

KERSEY PARISH NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2026



“After the blossoms are gone, the beauty of Spring belongs to the Rape flowers. Bees and butterflies fly in groups, confident that there is no other fragrance in the world” Hong Zikui

Pimm's and Strawberries on the Glebe
Sunday 21st June 2026, 3.00pm - 5.00pm RSVP by 12th
June
see back page for details

CONTACT NUMBERS

Parochial Church Council

Vicar: Rev. Geoffrey Clement	revgclement@gmail.com	01473 657316
Secretary: Linda Newbigging		01787 210137
Church Warden: Rachel Wells		01473 822230
Bellringers – Bell Captain: Neville Whittell		07858 130955
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	07765 916162
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	01473 827805

VPA (Village Produce Association)

Chairman: Pete Partridge		07901 913932
Secretary: Rachel Wells		01473 822230

Grays Trust

Chairman: Mary Pearce		07947 079422
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: **22nd June 2026**

St Mary's, Kersey

Everyone
welcome

Coffee Morning

Catch up with friends over a cup of coffee
or tea and homemade cakes.

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St Mary's Church

This year marks the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis. I've often heard tell that St Francis is the patron saint of bird baths because of his fixation on the created order. Within the Church of England we still have Franciscan monks (Friars). For the last 16 years I have been a member of what's called the "Third Order Franciscans". Some of you may remember Father Jimmy who was parish priest in Hintlesham and Chattisham some 20 odd years ago. He was also a 3rd order Franciscan. Being an Anglican Third Order Franciscan means seeking to follow Jesus in the spirit of Francis of Assisi while continuing to live an ordinary life in the world. It combines Anglican faith and worship with the spirituality and values of the Franciscan tradition.

The Franciscan movement began with Francis of Assisi in the 13th century. He emphasised simplicity, joy, humility, care for the poor, peace-making, and love for God's creation. Over time, the Franciscan family developed into different "orders":

- The First Order consists of friars (men living under vows in community).
- The Second Order consists traditionally of enclosed sisters or nuns, inspired by Clare of Assisi.
- The Third Order is for lay people and clergy who live in society rather than in monasteries or friaries.

In the Anglican tradition, this is usually expressed through the Third Order Society of Saint Francis, often shortened to TSSF. Members may be married or single, ordained or lay, and continue in ordinary jobs and family life while committing themselves to a Franciscan Rule of Life. That Rule of Life normally includes: regular prayer and worship, studying Scripture, simplicity in lifestyle, concern for the poor and marginalised, care for creation, peacemaking and reconciliation, and living with humility and joy.

Members do not usually take monastic vows in the same way as monks or nuns, but they do make promises or professions to live according to the Franciscan way. Many wear a small Franciscan cross or tau cross as a reminder of their commitment.

Anglican Franciscans remain fully Anglican. They continue to worship within the Anglican Church while drawing spiritual inspiration from Franciscan traditions. The movement tends to emphasise practical discipleship — living the Gospel visibly through kindness, generosity, simplicity, and service.

A key Franciscan idea is that faith should be lived with warmth and openness rather than severity. Francis himself is remembered for his love of nature, his solidarity with the poor, and his desire to rebuild the Church through humility and example rather than power. So, being an Anglican Third Order Franciscan is less about withdrawing from the world and more about trying to live Christ-like simplicity, peace, and compassion within everyday life. For myself it means I have a framework to help me follow in the footsteps of Jesus in the company of likeminded people.

Every blessing, Geoffrey

Joan Hattrick (11th June 1932 – 21st April 2026)

The family of Joan Hattrick would like to thank everyone in the village for their kindness, support and contributions towards Joan's funeral which was held at St Mary's Church on 11th May 2026. The beautiful flowers throughout the church, together with the delicious cakes, scones, quiches, and biscuits that were prepared and served, were greatly appreciated. Mum would have loved the opportunity to chat with you all and share many happy memories.

For Joan's children and grandchildren, her death marks the end of 35 years of visits to Kersey and of knowing and meeting so many of you. Joan and Ian played an active part in both village and church life. Joan served as Church Warden for 25 years and was a dedicated member of the church community. She was also secretary to the PCC for several years, a Trustee of the Gray's and Nightingale Trusts, a contributor to the annual Village Produce Association shows, and a member of many committees supporting and organising village events. She enjoyed participating in all of this and getting to know so many of you.

Mum's death, coming so soon after Dad's, has been hard for us. But she is now reunited with Dad, which is what she wanted. As Caty said in her tribute at the funeral, Mum would have said, 'Don't use your handkerchiefs to wipe away tears; use them to wave me farewell and remember all those wonderful years.'

Susanna, Ruth and Caty

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Church Clergy

Rev Geoffrey Clement
01473 657316

Church Officials

Rachel Wells: Church Warden 01473 822230
Linda Newbigging: Secretary 01787 210137
Colin Grannell: Treasurer 01473 829074

St MARY'S CHURCH SERVICES

Celtic Prayer every Tuesday at 9.30am			Rev Geoffrey Clement
7th June	11.00am	Holy Communion	Rev Geoffrey Clement
14th June	11.00am	Parish service	Rev Geoffrey Clement
21st June	6.30pm	Evensong	Jim Sephton
28th June	11.00am	No service at Kersey: Aldham Church	
5th July	11.00am	Holy Communion	Rev Geoffrey Clement

What time is it Mr Wolf?

Well, it depends whether the clock has been wound and is keeping the correct time.

We have been reporting on the village clock for a few months now. As a reminder, the flatbed clock mechanism needs a clean and overhaul and the pulleys and wires that drive the clock hands and hour bell are reaching the end of their useful life and need to be replaced.

We now have two accredited quotes to first clean and repair the flatbed, then remove the pulleys, cables and more than a ton of lead weights and replace with two electric motors, one for the “strike” (the hour bell) and one for the “going” the minute and hour hands. The best quote we have for this work is £10,300 plus VAT making £12,360. However, I would suggest we budget for £14,000 in case other issues arise. VAT may or may not be recovered as we await new application rules.

The clock was installed in 1925 by Smith of Derby. It is very likely that the cost was met by several landowners at that time and gifted to the Community.

The annual maintenance of the clock has been largely covered by a grant from the Kersey Parish Council from when regulations were changed many years ago to enable them to do this.

The clock is a masterpiece of engineering, and the Church of England will consider it has historical significance and value. This means, the Diocese will have to approve any change from a manual to electric winding mechanism. The clock will be viewed by the Diocese as very much as a Community asset and therefore required to be funded accordingly.

We have written to our usual Trust supporters and to several other third parties to enquire about Grants. So far, we have been unsuccessful as replacement to electric winding motors is a relatively new idea. Therefore, we must face the fact that majority, if not all these maintenance costs may have to be found from within our Community. The clock has recently been weight adjusted and is keeping good time, however both companies who provided quotes considered work was required to repair or replace the pulleys and cables in the near term.

We will give some thought as to how to raise this money and manage what will be a complicated project, in the meantime any volunteers to spearhead the fund-raising or help generally will be welcome.

Colin Grannell: hawckg@hotmail.com

St Mary's Church: Parochial Church Council

Meeting 19th May at Vale Corner

Six members of the PCC were in attendance.

Key Highlights:

- The side persons team was re-appointed for a further year.
- The gravel deposited on the car park will be removed shortly and the surface assessed for any damage.
- New Church of England rules mean the PCC will have to register as a charity within the next 5 years. This will impact the Accounts and general governance.
- All services through to the end of July are planned
- The Archdeacon's Visitation Service for the Deanery will take place in St Mary's Kersey at 7.30pm on 2nd June.
- Church coffee morning has moved to 2nd Wednesday monthly
- YTD accounts were presented and agreed. Gift Aid and VAT payments were received. Quota payment was made.
- Fabric, Churchyard and Health & Safety assessments were discussed and agreed. Church heating is under review. Faculty for improved soakaways is being prepared. Faculty for clock upgrade is being prepared.
- Fund raising events including, Sea Shanty evening, Tower Clock and Organ day are under consideration.

DIARY DATES

3rd June 7.30pm	Tuesday Club	Village Hall
10th June 9am-12noon	Coffee Morning	St Mary's Church
13th June 4pm	Visiting ringers	St Mary's Church
21st June 3-5pm	Pimm's & Strawberries	The Glebe
6th July 7.30pm	Parish Council	Village Hall
7th July 7.30pm	Tuesday Club	Village Hall
18th July	VPA outing to Anglesey Abbey	

Kersey Village News

MOVES

Welcome to Danielle, Ryan and Albert who have recently moved into Keepers Cottage at Kersey Tye, along with Banjo and other dogs.

Best wishes to Jason and family who moved away to Lavenham.

A belated welcome to Jane who has moved into The Old Reading Room.

INVALIDS

Our best wishes go to those who have been in hospital or ill at home.

TUESDAY CLUB

On the 5th May members had an enjoyable meal at The George, Hadleigh. Thank you for my flowers (you know what colours I like).

We meet again on Wednesday 3rd June at 7.30pm in the Village Hall when we are having a talk on the "History of Willow Weaving" with members participating if they wish.

The talk is by Jo Hammond from Hadleigh.

Competition is "A basketry item".

On the 7th July we welcome Helen Fincham from Naughton with Finchams Farm Flowers.

Competition is "Something depicting farm life".

COFFEE MORNING

Monthly coffee mornings take place on the second Wednesday of the month. The next one will be on 10th June from 9am to 12noon. Come along to the church and meet up with other villagers for a chat with coffee and cake.

ALTAR FLOWERS

I would be grateful if someone would like to offer to arrange the altar flowers. The rota is on the notice board in the kitchen area in the church.

SYMPATHY

We send our sympathy to the family of Eileen Simpson who has recently passed away.

For many years Eileen and her husband Tony lived and farmed at Noaks Farm. Following the death of Tony she moved to Union Hill at Semer before eventually moving to Felixstowe where she was nearer one of her daughters.

BELL RINGERS

On the 18th May a quarter peal was rang by Brian Whiting, Gillian Sparling, David Sparling, James Croft, Simon Rudd captain, Rowan Wilson, Timothy Hart, Alan Mayle

This was celebrating the lives of Ian and Joan Hattrick, loyal supporters of the church who both passed away recently. Neville Whittell wishes to be associated with this performance.

SWEEP and DUST

Week beginning 8th June Neil and Joan Hutton

Week beginning 22nd June Philippa Harris and Iqbal Alam

RAINFALL

10mm of rain was recorded in Vale Lane between the 23rd April - 21st May.

PARISH COUNCIL

The annual Parish Council meeting was held on the 11th May.

Present were chair, four councillors, Suffolk CC and Babergh DC (for part of the meeting) and clerk.

Election of chair. John Hume was proposed, seconded and elected.

Election of vice chair. Andrew Rogers was proposed, seconded and elected.

Apologies were received from two councillors.

Declarations of Interest. A councillor declared an interest in a planning application.

Public forum reports. All reports had been circulated to councillors and published on the website.

The chair congratulated Simon Dowling on his election as County Councillor for the Hadleigh division and welcomed him to his first parish council meeting. Following the Boundary Commission review, Kersey has moved from Cosford to the Hadleigh division which includes Layham, Raydon and Whatfield. County Councillor and Babergh Councillor both highlighted points in their reports.

Parish time. Highway contractors were in Kersey recently to clear gully's in the Street and Church Hill. They only cleared a couple then photographed others. There were still concerns about loose gravel on the surface of school and church car park.

Planning. Proposed erection of greenhouse at Wickerstreet House. This application is identical to what was considered at the last meeting. The councillors fully supported this and the impact of a greenhouse on a listed building. The clerk will respond and explain why the Council supported this application.

Clerks report. The government has confirmed there will be three unitary authorities for Suffolk. Kersey will be in West Suffolk, elections will take place in 27th May. The clerk has been in contact with the owners of 3-6 The Street. They have tried to minimise disruption and hope to complete renovations soon. The defibrillators are checked regularly and are ready in case of an emergency. The website continues to be updated.

Correspondence. All correspondence had been circulated including an item on waste collections, all residents should have received new bins.

Finance. Auditor and lead councillor for finance were confirmed and financial statements were approved including Parish Council accounts and governance statements.

Footpath working group. The group met and all volunteers confirmed their allocated paths. Replacement way marker signs will be put up as needed. It was noted some people are riding bikes on footpaths. They can only be ridden on bridleways not footpaths. The first cut is now being done. The poor state of Vale Lane triangle was discussed. It has been suggested that granite setts be laid to prevent it eroding any further. The clerk will raise this with Highways.

KCPC. The mower has been repaired. The new toddler swing seat will be fitted shortly.

To consider review of SCC flood investigation report for Kersey. The Parish Council are disappointed with this report as it failed to acknowledge the importance of opening weir gates in Hadleigh.

Renewal of Glebe lease for playground. The Parish council resolved it was happy to sign a new lease on same terms as now.

Consider progress on how to improve mobile phone reception. All homes will have to transition to Digital Voice by January 27. This relies on Broadband connection that requires a power supply. If outages occur this could mean some residents could be left with no means of contacting emergency services. The Parish council encourages all residents who have a problem to contact their network provider.

Agree content for Pride in our Parish. A councillor will draft an article on wild fires and not having bonfires in dry weather.

Training. SALC continues to offer on line training.

A full report can be found on the website.

Rachel Wells

Follow “The Countryside Code” to prevent fires this summer

The dry, parched ground in the summer means there’s an added risk of a fire starting but you should take care at all times of the year. In hot, dry or windy conditions fires can creep through grassland and spread rapidly becoming wildfires. Once out of control and fanned by the wind, the noise, heat and speed of a field fire can be very frightening and cause a serious threat to life and properties. Being given 10 minutes to leave your home is scary! Every year wildfires destroy large areas of farmland and crops as well as woodland, hedges and undergrowth and with them the habitat of local wildlife. This can take years to recover.

Save your bonfire for cooler weather. If it is simply too hot, too dry and too much of a fire risk don't risk it, don't light it!

https://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/en_GB/countrysidecode/

Village Produce Association

The next VPA outing is to Anglesey Abbey on the 18th July.

For details, please contact Marvin on 07561080102 or email marvin.kuzamba@gmail.com



<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/>

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News from Kersey Primary School

Year 6 SATs

A huge WELL DONE to our Year 6 pupils for completing their KS2 SATs. We are so proud of the determination, resilience and positive attitude you have shown throughout the week. Now it's time to relax, celebrate and enjoy the rest of the term. Thank you as well to our amazing staff and supportive families for all of the encouragement along the way.

Hadleigh Show

We were winners again at the Hadleigh Show! Acorn class were awarded first place for their hand print animals and Oak class came third with their Poetry Tree. We are proud of all the hard work, creativity and teamwork that went into our competition entries.

A huge well done to everyone involved — what a fantastic achievement!

Hollow Trees Farm

What a fantastic whole school trip to Hollow Trees Farm!

We became mini farmers for the day, learning all about life on the farm! The children loved meeting the animals, discovering how wheat is turned into flour and even making butter from milk.

A huge thank you to the Hadleigh Farmers Agricultural Association for fully funding this amazing experience for our children — we are so grateful!

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 or **visit our website www.kersey.suffolk.sch.uk**.

Mary's Marathon Madness is completed!

I wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone that was kind enough to sponsor me for my Marathon Madness campaign for Meningitis Now. I particularly wanted to thank Sarah and Chris Partridge for their very generous donation as a result of their Open Farm day. I had the most amazing day!

The sun shone, the crowds cheered and called out for Mary Poppins and I soaked it all up! Maybe a bonus was that my phone died at mile 2 so I gave up minding about my pace and time and just enjoyed it all.

To top it off I managed to raise a whopping £11,500 which is far more than I could have had imagined raising.

Thank you again for your support and encouragement, it made all the difference.

Jessie Carter





The Six Bells

Preston St. Mary



Situated in the heart of the beautiful Suffolk countryside, The Six Bells is a charming grade 2 listed pub that prides itself on a warm welcome, local cask ales and fantastic homemade food. We are locally owned & locally run and we believe in providing a great taste of Suffolk life- from local artists on the walls to the local produce on our plates

Food served:

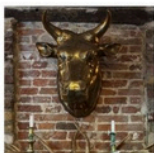
Wednesday-Saturday:
12pm-2pm • 6pm-8pm
Sunday: 12pm-3:30pm

Upcoming Events:

Friday 19th June - Steak Night from 6pm
Sunday 21st June- Fathers Day from
12pm

Saturday 21st June- Breakfast (8:30am-11am)
we recommend booking to avoid disappointment

Call us on 01787247440 or email reservations@thesixbellspreston.com



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thesixbellspreston.com



The Six Bells, Preston St Mary

The Six Bells, The Street, Preston St Mary, CO109NG

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Kersey: April Crime Overview

1 theft (heating oil).

This month I will focus on in person scams/thefts.

Rogue traders turn up at your home claiming that something on or around your home needs repair. They quote a low price but, after the job is done, demand more money. They might pressure or threaten the victim. Never agree to any work from a doorstep caller, get multiple written quotes, do your research on the company, ask to see past work references and avoid paying up front.

The car for sale sabotage When selling a car privately fraudsters may attend in a group. While one distracts you, another sabotages the car so it appears faulty. They then accuse you of selling a defective vehicle and pressure you to lower the price. Meet in a public place with cameras and if more than one person turns up, get help or insist only one inspects the vehicle.

Fake utility or Council workers Criminals who pose as workers, wearing high-vis clothing and carrying fake ID to appear legitimate. Don't let anyone in without verification. Keep doors and windows secure, use a door chain, speaking without fully opening the door. Shut the door while you independently verify their identity—genuine workers will wait and won't pressure you.

Charity scam Doorstep scammers may pose as charity collectors, sometimes wearing tabards and showing fake badges or donation buckets. They often have limited knowledge of the charity and use pressure or emotional manipulation to get money. Avoid donating at the door. Instead give directly through the charity's official website or contact details.

Emergency story Someone may knock claiming an urgent problem (e.g. broken-down car or dead phone) to gain access to your home. Don't let them inside and never hand over your phone. Offer to make a call on their behalf from behind a closed door if needed.

Response to your social media work request A person responds to your DIY or repair request on social media, offering help. They may ask for payment upfront or take your property away to "fix," then disappear and become uncontactable, leaving you out of pocket and without your belongings. Don't give money or property to strangers from social media. Use reputable, verified tradespeople.

If you experience any of the above and feel uncomfortable, say you're calling the police and close the door, call 101 for advice or 999 if you feel at immediate risk.

Kind regards, PC 1293 Johnson - Community Police Officer

Farming Notes May 2026

As Rob is away chasing that elusive salmon around Scotland again, farming notes this month will be mainly about the livestock part of the farm: As expected lambing and calving were both completed before the end of April. Everything which is going to be turned out to grass for the summer has been. Due to cold nights (until recently) and lack of rain, grass growth is behind where we would like it to be. The silage situation is looking very much like last year – I am currently allowing cows to graze grass which we had hoped to make into silage for winter feed. There is no point paying a contractor to cut, bale and wrap silage in expensive plastic if the cows are going to run short of grazing grass. It looks as though we will have to use straw as the main constituent of next winter's feed once again. Having said that, since they have been out at grass, the cows have improved in condition and their calves are growing well. The main group on Parks, (the grass field nearest the village) are running with Novak the Simmental bull. I am very impressed with his daughters from last year which will join the breeding herd next year – they have grown well and look to have the right traits for breeding females.

At the beginning of May we were very pleased to welcome Ryan, Dani and their two year old son Albert to Kersey Tye, where they have moved into a farm cottage. Ryan has also this week taken delivery of the smart new (to us) sprayer which we mentioned previously. A necessary update on the old smaller machine, this should save time and facilitate the precision application of fungicides, herbicides and insecticides to crops on the farm.

Shows

The Hadleigh Show last week was a great success with over 14,000 people enjoying all that a country show has to offer. The Suffolk County Agricultural show is just around the corner and, as usual, we will be attending with a team of show sheep, both Suffolks and Blue Texels. At one time we used to show sheep and cattle and although we enjoyed the challenge, it was very tiring and we did not get time to see much of the rest of the show. The idea of showing is to take some of our best stock to show to the public and also to potential customers who are looking for breeding stock. There are classes where we compete with other livestock farmers within the various breeds. Winning is nice and can help with sales, but being there and being seen is more important – at least that is what we say when we don't win!

Since we have been selling most of our bulls to the Cogent stud there is less need to show cattle. Added to this there is a risk in taking high health status cattle to shows as they might bring home a problem which could be very costly. So now we just show some sheep which gives time to enjoy the show, network, and socialise.



Novak, our Simmental bull with a cow and one of his daughters

Chris Partridge

Next Friends of St Mary's Event

We are delighted to announce that our next FoSM event will be an afternoon tea with The Three Chordettes on Sunday 11th October. Please 'save the date' and tickets will go on sale next month. Email: fosmkersey@gmail.com for more information.

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S 500 CLUB

Latest 500 Club draw results: **May 2026 LOTTERY**

1st Prize	Nick Hamblen
2nd Prize	Neil Hutton
3rd Prize	Richard Evans

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



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Pimm's and Strawberries on the Glebe

on



Sunday, 21 June 2026

3.00 - 5.00 pm



- We will be serving a complimentary welcome Pimm's and strawberries. Please feel free to bring your own additional drinks.
- Sarah Louise, a local singer and songwriter, will be entertaining us with a mix of familiar songs and some of her own compositions.
- This is a **free event** that will take place on the Recreation Ground with the marquee kindly provided by the VPA. Limited seating will be available.
- **Please register by 12 June to confirm your attendance and ensure you are included in the numbers for catering.**

We look forward to seeing you there!

RSVP: kerseyprojects@gmail.com

Your Parish Newsletter Needs You!

Please help us make this newsletter as useful and interesting as can be.

Ideas for content are always welcome.

All enquires to:

Colin Grannell

hawkcg@hotmail.com

KERSEY PARISH
NEWSLETTER JUNE 2026



"After the blossoms are gone, the beauty of Spring belongs to the Ragwort flowers. Rare and butterflies fly in groups, confident that there is no other fragrance in the world!" Hong Zhiqi

Pimm's and Strawberries on the Glebe
Sunday 21 June 2026, 3.00pm - 5.00pm RSVP by 12 June
see back page for details