foot thick. Services were held in the original abbey church. The monks had restored the walls and put a roof on. They had a workshop for the stained glass and when I was there, they had replaced many of the windows.

Whilst at the monastery I helped one of the brothers with the restoration work, sharing with him my own knowledge of similar restoration projects I had worked on. This brother had not only taught himself elementary stone masonry but also in his spare time to play the violin. He taught himself to play the violin from a book he had found in the library and without being rude, it sounded like it.

I asked the brother if they ever had any kind of "holiday". He said that once a year in late September they all went to the beach for a day out. And as you might imagine in the north of Scotland, he explained, the weather was hit and miss and most years they sat huddled on the beach eating their fish and chips. However, within the life of the monastery they did have a number of "Holy Days" from which we get the word Holiday. Whilst there we celebrated St Andrew's Day and being in Scotland they really did push the boat out. Not only were we allowed to talk at mealtimes, but at lunch and supper one of the brothers came out of the kitchen pushing a drinks trolley. Added to this the brothers were permitted to have a "games evening" in the common room. They got really animated playing scrabble and on the cards table there was a fairly lively game of Bridge going on.

To our eyes all that may not sound much like the sort of holiday we are used to, but as they put it: a change from the usual routine is as good as a rest and very refreshing.

As we approach the summer season, I want to wish you all an enjoyable, refreshing, and truly restful holiday. May this time be filled with sunshine, laughter, and opportunities to recharge—whether you're travelling, spending time with loved ones, or simply enjoying some well-earned peace and quiet at home. And if I might make a suggestion, try and spend some time to quietly reflect on all the good things in your life and say "thank you" be that to God or just to yourself. May the slower pace of summer bring renewal to your body, mind, and spirit, and may you return with new energy and joy for the months ahead because before you know it, it will be Christmas! On that note: have a wonderful summer.

All the best, Geoffrey (Rev'd Geoffrey Clement vicar)

## Village News

### THANKYOU

Thank you to Lynn English who has retired after many years delivering the newsletters at the north end of the village. This round has now been taken over by Philippa Harris.

### BELL RINGERS

On Saturday 31st May 1260 Grandsire Triples were rung to mark the centenary of the installation of the church clock.

Taking part were Josephine Beever, Christine Knight, Neville Whittell, Richard Knight, Katherine Salter, Rev Geoffrey Clement, Colin Salter(C), Robert Howe.

### RAINFALL

From the 24th May - 23rd June 39mm of rainfall was recorded in Vale Lane.

### MOVES

Farewell to David and Jan Woolard who have moved from Waterwell house to Manningtree.

### CLEANING

Weeks beginning 14th July Frances Whymark and Nikki Fidell

“ “ 28th July Ruth Anderson and Sue Attridge

“ “ 11th August Suzie Rudkin and Karen Freeman

### SYMPATHY

We send our sympathy to the family of Robert Vasili who passed away recently.

### BEST WISHES

We send our best wishes to those who are nursing broken bones or ill in hospital and at home.

Our best wishes go to Rachael ( Boast ) and Andy who were married at the beginning of June in Lavenham church.

## Village News

### TUESDAY CLUB

At our June meeting we welcomed Rev Geoffrey Clement who came to talk about his life and work. When he left his school in London like a lot of pupils he didn't know what job he wanted to do. One thing he knew he didn't want it to involve maths! He soon found out otherwise as he became an apprentice stonemason which involved geometry and intricate drawings. He worked at Westminster Abbey and other London buildings and he showed photos so we could see exactly parts which he had helped to repair. He also brought along a selection of his tools which he used. A fascinating and interesting evening, the next part of his time in Montevideo will be another meeting. Competition for A flower was won by Sarah Panton.

The next meeting is on the 1st July when we will be joined by Roger and Tina Loose from Boxford with Flowers of the Dolomites. Village Hall 7.30pm  
Anyone welcome to join us.

Competition Something beginning with D

5th August Cream tea at I Vale Corner 2.30pm

Competition An umbrella

### VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

On Saturday the 21st some villagers and friends enjoyed an outing to Wimpole Hall estate in Cambridgeshire. There was so much to see from the walled garden, the house and farm. I think everyone loved the baby piglets. The weather was hot but there were plenty of seats to sit and relax or you could just call for a buggy to take you to the different places if you were unable to walk too far as the grounds were extensive. It's a pity more people from the village don't support our outings as we have to rely on people from Hadleigh and beyond to make the trips viable.

### DIARY DATES

1st July	7.30pm	Tuesday Club	Village Hall
7th July	7.30pm	Parish Council	Village Hall
16th July	7.00pm	PCC	Church
26th July	1.30pm	Wedding	Church
26th July	7.30pm	Marenzio Singers	Church
5th August	2.30pm	Tuesday Club	1 Vale Corner
13th September	2.15pm—5pm	Flower Show	Village Hall

**The Local Ashes Return! – Village Cricket at Its *Finest***  
***Hintlesham & Chattisham CC v Kersey CC***  
***Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2.30pm***

Brace yourselves, cricket fans (and those just here for the beer!). One of the most *hotly anticipated* sporting events in the eastern region returns once again: The Local Ashes, our very own annual cricket duel between two of the region's *mightiest* village teams.

This year's clash of titans will be hosted once again at the glorious Rockalls Ground in Polstead: a venue renowned for a testing track with an erratic bounce, spectacular teas, and world-class cricket talent on display. It's a day where the sound of leather on willow is rivalled only by the clink of beer bottles, and the murmurs of "Is it tea yet?". From breathtaking singles to dramatic wins in the last over, you won't want to miss a second of this epic showdown.

Expect:

- Cricket
- Family-friendly chaos
- Sunburn and/or drizzle

And of course, village pride on the line



**When:** Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2025 - 2.30pm start  
**Where:** Rockalls Ground, Polstead  
**Why:** Because it's a tradition, that's why!

So, bring your deck chairs, your loudest cheers, and your most forgiving sense of humour. Whether you're a die-hard fan or just here for the cake stall, The Local Ashes is always a day to remember. Let's make this year's game the most unforgettable (or at least the most adequately attended) one yet.

Hope to see as many of you as possible either at the crease – or at the bar. Until then please try to play with a straight bat at all times!

Tommy Newbigging  
Team Captain

Cricket continued....

If you are interested in playing, please contact

Tommy Newbigging 07974 475 104 or

email [tommy.newbigging@savills.com](mailto:tommy.newbigging@savills.com).

Alternatively, my Tour Manager, Bruce Newbigging on 07734 595404 or

email [bnewbigg@gmail.com](mailto:bnewbigg@gmail.com).

Anyone who would like to help with teas and catering please contact Linda Newbigging on 07905 731431 or

email [lindanewbigging@btinternet.com](mailto:lindanewbigging@btinternet.com). Everyone is asked to bring something to the tea table to share.



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## **News from Kersey Primary School**

Kersey CE Primary School is a warm, inclusive village school located in rural Suffolk, serving a mixed catchment area. With just three mixed-age classes, we take great pride in our close-knit community and our commitment to the well-being of every child in our care.

### **Oak (KS2)**

Oak class have been using their designing skills to create proposals for castles in their art and design sessions. They have looked at the features of castles and how and why their designs may vary depending on the time period and location of their castle.

### **Sapling (KS1)**

Sapling class have loved being chick parents! Since watching them hatch, the children have looked after them perfectly: changing their bedding, refreshing water and food and handling them tenderly. It's all been very eggciting! 🐣

### **Acorn (EYFS)**

Acorn class have been busy designing, creating and sailing their very own boats. They had to do some experiments first to find out what the best waterproof materials are. They have been very excited to receive some deliveries of new equipment which has been very kindly paid for by 'FOK' (Friends of Kersey).

### **Jokes of the month provided by Oak class**

What do you get when you when you mix a cow with an earthquake? Milkshake  
Why do you put bulbs in the ground? So, the worms can see.

### **Dates for your diary – please come along!**

8<sup>th</sup> July - Sports afternoon at the Glebe – 1pm – 3pm

15<sup>th</sup> July – Summer production in the Village Hall – 2pm

18<sup>th</sup> July – Stay and play 2:15pm – 3pm, Parents and pre school children welcome to attend.

***‘On a journey together.’***





## The Suffolk Quiz

1. Suffolk has exactly twice as many round churches as it does rivers. Is the number of rivers 7,11,15 or 19?
2. What is the highest point in Suffolk?.....a) Dunwich heath coastguard cottages, b) Beacon Hill Martlesham, c) Newmarket ridge, d ) the trig point at Little Blakenham six miles NW of Ipswich.
3. How many islands are there in Suffolk?
4. To the nearest 50 how many Suffolk Punches are there in the UK?
5. On which island in the USA is Suffolk County?
6. Is the correct spelling Hazlewood Marsh or Hazelwood Marsh?
7. What is the name of the official Suffolk county flower?
8. The latin name for a tree often seen growing alongside our rivers is ALNUS. What is its English name?
9. What is the name given to the area, centred on Thetford and stretching almost down to Bury St Edmunds, which is the largest lowland forest in the UK?
10. Whose elder brother died over Blythburgh on August 12th 1944 when piloting an American 'Liberator' bomber on a top secret mission. What was the name of the famous younger brother?
11. During which King's reign was Orford Castle built?
12. What R was a famous agricultural machinery construction business based in Ipswich for 200 years until bought by the US conglomerate Textron in 1998?
13. In which year was the Ipswich southern bypass, including the Orwell Bridge, opened?
14. The Sutton Hoo ship burial dates from which century
15. Who stayed at Beach House, Felixstowe in the 1930s whilst awaiting a divorce from her second husband and before a third rather contentious marriage?
16. Francis Drake's flagship, the Golden Hind, was built at Slaughden. But what was its original name? Ostrich, Pelican, Flamingo or Emu?

## PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

### Church Clergy:

Rev. Geoffrey Clement  
01473 657316

### Church Officials

Rachel Wells: Church Warden 01473822230  
Linda Newbigging: Secretary 01787210137  
Colin Grannell: Treasurer: 01473 829074

### St MARY'S CHURCH SERVICES

6th July 11.00am	Holy Communion	Rev Geoffrey Clement
15th July 11.00am	Parish Service	Rev Geoffrey Clement
20th July 6.30pm	Evensong	Jim Sephton
27th July	No service at Kersey	Aldham 11.00am
3rd August 11.00am	Holy Communion	
10th August	Parish Service	
17th August 6.30pm	Evensong	

### Quiz Answers

1	19	2	C Newmarket Ridge
3	One , Havergate Island	4	300
5	Long Island	6	Hazelwood
7	Oxlip	8	Alder
9	The Brecks or Breckland	10	JF Kennedy
11	Henry 11	12	Ransomes
13	1982	14	7th Century AD
15	Wallis Simpson	16	Pelican

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## FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S 500 CLUB LOTTERY

Latest 500 Club draw results:

**June 2025**

1st Prize	Pascoe Gibbons
2nd Prize	Martin & Juliet Lynch
3rd Prize	Mark Rigby



Congratulations to the winners and thanks to everyone in the Club.

For details of the 500 Club monthly lottery and FoSM membership information please contact Mark Pertwee on 07919166782 or email [fosmkersey@gmail.com](mailto:fosmkersey@gmail.com)

We are excited to announce our next event, which will be 'an evening with the Marenzio singers' on Saturday 26th July. Doors open at 7pm and the performance will begin at 7.30pm. The Marenzio Singers will be performing in St Mary's Church with its wonderful acoustic sounds. Ticket price is £20 or £17.50 for FoSM members and includes a glass of fizz.

Please email [fosmkersey@gmail.com](mailto:fosmkersey@gmail.com) to book your places or phone Karen on 07773 402765 for more details.

The Friends of St Mary's

### **Kersey Open Gardens 2025**

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the Open Gardens such a successful event - from the openers to the cake makers, from the car park attendants to the volunteers serving refreshments. It was lovely to see the Kersey community working together which was a comment often heard from visitors to the village on the day.

The unhelpful weather forecast did not deter 338 people who enjoyed viewing the fruits of everyone's labour, mostly in the sun! However there was a decrease of 230 people from the last time. Despite this we still managed to raise £2,675.53 of which we will be donating £2,000 to St Elizabeth Hospice, matching our donation made in 2023. The remainder will be used for future community events organised by Kersey Projects.

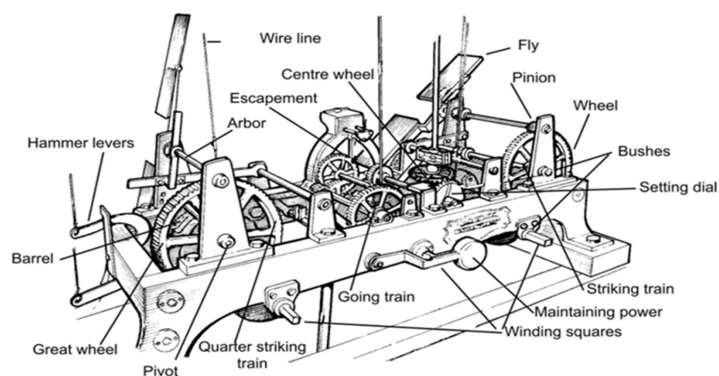
## 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Kersey church clock at was celebrated in style!

The visitors to the bell chamber braved the climb up the dusty, spiral staircase to view the mechanism in the bell chamber. They were privy to enthusiastic and knowledgeable talks from our 'Tower Guides' about the 'two train, striking and going clock' mechanism which was installed by John Smiths of Derby in 1925. We are delighted to report Smiths of Derby is still in existence and continues to maintain clocks all over the country. Over 50 adults, plus children, made the climb and returned, a little dusty but delighted with their experience.

Our visitors also enjoyed delicious afternoon teas served at our Mad Hatter's table set with vintage crockery and a 'mad' cake centre piece. The afternoon was made even more special by the appearance of Queen of Hearts, The Card Soldier, the White Rabbit and the Mad Hatter. Lots of people came wearing a special hat and the prize for the best hat went to Talitha in Hadleigh for her 'death and decay' themed hat.

The PCC is very grateful to so many of you from the village who provided cakes, helped in the kitchen, provided vintage crockery, and talked enthusiastically in the tower. We are particularly grateful to FOSM for their support with this event and to the Wonderland 'characters' for adding general joie de vivre around the table - they provided great photo opportunities for our visitors.

St Mary's raised £830 for the church funds. We are very grateful to you all for your help and we hope you'll agree that we should do it again. The diagram below shows a very similar mechanism to our clock



A Three Train Turret Clock Movement circa 1890  
(Artwork from the late David Nettell)

## GRAYS' TRUST, KERSEY

The Gray's Trust exists to support the education of all residents of the Parish of Kersey and it is at this time of year that we invite applications for grants for the academic year 2025/2026. To be eligible applicants must be residents of the Parish of Kersey. School pupils in year 12 or 13, university students or adults enrolled in a further education or training programme may apply. Grants may be made for course fees, equipment or travel costs.

Applications must be made to [graystrustapplications@gmail.com](mailto:graystrustapplications@gmail.com) by the 31st August 2025 and must include the applicants name, postal address and the course on which the applicant is enrolled.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Philippa Harris, on behalf of the Gray's Trust



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## Kersey Primary School

If you would like to know more about Kersey School or would like to arrange a visit please ring the office on 01473 823397, email [kerseyoffice@tilian.org.uk](mailto:kerseyoffice@tilian.org.uk)



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## **Farming Notes June 2025**

### **Arable**

As has been the case for the last few months, the current issue in arable farming in East Anglia is the lack of rainfall. During the recent thunderstorms we were disappointed to only receive around 6 mm, and with the extremely warm weather we are experiencing, this is a recipe for a very early, and probably poor, harvest. The recent unrest and potential warfare in the Middle East have resulted in questions surrounding the supply of granular nitrogen, one of our most important inputs. It appears that the supply of gas from Egypt is in jeopardy and this is used in the production of fertiliser. The potential problem is so real that currently we cannot get a price for, nor even get an order accepted for this important commodity. On another front I am pleased to say that the final three lorry loads of the wheat from last year's harvest have finally been delivered and we can get on with the task of cleaning and disinfecting the stores for the imminent crop. It is also good to note that every load from the 24 harvest was accepted for flour milling and will have all gone into making bread reasonably locally.

### **Livestock**

People often ask me how the cattle and sheep cope in very warm weather, such as we have been experiencing recently. The answer is that although it may not be ideal, they don't suffer and their performance is not usually affected as long as they have shade and plenty of water. All of our grass fields are surrounded by hedges or have trees nearby and the cattle certainly make the most of the available shade. At other times in warm weather the cows will stand or lay at the tops of the hills in order to enjoy the breeze. The few animals which are still in the buildings are also comfortable as all of our sheds offer shade and sufficient air flow. Care has to be taken when transporting animals that they do not overheat and in extreme conditions we avoid the problem by moving them early in the morning or later in the day. Likewise we also try to avoid doing handling tasks when it is too hot. We felt sorry for the vet recently as their protocol is to wear clean washable protective clothing and wellies over their normal clothes: in 30 degree heat and working, sometimes in direct sunshine they can get a bit of a sweat on!

We were pleased to hear recently that one of the bulls which we supplied to Cogent last year has come out very well after being tested: after over 100 calvings he has been shown to have the shortest gestation period of any progeny tested British Blue bull. Short gestation means that dairy farmers using his semen to produce a beef calf out of their cows, have more days to milk the cow which results in more income. When Cogent are ready to market the semen from their bulls they have professional photos taken for their catalogue.....

Robert, Chris & Sarah



Farming Notes: continued....photo of CBL Sprite



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## **Kersey Crime Review : 6/5/25 – 31/5/25 :**

1x Public Order offence, 1x Anti-Social Behaviour incident and 1x child safeguarding referral

It is anti-social behaviour awareness week 30th June - 6th July, so this month I have a message for parents of children aged 10-16 years old. It is about door kicking and I am not talking about a little kick, this is normally a huge front or back kick at full strength on the front door and the child then runs away. This is a craze that has happened in many parts of the UK for a few years now, historically it has affected residents of Hadleigh, but recently there have been some incidents of this nature in Capel St Mary, Stoke By Nayland and Nayland. A contributing factor is thought to sometimes be the influence of videos on social media. From my experience, the child that does this is normally with others, which highlights the issues of peer pressure or showing off. Incidents like these are investigated by the police like crime reports and can also be explored by the Babergh Community Safety Team due to the impact it can cause and what the behaviour could lead to if left unchecked. It does not take much for this behaviour to become an offence, such as criminal damage, harassment and others.

The distress this anti-behaviour can cause is often far larger than a lot of other crime types, this is because the persons home is being attacked, often when they are at home, which is a place where they should feel safe and not afraid or on edge. With that in mind, I would like you all to know where your children are when they are out and about, who they are with and as far as possible what they are up to. Be curious, ask questions. Consider apps like 'Life 360' which can monitor their phone's location, if there is resistance to this consider reminding them how they got their phone and who pays the contract. If you are experiencing these things and it is either a repeat issue or having an impact on you, consider reporting it to police and the Babergh Community Safety Team, for police this can be on 999 if it has just happened, or via 101 or an online report if the incident is long over. The council team can be contacted on 0300 1234000 or via the website [www.babergh.gov.uk/report-it](http://www.babergh.gov.uk/report-it).

Kind Regards,

PC 1293 Johnson – Community Police Officer.

**The Friends of St Mary's Kersey presents.....**



# **The Marenzio Singers**

**Saturday 26th July**

St Mary's Church, Kersey IP7 6EG

Doors open 7pm, concert 7.30pm

Tickets including a glass of fizz £20  
£17.50 for Friends of St Mary's  
can be reserved and Bacs payment  
made via [fosmkersey@gmail.com](mailto:fosmkersey@gmail.com)  
or call Karen on 07773 402765  
Alternatively cash is accepted  
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*All proceeds go towards the restoration, protection and  
development of St Mary's Church building, Kersey  
Charity No. 1200776*

