

# M ST MARY'S MENDLESHAM

www.stmarysmendlesham.org.uk

You are welcome to worship at any  
of our services.

## SUNDAYS:

**9.30 a.m.** Parish Mass & Address

**JAM (Jesus & Me) 2<sup>nd</sup> December  
in Old Schoolroom, then to church at  
10.00**

**First Mass of Sunday:**

Saturdays: 3.00 pm

**Daily Mass:** *see calendar on back page  
& check porch notice & bulletin*

**Daily Morning & Evening Prayer**  
*see porch notice.*

**Baptism (Christening), Marriage,  
Anointing of the Sick & Holy  
Communion from the Reserved  
Sacrament - contact Fr Philip**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Saturdays: 2.00 pm

Before Christmass: 20<sup>th</sup> Dec: 4.00 pm;  
21<sup>st</sup> Dec: 10.00 am; 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec: 2.00 &  
4.00 pm; 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec: 11.00 am & 3.00 pm  
*-or contact Fr Philip*



**Vicar:**

**Fr Philip T Gray, B.A. S.S.C.  
Mendlesham Vicarage**

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**Churchwardens:**

**Hazel Spalding**

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## This month I want to highlight some simple points about Christmass:

Fr Philip Writes...

- ❄ Why is Christmass important? Because it was the day Jesus Christ, who is God made man, was born as a baby, to save all people from the power of evil. By dying he would destroy death, as by rising to life again at Easter he would restore life for us all. The word "Christmass" means 'the Mass of Christ' and reminds all Christians of our own birth into God's Family.
- ❄ The Angel Gabriel had appeared to the Virgin Mary 9 months before in Nazareth and told her she would have a Son through the power of God's Holy Spirit and should name him Jesus. Mary had said **"Yes."** ...So much hung in the balance on that single word.
- ❄ Mary showed courage, faith and sensitivity in agreeing to be Mother of Jesus. She spoke the truth when she said humbly: "from this day forward all generations will call me blessed." (*Luke 1v.48*)

### **Let me say "Yes" to God, too.**

- ❄ Joseph was engaged to Mary but was troubled because he knew she was pregnant and the child wasn't his. An angel appeared to him in a dream; he said, "Marry Mary, as Jesus was the longed-for Messiah who would save people from their sins." Joseph obediently did what he was told.... He could so easily have taken no notice.
- ❄ Joseph is the "unsung hero" of Christmass. The Bible shows him as considerate, protective and caring... but Joseph never speaks a word in the Bible - he simply does what he is told. **"Lord, make me more like Joseph, more eager to listen than to talk, and always willing to obey you."**
- ❄ Just before Jesus was born, Joseph and Mary had to travel to Bethlehem to take part in a census. Unable to find anywhere to stay



there, they took shelter in a cave where Jesus was born. His cot was an animal's feeding trough - a manger.

- ❄️ Fancy God choosing a manger for Jesus, king of the universe! That is the wonder of Christmass: God chose what is ordinary when He became one of us, sharing poverty and discomfort. Not for him the comfort of an affluent home, but a manger, a cross and a common grave.
- ❄️ Angels came to some ordinary shepherds and told them the news of the Saviour's birth. The shepherds visited Jesus immediately - they didn't stop to argue that it couldn't be real, but followed their hearts...  
**"Jesus, may I follow my heart to you, too."**
- ❄️ Bethlehem means **"House of Bread"**. Jesus said, **"I am the Bread of Life."** At the last supper with his friends before his death, he said, "The bread is my body and the wine is my blood... Do this in remembrance of me." The Mass is where Christ is born again under forms of bread and wine and so in a church like St Mary's where Mass is celebrated daily, Christmass happens every day.
- ❄️ So at Christmass we celebrate Christ's Three Births:
  - **in Eternity** - "In the beginning was the Word..." (John 1)
  - **in Time** (Christmass) - "The Word was made flesh."
  - **in our Hearts** - "To all who accepted him, he gave power to become children of God."

### What about ourselves?

*Salvation is not something that is done for you  
But something that happens within you.  
It is not the clearing of a court record  
but the transformation of a life attitude.* (Albert W. Palmer)

# HAPPY CHRISTMASS!

# WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

## Everyone is welcome at all events listed here



<b>1<sup>st</sup> Dec</b>	10.00: Enquirers' Group at St Mary's. For all who want to know more about the Christian faith and what goes on in St Mary's.
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Dec</b>	9.30: Parish Mass & Blessing of Advent wreath. JAM in the Old School for children. 11.30 Short service to bless the crib figures damaged by vandalism and now restored and the new outside crib. Refreshments after.
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Dec</b>	2.30 pm: Mass, laying-on of hands & anointing – our monthly healing service. 6.30: Night Prayer & Benediction 7.15: Bring & Share supper in Old Schoolroom & Bible Study.
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	9.30: Requiem Mass: December anniversaries
<b>7<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	2.30 pm: Mass at Mason Court, followed by refreshments
<b>9<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	6.00 pm: Stowmarket District Scouts Carol Service in St Mary's
<b>12<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	9.30: Requiem Mass: 1 <sup>st</sup> anniversary of Rene Ward
<b>16<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	9.30: Parish Mass, blessing of Christmass door wreaths.
<b>17<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>CAROL SINGING:</b> Mendlesham Green -collection for Shelter+Crisis 6.45pm: Meet at Mill Terrace. Please give generously.
<b>18<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	9.30: Mendlesham School Carol Service in St Mary's
<b>21<sup>st</sup> Dec</b>	2.30 pm: Mass & Carols at Mason Court, followed by refreshments <b>CAROL SINGING:</b> Front St, Old Orchard, Mill Rd, Old Market St & Braybrooke Close. - collection for Shelter+Crisis 6.45pm: meet at St Mary's. Please give generously for the homeless
<b>24<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>CHRISTMASS EVE</b> 5.45 pm: First Mass of Christmass 7.00 pm: Carols by Candlelight in St Mary's (Collection to defray expenses & for Save the Children) CRIB APPEAL for Christian Aid starts (finishes on 13 <sup>th</sup> Jan.)
<b>25<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>CHRISTMASS DAY</b> 9.30: Blessing of Crib in church & Sung Mass
<b>30<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	9.30: Parish Mass & blessing of toys. We ask children to bring their presents to be blessed at the crib.