

KERSEY PARISH NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2025



**“Autumn leaves shower like gold, like rainbows, as the
winds of change begin to blow” Dan Millman**

Photo reproduced with kind permission of Rebecca Martin

CONTACT NUMBERS

Parochial Church Council

Vicar: Rev. Geoffrey Clementrevgclement@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...clerk@kerseyparish.gov.uk 07765916162
Footpaths – Chairman: Kevin Pratt 07854 390658
Kersey Community Playground Committee – Jonathan Marsh..... 01473 822927
Newsletter: Production, Editing and Advertising—Colin Grannell 01473 829074

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.

Newsletter Donation: If possible please create a standing order or electronic payment to Kersey St Mary Parochial Church Council: 30-13-52 00694777 quoting KPN and your surname. Next content submission date: 24th November!

CHURCH CLEANING

Week beginning 3rd November	Marvin Kuzamba and Esme Chapman
Week beginning 17th November	Sue Jones and Lynn English
Week beginning 1st December	Neil and Joan Hutton

TUESDAY CLUB

At the October meeting my granddaughter Phoebe Chew was unable to come so I stood in for her. I took along photographs and talked about her Australian adventure starting at Melbourne and travelling up the East Coast ending in Cairns. The trip lasted seven weeks and she had an exciting time. Competition "A holiday souvenir" was won by Frances Whymark. We meet again on the 4th November when Natalie will be telling us about her Icelandic holiday. Village Hall 2.30pm Competition "Something white" The December meeting will be our Christmas party on the 2nd. Rachel Wells

SYMPATHY

We send our sympathy to the family of Molly Robinson. Molly passed away at her home in Hadleigh. She was a worshipper at St Mary's for many years until ill health prevented her from attending regularly, although she would come when she could. She was a keen member of the Tuesday club and Forgetmenots and liked to keep in touch with happenings in Kersey through the newsletter. Although she had lived in Tiptree then Hadleigh for a long time she never forgot her Yorkshire roots and was always keen to tell you about them. Molly was a very determined person, not one to give up easily and we will miss her presence in church. She was a devoted mother to Richard and Lorraine and proud grandmother and great grandmother. She will be buried in the churchyard with her late husband Gordon.

RAINFALL

From 23rd September to mid afternoon on 23rd October 34mm (just over 1 1/4 ins) of rain was recorded in Vale Lane.

INVALIDS

We send best wishes to all those who have been in hospital for operations, awaiting operations, receiving treatment or unwell at home.

NEWSLETTER DONATIONS

Thank you to the 40 households who have donated so far to the cost of printing the newsletter, it is delivered to almost 200 households so still a long way to go. See page 2 for payment details.

St Mary's Church: Rev Geoffrey Clement

A walk through our churchyards will reveal the remarkable number of people who had been given names drawn directly from the Old Testament. For some reason or other, the Victorians seemed to take pleasure in bestowing upon their children names such as Tobias, Jeremiah, or Obadiah - names that carried the weight of biblical history and ancient tradition.

These days, when we do encounter Old Testament names, they tend to be the more familiar and accessible ones: Daniel, Sarah, Adam, or Jacob. These names have maintained their popularity across the generations and still feel comfortable to the modern ear. However, we will rarely find challenging biblical names like Amminadab, Zipporah, or Habakkuk.

So what was it about the Old Testament that so captivated the Victorian imagination and caused them to choose these particular names for their offspring? Perhaps it was because the Old Testament represented, in their minds at least, a time of great moral uprightness and clear-cut principles. The Victorians, with their emphasis on propriety and moral rectitude, may have wanted to invoke a similar level of morality in their own society by connecting their children to these biblical figures. By giving a child the name of a prophet or patriarch, they might have hoped to instil those same virtues and values.

Not that I personally think Old Testament times were quite as morally pristine as the Victorians imagined them to be. A careful reading of those ancient texts reveals that there was actually plenty of sinning going on at an epic rate—jealousy, betrayal, violence, and all manner of human failings.

These days, children's names might seem just as unusual or even bizarre as some of the Victorian biblical choices mentioned above—at least to those of us from older generations who grew up with more traditional naming conventions. In lists of the most popular “unusual” names, you will find the likes of Puppy, Bean, Bambi, Ice, and Porsche. Some parents seem to be drawing inspiration from objects, abstract concepts, or even luxury brands. I have even heard of someone who was given the names of the 1966 England Football squad. A nice way to remember a great sporting event, but something of a headache when filling in forms that ask for your middle names.

Perhaps this modern trend toward unusual names is simply a reflection of our contemporary desire to underline and celebrate the fact that we are all unique individuals.

St Mary's Church continued

In an age of mass production and social media conformity, that sense of uniqueness can be emphasized and proclaimed through the giving of a thoroughly distinctive name. A unique name becomes a kind of personal brand, a way of standing out from the crowd. But we should remember that we are all unique and unrepeatable already, regardless of what we happen to be called. Our uniqueness doesn't depend on having an unusual name—it comes from the infinite complexity of who we are as individuals, our experiences, our perspectives, our gifts and talents. That inherent, God-given uniqueness is what we should truly celebrate in each other, whatever the name.

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

Celtic Morning Prayer:

Held every Tuesday at 9.30am with Rev Geoffrey Clement

2nd Nov	11.00am	Holy Communion	Rev Geoffrey Clement
9th Nov	10.45am	Remembrance	Rev Jackie Sephton
16th Nov	4.00pm	Evensong	Rev Geoffrey Clement
23rd Nov	11.00am	Aldham Service	Rev Geoffrey Clement
30th Nov	10.00am	Benefice Service	Rev Geoffrey Clement
7th Dec	11.00am	HC with baptism	Rev Geoffrey Clement
21st Dec	4.00pm	Carol Service	Rev Geoffrey Clement

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Kersey Projects



Join us for a glass of mulled
wine and mince pies at

**The Lighting of the Kersey
Christmas Tree on**

Monday 1st December

6.00pm at The Splash

We look forward to seeing you
there!

THE NIGHTINGALE TRUST - ALLOTMENTS

The trust was set up in 1583 with a remit to help the poor and needy of Kersey Parish. Times change, and with them, people's needs. Payments are made in December that perhaps can help in some way towards winter fuel bills, rising food costs etc. We also make a donation to the local food bank, which can help Kersey parishioners too.

Are you finding it difficult to cope with rising costs? Do you know of anyone that would benefit from some assistance? All suggestions and conversations will be in the strictest confidence - contact details below.

Allotment plots available - We currently have 2 x 1/2 plots available for hire at £30 per year. If you are interested, contact details below.

Natalie Blyth - 01473 827805 / 07487 816966 / nablyth1@gmail.com

The Nightingale Trust Trustees would like to remind all parishioners that access to the allotment site is for plot holders only. Please do not walk within the site, keep to the public footpath and always keep your dogs on the lead on the public footpath. Many thanks.

Which character opened the New York Stock Exchange on June 8th 1999?

If you enjoy a quiz then come along to the KERSEY PLAYGROUND CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT 2025

Friday 14th November, Kersey Village Hall.

Doors open 7pm, start 7.30pm: Carriages 10.30pm.

Supper provided. Bring your own preferred refreshments.

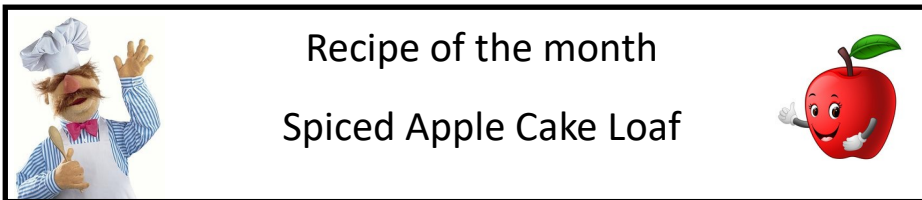
Teams of up to 8 people. Entrance £15 per person: cash at the door.

To reserve tables or donate prizes for the raffle:

Jonathan Marsh: jonathan.marsh10@icloud.com

Dominique Young: Dominique.young@btinternet.com

Please book by Monday 10th November to avoid disappointment!



Prep 20 mins

Cook 50 - 60 mins

Slices 8

Ingredients

- ◇ 1½ cups (190g) all-purpose flour
- ◇ 1 tsp baking soda
- ◇ ½ tsp baking powder
- ◇ 1tsp ground cinnamon
- ◇ ½ tsp ground nutmeg
- ◇ ¼ tsp ground cloves (optional, for extra warmth)
- ◇ ½ tsp salt
- ◇ ½ cup (115g) unsalted butter, softened
- ◇ ¾ (150g) brown sugar
- ◇ 2 large eggs
- ◇ 1tsp vanilla extract
- ◇ ½ cup (120ml) sour cream or plain Greek yoghurt
- ◇ 2 medium apples, peeled, cored, and diced (around 1 ½ cups)
- ◇ ½ (50g) chopped walnuts or pecans (optional)

For Topping (optional but mmm!)

- ◇ 2 tbsp brown sugar
- ◇ ½ tsp cinnamon

Method

1. **Prep:** preheat oven to 350°F (175°C). Grease and line a loaf tin with parchment paper
2. **Mix Dry:** In a bowl, whisk flour, baking soda, baking powder, spices and salt
3. **Cream butter and sugar:** In a large bowl, beat butter and brown sugar until fluffy. Add eggs one at a time, then vanilla.
4. **Combine:** Mix in sour cream/yoghurt. Gradually add the dry ingredients until just combined.
5. **Fold in apples:** (and nuts if using)
6. **Pour batter** into the loaf tin. Sprinkle topping mixture over if desired
7. **Bake** for 50-60 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean.
8. **Cool** in tin for 10 minutes, then transfer to a wire rack.

Recipe courtesy of Chilbolton Village Newsletter October 2025



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Kersey - September Crime Overview

Cold Caller Warning: While some cold callers may be genuine, many are scammers or rogue traders trying to sell overpriced or unnecessary services. They often pressure you into making quick decisions. Individuals who turn up unannounced could also be criminals looking to steal from you, sometimes impersonating utility workers or officials.

Recent Incidents in Suffolk: There have been several reports of a man knocking on doors and either talking his way in or simply walking into people's homes uninvited, typically targeting the elderly or vulnerable. He claimed to be from a jewellers — which, upon investigation, does not exist — and said he was looking to buy gold jewellery, even broken items. This man has reportedly visited multiple homes in Hadleigh. On one occasion, after gaining entry, a piece of jewellery briefly went missing until the resident challenged him, at which point the item reappeared.

Description of the Man:

1. White male with a tanned complexion
2. Approximately 40 years old
3. Medium build, clean-shaven
4. Short dark hair, parted to the side
5. Wearing dark trousers, a blue short-sleeved shirt, and a blue tie
6. Carried a small black bag with a strap across his chest and back
7. Wore a lanyard with a white strap that had the word "ANGEL" written on it

I am strongly suspicious of this man's motives. If you believe he has just visited your home — especially given recent incidents across Suffolk — **do not let him in**. Call 999 immediately and mention these local reports to the call taker.

While on patrol, I am actively looking out for this individual. He has recently been active in both the mornings and the afternoons.

Tips to Protect Yourself from Cold Callers:

1. Keep doors locked and use a spy hole or door chain
2. Ask for ID and verify it independently
3. Never let anyone in unless you're certain of their identity
4. Be sceptical and confident in saying "No"
5. Report suspicious behaviour to police via 101 and to Trading Standards
6. If you've been tricked out of money, contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040
7. For advice, call Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 0808 223 1133
8. Contact your bank if money was exchanged

Gather evidence: take photos, save messages, and note down descriptions

Kind Regards: PC 1293 Johnson – Community Police Officer.

Kersey School Needs You!

We would be thrilled for members of the Kersey community to become involved in our school. Would you like to ...

help one lunchtime a week? read with pupils? run a club?
help with gardening? become a governor? share your expertise?
help with odd jobs? - Public Liability Insurance Required

Please call 01473 823397 or email kerseyoffice@tilian.org.uk



You are welcome to welcome come to our Open Day
Wednesday 5th November 9am – 12pm.

On a journey together



Kersey Parish Council

Community Consultation Events

Thank you to everyone who attended and engaged with the recent community consultation events. There was plenty of feedback given on the People and Place Plan information boards, which is being analysed. It will help to shape the People and Place Plan document and action points for the Parish to work on over the coming years. A big thank you must also go to all the community organisation volunteers who put together such informative displays and shared what they do with the 60 or so residents who attended. The events were a success and a good opportunity for the community to network over a coffee and cake.

Sarah Partridge

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Hadleigh Choral Society

All are invited to join us at St Mary's Church Hadleigh on Saturday 22nd November for a truly unforgettable evening of very special music featuring masterpieces by Mozart and Haydn...with soaring harmonies and thrilling double choruses guaranteed not to disappoint! Hadleigh Choral Society will be joined by professional soprano, alto, tenor and bass soloists and Colchester Symphony Orchestra as we perform Mozart's Great Mass in C Minor and Haydn's Te Deum, with a bonus Mozart Clarinet Concerto featuring soloist Andy Cory on bassett horn. Christopher Phelps will conduct the evening which will start at 7:30pm. Tickets are £18 or free for those in full time education, and are available online, at The Idler bookshop in Hadleigh, or through choir members. For more information visit

HELP! I need somebody, HELP! Not just anybody

Are you, or do you know somebody proficient in IT/Apps who could help manage the two contactless devices in the church? These are a great source of income but proving to be quite temperamental... Colin Grannell

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FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S 500 CLUB LOTTERY

Latest 500 Club draw results:

October

1st Prize Jackson Crompton-Battersby

2nd Prize Mary Pearce

3rd Prize Joan Hutton

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

Afternoon Tea with The Three Chordettes

Wow....what a fabulous time we had on Sunday 19th October, hosting an afternoon with the vintage vocal trio, 'The Three Chordettes'. The church was full and tables were all set with beautiful flowers and vintage china crockery for our guests to enjoy a delicious afternoon tea. There were dainty sandwiches, delicious scones and homemade cakes of every variety, along of course with a glass of fizz. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and we made around £1,200 for the church! Thank you to our sponsors Nevelli and BGA Print, as well as The Swan at Lavenham and East Coast Gin for their generous raffle prizes. Finally, a huge thank you to all the FoSM team for putting on such a brilliant event!



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Kersey Tye Annual BBQ hits its' 10th and 11th anniversary!

Kersey Tye have enjoyed two amazing BBQ's over the last 2 years where the sun has shone and we have marvelled that the BBQ has been going for over a decade. Of course, this has also meant that there have been two new Kings and Queens of Kersey Tye who have been appointed too!

After our much-loved neighbour, Bob Webster, died a few years ago, we decided to remember him in the shape of a memorial cup which is given to a deserving member of the Tye every year. This is someone who has faced personal adversity with strength, has done a lot for the Tye and is just a good neighbour.

In 2024 Scott Gray was crowned as the new King for his servitude to Tye and being a thoughtful and caring neighbour.

This year, Sarah and Chris Partridge, were crowned together for all that they do for us, and the surrounding countryside.

A huge thanks for Pat and Jessie for continuing to organise the BBQ, to Scott for the fabulous tent and to David for letting us use his garden to host the event. Its always really lovely to see each other and compare notes on who makes the best sausage rolls!

Jessie Carter



Farming Notes October 2025

Arable

Following on from my review of cereal prices last month I'm afraid the current prices have continued to slide. On a brighter note, I have continued my 'experiment with retirement' after a 7-week gap, during which I was on the farm. I am now in northeast Scotland again, chasing the elusive salmon for the last 2 weeks of the season. Water levels on the River Deveron have been low all summer and continue at the lowest in living memory into the 2nd half of October, so the fishing is difficult, although I have had moderate success.

All winter drilling was completed before my journey north, and the oilseed rape (OSR) was extremely forward which is surprisingly mirrored by the same crop where I am fishing, 600 miles north! I have been taking notice of the farming here in NE Scotland and am very surprised by the quality of the land close to where I am staying. As well as the grassland for cattle and sheep, and the usual cereals and OSR, there are many fields growing organic vegetables, including carrots, beetroot, and potatoes. I have seen a change this year from very labour-intensive hand weeding to the use of laser weeding machines that are amazingly efficient and can be trained by continually feeding them photos of the weeds and of course the crop, to identify whatever is needed. Once the cameras know what the target is, lasers fire with astonishing speed and accuracy, and the weeds are fried! It goes without saying that these machines are extremely expensive, costing many hundreds of thousands of pounds and can only be justified on large scale and high output crops, but the future lies here. The soil here is mostly grade 1 and has very little stone and what there is, is softer than our flint. One main drawback is that the fields are often quite steep and undulating, but yields seem to be first class.

Livestock

It turns out that the rain which I welcomed last month did not do much to increase grass growth – a case of too little too late. The grass did green up a little, but the cows relentless appetites has resulted in my delivering straw to them outside almost every day. As I write this, storm Benjamin is blowing outside and has delivered a fair bit of rain, but with colder weather forecast any late grass growth will be very limited. With our annual herd health and TB tests due soon, as well as embryo transfer, breeding programs and some cows to be pregnancy tested it will be necessary to have all the cattle housed so we can put them through the handling facility.

So next week we will be housing them and weaning the calves. Any late autumn grass growth which does occur will be useful for the sheep which will be out wintered and only come in at lambing time in February.

The use of artificial insemination (AI) in cattle is not a new science but since I trained to do it and got all the gear it has been very useful in our cattle breeding programs. I have also used AI to introduce other breeds of cattle to the herd: Simmental, Aberdeen Angus, Blonde Aquitaine and Stabiliser have all been used to advantage. The most recent breed which we have tried is the Wagyu. This is the Japanese breed which is known for producing Kobe beef (very expensive, high quality beef, which is produced when the cattle are fed beer and massaged!) Look it up if you don't believe me! The calves are very small (35kg) when born so I used some Wagyu semen on our pedigree British Blue heifers to give them an easy first calving. Hopefully the crossing of these two breeds will produce lovely high quality beef although I won't be massaging them, and I will probably drink the beer!



Wagyu calves with their British Blue mothers

Rob & Chris Partridge

DIARY DATES

4th November	2.30pm	Tuesday Club	Village Hall
14th November	7pm-10.30pm	Quiz Night	Village Hall
17th November	7.30pm	Parish Council	Village Hall
1st December	6.00pm	Christmas Tree lights	The Splash
2nd December	2.30pm	Tuesday Club	Village Hall
18th December	7.00pm for 7.30pm	Christmas Concert	Church
21st December	4.00om	Carol Service	Church

Kersey Village Hall Autumn Buffet 2025



This year's Autumn Buffet was, as it always is, a happy occasion and a lovely way to catch up with friends and neighbours both old and new. As you can see from the photographs, we had a delicious supper cooked by our committee. We also raised £697.59 which will go towards the upkeep of the village hall. We hope that those of you who missed the event this year will be able to join us next year on, as ever, the third Saturday in October.

