

KERSEY PARISH NEWSLETTER

MAY 2025



Painted by Maitland Mason and reproduced by kind permission of Tony Copsey, Suffolk Artists

PLEASE EMAIL YOUR KERSEY PHOTO TO COLIN GRANNELL FOR CONSIDERATION BY
THE EDITORIAL TEAM (hawkgcg@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: Veronica Partridge	01473 823188
Secretary and Bookings: Natalie Blyth	nablyth1@gmail.com or 01473 827805
Treasurer: Norah Orriss	

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.

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

Annual Parochial Church Meeting, 2nd April 2025

Present: Rev Geoffrey, Members of the PCC Jenny Partridge, Rachel Wells, Frances Whymark, Colin Grannell, Linda Newbigging. Plus Kate Banks.

Rachel was elected as Church Warden.

The Electoral Roll was renewed this year and we have 45 names registered.

The meeting was reminded of activities undertaken throughout the year. The financial position was reported. In summary income is in marginal decline and costs for every invoice are increasing. The net position was a £6K deficit on our share of the Quota payable to the Diocese.

The annual report on fabric, goods and ornaments was made and the Terrier signed by Rev Geoffrey. Thanks were given to FOSM and all our volunteers for their support throughout the year. Existing PCC members were re-elected.

Other Matters

Phase 1 of the lighting project has been completed with new lights in the bell tower and both porches. Phase 2 will require a further grant of circa £6K and we are in reviewing this with potential help from the Diocese as part of their Net Carbon Zero initiative.

Work is being done by volunteers to manage the Churchyard, strim the wild flower area, cut back ivy and reveal old tombs and graves.

The Quinquennial Inspection Report is now available

Centenary Clock celebrations 31st May 12-5pm

Linda would appreciate offers of help to make cakes (traybakes ideally), serve teas on the day or help with visitors to the tower.

Down at the Churchyard.....

Linda, Jenny and I only went to the churchyard to clean out the drainpipes and gutters and remove vegetation from near the walls as instructed in the latest Quinquennial Inspection Report. We were distracted by an Ivy bush close to the outside Chancel wall which we had probably walked past many times before, but this time we looked inside what was actually an Ivy Tree and saw two very large tombs completely hidden under decades of untouched foliage. "Think Sleeping Beauty and the Enchanted Forest" and you get the picture.

So a few days later Nick Judd, Chris Wright and I returned with chainsaws, loppers and brute strength and finally revealed the three tombs of the Mason family. The one on the left of the photo is Benjamin Mason. His son Maitland Mason was a local artist who painted the picture of Kersey on the front of this newsletter.

Maitland Mason was born at Kersey Mill, Suffolk on 11 March 1861, youngest child of Benjamin Mason (1813-1889), a farmer, miller & maltster, and his first wife Ellen Mary *née* Sheldrake (1817-1863), who married at the Independent Church, Kersey on 28 March 1844.



He exhibited at the Ipswich Fine Art Club in 1883, from Kersey Mill, with an oil painting 'On the Stour at Dedham' and in 1855 from the same address 'On the Brett' he is also known to have painted 'Aldham Mill'. He was of 131 High Street, Hadleigh, when he died at The Bridges Farm, Kersey on 20 March 1951, he was unmarried.

Please come and view the tombs in the churchyard, and I am sure somebody out there knows more of the story! CG

ST MARY'S CHURCH SERVICES

4th May 11.00am	HC with baptism	Rev Geoffrey Clement
11th May 11.00am	Parish Service	Rev Geoffrey Clement
18th May 6.30pm	Evensong	Jim Sephton
25th May 11.00am	No service at Kersey	Aldham
1st June 11.00am	Holy Communion	Rev Geoffrey Clement

St Mary's Church

This year May 8th marks the 80th anniversary of VE Day, a significant occasion to remember the immense sacrifices made during World War II. Tens of millions died, and many more were displaced or affected. As living memory fades and the number of surviving veterans dwindles, commemorating VE Day ensures future generations understand the scale and consequences of global conflict and the value of peace. It's an opportunity to teach history with a human lens.

VE Day symbolizes international unity and relief after years of devastation, highlighting cooperation between nations—an increasingly relevant concept in today's fractured global landscape. The events leading to World War II serve as cautionary tales, reminding us of the dangers of unchecked hate and authoritarianism. Eighty years on, VE Day is a chance to reflect on the progress made and the fragility of peace and democracy. In Europe over these 80 years, we have come a long way along the road to peace and reconciliation.

I know from experience, albeit on a much smaller scale, how difficult it can be to get people back together and not just talking to each other but working collaboratively together after falling out over what is sometimes a very trivial matter. Of course, to those concerned it is not a trivial matter, and may only seem to be such to those on the outside. Quite often when someone has offended or upset us it is a mammoth task to set about reaching some kind of reconciliation. Often this is because it involves admitting that we might just have been wrong in what we have said or done.

We find that the teaching of Jesus can be very difficult to follow, how many of us really do turn the other cheek? Or do we manage to love our enemies? Although loving your enemy is not the same as liking them. I think the key to it all is the saying: Do unto others as you would have done unto you. And in the first instance we see that God has already forgiven us, that was what we celebrated at Easter. So if someone has already been generous towards us in forgiving us, shouldn't we also be generous towards others. The well known words of St Francis sum all this up:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy;

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
I remain, Your friend and rector.

Geoffrey

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.

At the heart of our school is a **caring, Christian ethos** that underpins all we do. Our vision of being "on a journey together" reflects our belief that education is a collaborative process, where staff, pupils, families and the wider community work in partnership to support the growth and development of every child.

Our core values guide us on this journey:

Joy: We believe that learning should be a joyful experience, where children are encouraged to explore, discover and celebrate their successes.

Ourselves and Others: We foster a culture of mutual respect, empathy and understanding, helping children to develop a strong sense of self and appreciation for diverse perspectives.

Understanding: We are committed to deepening our understanding of the world around us, equipping children with the knowledge and critical thinking skills to make sense of complex issues.

Resilience: We encourage children to embrace challenges, learn from mistakes and develop the perseverance to overcome obstacles, preparing them for the ups and downs of life.

Nurture: We provide a safe, caring environment where children feel supported, valued and able to take risks in their learning.

Excellence: We have high expectations for all, inspiring children to reach their full potential and strive for excellence in everything they do.

Youngsters: We celebrate the unique gifts and talents of each child, recognising that every young person has something special to contribute to our community.

Oak (KS2) We enjoyed channelling our inner Egyptians and made our own paper for scrolls, demonstrating what Egyptian artwork looked like.

Sapling (KS1) In **Maths** we have been learning about addition, subtraction and multiplication. We have had fun reading 'The Queen's Hat' and have even dressed up as the Queen and let the wind blow her hat away.

Acorn (EYFS) This half term our topic has been 'Space'. We've explored lots of space books during our Drawing Club sessions and the children have loved watching clips of Tim Peake in space. We even made our own galaxies and ate astronaut food!

Village News

Church Cleaning

5th May: Bridget Allen
19th May: Marvin Kazamba and Esme Chapman
2nd June: Lynn English and Sue Jones

Bell Ringers at St Mary's Kersey

Ringers from Hornchurch will ring the bells on 19th May from 3.00pm
Ringers from Halstead will ring the bells on 7th June midday to 1pm
Ringers from Saffron Walden will ring the bells on 18th June 10 to 10.45am

Invalids

We send our best wishes to all those who have been in hospital or are unwell at home.

Sympathy

We were sorry to hear of the passing of Edward (Ted) Clarkson (formerly of The Old Mill House) our sympathy goes to his family.
The ashes of Neil and Gillian Goymour have been interred in the churchyard.

Rainfall

From the 24th March to the 23rd April 24mm (less than 1") of rain was recorded in Vale Lane. Most of this fell on the 16th/17th.

Tuesday Club

At the March meeting we welcomed back Chris Parfitt from Rendlesham with his entertaining talk and lovely pictures. This time the talk was on South Africa. He started his journey in Cape Town before travelling to Table Mountain. They were told to go while the weather was clear as there is often low cloud and you cannot see anything. Thankfully it kept clear. He visited the Kruger National park where he saw some of the local wildlife and also visited a Zulu village. He ended his trip with a visit to Robben Island where Nelson Mandela was held in prison for many years. The pictures of the gardens and flowers were lovely. He brought along some examples of exquisite bead work which he had seen being made. A very good evening. Competition for "Something round" was won by Natalie Blyth
We meet again on the 6th May for our annual meal this year at The George in Hadleigh. 6.30pm. The Competition is "Something edible"

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The Parish Newsletter is sponsored and distributed by St. Mary's Church on behalf of all parishioners. It is delivered **FREE** to properties within the parish 10 times a year and is also available to download from:

www.kerseyparish.gov.uk/our-community/newsletter/

The outsourced production cost would be £1 per copy (£10 per year).

All contributions gratefully received: the preferred payment method is online or standing order to – **Kersey St. Mary PCC, 30-13-52 00694777 Ref KPN**

Alternatively please pass cash via your distributor or to:

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

For further parish details and events, please see www.kerseyparish.gov.uk

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FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S 500 CLUB LOTTERY

Latest 500 Club draw results:

April 2025

1st Prize	Richard Evans
2nd Prize	Karen Freeman
3rd Prize	Nick Hamblen



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

Kersey Parish Newsletter

If you have any local interest stories, memories, old photos favourite recipes or anything else that you would like to share then please let me know. It would be excellent to receive photographs of garden flowers ahead of the Kersey Open Gardens for the front page of the June edition.

Colin Grannell, Orchard Barn, hawkcg@hotmail.com

DIARY DATES

6th May	Tuesday Club Annual Meal:	6.30pm
7th May	Parochial Church Council:	Church 7.00pm
12th May	Parish Council Annual Meeting:	Village Hall 7.30pm
31st May	Mad Hatters Tea Party:	Church 12am to 5pm
3rd June	Tuesday Club:	Village Hall 7.30pm
7th June	Kersey Open Gardens:	11am to 5pm
21st June	VPA Outing to Wimpole Hall:	see details in this Issue

Kersey, St Mary's celebrates the Centenary of the church clock

On Sat May 31st from 12pm-5pm, we are offering you the rare opportunity to climb the tower steps to view the Church clock's 100-year-old mechanism and to have the chance to help wind it.

The clock was installed by John Smith and Sons of Derby in 1925. The clock takes the form of a 'two train (strike and going) flatbed with a double three-legged gravity escapement'. It is currently wound by a team of Kersey residents on a weekly basis.



To reach the mechanism you must first climb the 42 narrow, dusty and uneven spiral stairs – so not for the faint-hearted. Once in the chamber you will be able to see the clock mechanism, the bells and peer through the leaded windows for a glimpse of Kersey from a birds-eye view.

To make it a real birthday party, we will be offering delicious home-baked cakes and refreshments for sale. There will be a

marvellous Mad Hatter's table centre piece on display you will have the chance have a photo with the Mad Hatter and the Queen of Hearts and enter your silliest or most wonderful hat into our competition.

£5 for entry to the clock. Teas, cakes and refreshments on sale separately and entry into the hat competition £2 per entry. All proceeds to St Mary's Church, Kersey. Further information lindanewbigging@btinternet.com

Kersey Parish Council

The annual parish assembly was held on the 7th April.

Present were Chair John Hume, five councillors, clerk and three members of the public. County and District councillors attended for part of the meeting.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending.

Reports. Robert Lindsay SCC From his budget he had contributed to the 40mph limit on Union Hill and funding a storyteller at Hadleigh High School. The Union Hill speed limit should happen this spring to coincide with resurfacing works. His report also covered motions put forward during the year, bus services, Local Government centralisation, Suffolk Highways and roads, Council budget and SEND plus an update on flooding.

Leigh Jamieson BDC spoke about the car parks, properties in Corks Lane, the change in waste collections, Budget and Local Government reforms. He is still trying to find ways to improve the mobile phone reception in the area.

Chair John Hume. The councils aim is to make Kersey a great place to live, work and visit. He was grateful for the work of the clerk and councillors plus the support and advice from the Suffolk and Babergh councillors.

Fifteen planning applications had been dealt with during the year. They had started a consultation on a People and Place plan, the results can be used as a basis for a Neighbourhood Plan. The council had supported the 40mph limit on Union Hill and the street lighting has been amended. He spoke of the significant changes coming in the future with the proposed government structures. Kersey website moved to a [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) domain which is more secure. There is a wealth of information on the website including agendas, minutes, finances and contact details.

The Parish Council finances are secure and well managed.

Footpath Working Group. Another good year for the group. The volunteers do an amazing job keeping the paths in a good condition. The new mower operates well and the strimmer has been a benefit. Thanks were extended to all volunteers and land owner reps for their help and co-operation.

KCPC Thanks to all the volunteers who have worked hard to maintain the playground, equipment and cricket net. These are all enjoyed by many people. The annual quiz was a success and raised much needed funds.

KVG. The groups aim is to make Kersey a pleasant and safe place. Volunteers are allocated an area to collect litter, report highway problems or water leaks.

All other village organisation reports can be seen on the website.

Kersey People and Place plan. A steering group has been set up to work on this. This will help the council with decisions in the future. Fifty responses were received from residents following the recent survey.

AOB covered the Norfolk and Suffolk Mayoral Combined County Authority and Local Government reorganisation. Also spoken about was how to improve attendance and engagement with parish events. It was discussed whether to set up a WhatsApp group to cover the whole village.

A COUNCIL MEETING Followed.

Planning. Babergh tree officer confirmed tree works do not apply to hedges or small trees. Councillors supported the proposal that planning application letters will no longer be sent out. Notices will still be displayed in prominent places.

Babergh had granted permission for a gazebo at Orchard House and did not object to tree works at Corner House.

Cherrywood. Proposed cart lodge following demolition of existing outbuilding. Councillors considered and fully supported this plan.

Wormwood Green. Erection of a single storey rear extension, garage conversion with link first-storey addition and new gated entrance. Councillors discussed this application and fully supported the proposals. Concerns were raised about any potential damage to access road which is very narrow. Councillors would like to see a condition which restricts the size of vehicles to the site.

There was no other business.



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Kersey Primary School

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Come and see us on our stand at The Hadleigh Show on Saturday 17th May, we'd love to meet you.



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Farming Notes April 2025

Arable

After a very dry late winter and early spring we have now had 24 ml or so of rain in the last few days of April and this is allowing the crops to take up some of the applied nitrogen that has been lying unused for some time. This is a fairly unusual situation to have at this time of year and has resulted in some very lush and luxuriant leaf growth, which may cause problems later.

The very dry time in March allowed us to do some mole draining in growing crops, and this again is very unusual as it would normally be far too wet until the crops have become too forward to disturb with the mole plough. The condition of the subsoil was almost perfect for the job at the time, as we need the clay at 26 inches deep to be capable of being formed into a 4 inch 'mole' drain, so named after the burrowing animal. These unsupported horizontal holes in the clay run 3 metres apart, and at right angles to the permanent tile or perforated plastic drains that are a little deeper and covered with shingle, so that as the rainwater soaks into the soil, it runs along the mole drain and is deposited into the permanent drains via the shingle at 20 metre intervals. This means that during a time in winter when the ground would otherwise be waterlogged, our mole drained fields should be drier, resulting in better growing conditions for crops. Avoiding waterlogging also results in the soil having a better texture and structure, leading to an improved growing medium.

Cattle

With just two cows still to calve we will be relieved when calving is over. This has been by far the worst calving period which we have had in the last thirty years. Around ten calves out of forty five born have been lost at birth either being still-born or dying shortly after birth. Most of these losses happened during a short period in the middle of February just as the main calving was starting, and to make matters worse it was the valuable pedigree British Blue bull calves which succumbed. As soon as we realised that we had a serious problem (two dead calves on the same day) we took carcasses to the Veterinary Investigation (VI) centre at Bury St Edmunds for extensive (and expensive) post mortems. We have rarely found post mortem examinations to be very helpful but we had to do something, and this time all that was really achieved was getting a list of diseases which were **not** present and had supposedly not caused the issue. My strong suspicion backed up by our vets is that Blue Tongue Virus (BTV) is at the root of our problem...We knew that BTV was circulating last autumn, and in fact we vaccinated all of the cattle and sheep to help protect them. Our thinking though is that some of the cows at a certain stage of their pregnancy were infected in about October and this affected the calves making them weak and unviable at birth months later.

On the whole the crossbred commercial calves were OK but it was the more vulnerable pedigree ones which were affected. As time passed things returned almost to normal and thankfully only one calf was lost to this problem in the second half of the calving period. Tests for BTV done on the dead calves came back negative but this does not mean that the cows were not infected (and recovered) in the autumn.

Sheep

Conversely lambing went well and was quite uneventful. There were inevitably a few lamb losses but nothing major and with the dry early spring we were able to turn the ewes and lambs out to grass early where they are currently thriving, the dry conditions limiting some of the infectious issues which lambs usually pick up. We held the farm open day on 5th April when about sixty families came, enjoying seeing and feeding the animals as well as feeding themselves on the BBQ and teas kindly provided by FOSM. Over £900 was raised for charity.

Rob & Chris Partridge

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KERSEY CRIME REVIEW 05/03/25 TO 04/04/25

Within this date range Kersey has had one crime reported, that being a “common assault”, which is an assault that has caused no injury, a child safeguarding referral is included in that report. That matter is being handled by social services.

I will now write about anti-social behaviour, which is generally not experienced in Kersey, but is something that could occur. Included in my police role is the responsibility to have oversight of any ongoing police related problems and to look to solve those issues in my area, or better still to prevent them from becoming ongoing in the first place. There can be an increase in some crime types or police incidents as the weather improves, this could include anti-social behaviour. My community role tends to focus on anti-social behaviour and I am ready to react to any issues. Anti-social behaviour is split into three categories by the police:-

Personal, which is where an address or specific people are targeted.

Nuisance, which is an annoyance or suffering to a community.

Environmental which is when a person's actions affect the wider environment.

It does not take much for personal anti-social behaviour to become a crime of harassment. Also, it does not take much for any anti-social behaviour to become criminal offences as well, such as criminal damage, public order (swearing/threats/abusive gestures etc) and aggravated trespass, which is trespassing that causes intimidation or an obstruction to some lawful activity – that is criminal, not civil. Crimes are handled by a different team of officers, but I can have overall oversight of the problem and try to resolve.

If you do get any anti-social behaviour issues in Kersey, please report them quickly, via a 101 call or on the Suffolk Police website www.suffolk.police.uk – once on the website, choose ‘Report’ and then ‘Report antisocial behaviour’ and follow the prompts. If the anti-social behaviour is in progress and there is something dangerous about it or a crime is in progress (damage/abuse/threats for example), call 999 to report at the time. If something has been damaged or there is repeated behaviour towards you, this will typically be a crime, so when you report, report a crime rather than anti-social behaviour. Babergh Council also have a Community Safety Team who I work jointly with often, any issues can also be reported to them as well, they often work on lower level anti-social behaviour, which can include issues between neighbours. Although the behaviour may be lower level, the impact it can have can be great. That team works either on their own or in tandem with other agencies such as police and housing companies, that council community team can be contacted via 0300 123 4000 (ask for Community Safety Team) or via this website – www.babergh.gov.uk/report-it - a list of what can be reported is highlighted there.

Kind Regards,
PC 1293 Johnson – Community Police Officer.

KERSEY OPEN GARDENS 2025

Saturday, 7th June 2025 11.00 am to 5.00 pm

Adults: £5 (cash only), Under 16s: Free

With over 20 gardens to explore and refreshments available in the Village Hall throughout the day.

Proceeds shared between St Elizabeth Hospice in Ipswich and Kersey Projects for community events.



Contact kerseyprojects@gmail.com for further details.

KERSEY PROJECTS

- We need your help please -

Open Gardens - Saturday 7th June 2025 -

Refreshments for the Open Gardens event will be served in the Village Hall. We need volunteers to help with serving food and drinks etc. on the day. Also, would appreciate donations of delicious home baked cakes, so we can offer a true 'Made in Kersey' experience. We are happy to collect your cakes if required.

If cooking is not your thing, we need volunteers at the car-parks, selling the garden programmes and assisting our visitors.

Please contact Kersey Projects on kerseyprojects@gmail.com if you can help, or for more information.

Thank You, from Suzie Rudkin, Lorna Smith, Sarah Williams, Karen Freeman and Natalie Blyth.

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£15

TICKETS COVER CARRIAGE AND ENTRY

Date: Saturday, 21 June

Pick-up time by 9am (TBC)

Pick-up places: The Triangle at Vale Lane, Kersey | Magdalen Road Bus Stop, Hadleigh

Contact: Marvin at greetham@outlook.com

Kersey Village Produce Association