

# M ST MARY'S MENDLESHAM

[www.stmarysmendlesham.org.uk](http://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) 6<sup>th</sup> January  
in Old Schoolroom, then to church  
at 10.00**

### **First Mass of Sunday:**

Saturdays: 5<sup>th</sup> Jan: 10.00 am; 12<sup>th</sup>  
Jan: 3.00 pm; 26<sup>th</sup> Jan: 3.00 pm;  
Friday 18<sup>th</sup> Jan: 10.00 am.

**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 5<sup>th</sup> &  
18<sup>th</sup> Jan: 9.30; 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> Jan:  
2.00pm or contact Fr Philip**



## **Vicar:**

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

01449 766359

## **Churchwardens:**

**Hazel Spalding**

01449 768616

**Andrew Fleming**

01449 711065

# WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

Everyone is welcome at all events listed here

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Jan</b>	Mass will be said at 10.00 am to begin the New Year
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Jan + 25<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	2.30 pm: Mass at Mason Court followed by refreshments. All welcome
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	9.30: Parish Mass, Blessing of chalk (for using on door lintels) & Epiphany House to celebrate the arrival of the Wise Men.
<b>13<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	<p><b>Baptism of Our Lord / Plough Sunday:</b></p> <p>9.30: Parish Mass, Blessing of the Plough &amp; Morris Dancing by East Suffolk Morris Men.</p> <p>11.15 (approx.) Plough Procession through Front St &amp; Old Market St, concluding at The King's Head.</p> <p>12.15: Shared lunch in church.</p> <p><b>All welcome.</b></p> <p><i>Christmass Decorations &amp; crib removed. Conclusion of Crib Appeal for Christian Aid.</i></p>
	 <p>Bishop Mike blessing the Plough on Plough Sunday last year.</p>
<b>14<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	<p>2.00 pm: Silent Prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament</p> <p>2.30 pm: Mass, laying-on-of hands &amp; anointing for healing</p> <p>7.15 pm: Shared Supper &amp; Bible Study in the Old Schoolroom.</p>
<b>18<sup>th</sup> Jan- 25<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	<b>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.</b>
<b>21<sup>st</sup> Jan</b>	7.15 pm: Shared Supper & Bible Study in the Old Schoolroom.
<b>27<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	<p>9.30: Parish Mass</p> <p>12.00 noon: PCC shared lunch &amp; meeting in church</p>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Feb</b>	<p><b>Eve of Candlemass</b></p> <p>6.30 pm: Blessing of candles, procession &amp; Sung Mass in honour of Christ, the Light of the World. Shared party in church afterwards</p>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Feb</b>	A new Electoral Roll is to be drawn up, concluding on 3 <sup>rd</sup> March.

## THANK YOU TO:

- Keith Shelton for his research into the Mendlesham men who fell in WW1 and updating Margaret Cutting's and John Telford-Taylor's work;
- Mendlesham WI for knitting the poppies for Remembrance Sunday to commemorate each of them;

- the anonymous person who made the silhouette of the WW1 soldier;
- Sean Welch for researching the identity of the 263 USAAF personnel stationed at Mendlesham who died in WW2;
- Bernard Coxhead for updating the US Remembrance Book;
- Mendlesham School for the exhibition of their visit to WW1 commemorative sites in France;
- Adrian Palfrey for making the new outside crib and the person (who wishes to remain anonymous) who restored the vandalised crib figures;
- Christine Howlett for donating the safety ropes and posts around the font.



### Fr Philip Writes...

### This month we celebrate the feast of Epiphany - the visit of the Wise Men to the

infant Jesus with their gifts of Gold,

Frankincense and Myrrh. I want to concentrate on the first gift – of gold – given as a sign that Jesus is a king – but king of what? His kingdom is not of this world, not based on territory, force or arms, but people’s hearts. Jesus came to tell us the truth about God and he wants our lives to be ruled by him rather than the things of this world.

When Jesus’ followers first began to associate with him there was a great atmosphere of expectancy: a feeling that something unique in their experiences was about to take place. Nathaniel said to him, **“Rabbi, you are the Messiah, you are the king of Israel.”** (*John 1 v 49*)



It would seem he realised the potential of Jesus to liberate Israel – to set her free from the Roman supremacy. But both Nathaniel and Pontius Pilate had much in common – they failed to understand Jesus’ words. Both were concerned with power. Pilate was anxious to reserve his own power and did his best to remain neutral. Jesus was concerned with **TRUTH.**



Concern for truth means listening to the voice of Christ: **“All who are on the side of truth listen to my voice.”** Listening to the voice of Jesus means not only wanting the truth but searching and thirsting for it. Christ’s kingdom is not one of power, but of love, service and forgiveness. Jesus asks us to stand by these – and if

we do, we belong to his kingdom.

So what part must we play? By our lives we must show Jesus to those we meet. We have to establish God’s kingdom here – one of love, service and forgiveness. Pilate understood only power and control – the strength of horses and soldiers. He did not get the notion of service and washing of feet.

Bishop Frank Weston, Bishop of Zanzibar, said the following words at an Anglo-Catholic Congress in 1923, which are as relevant today as they were nearly 100 years ago:

“You have got your Mass, you have got your Altar, you have begun to get your Tabernacle.

Now go out into the highways and hedges....

Go out and look for Jesus in the ragged, in the naked, in the oppressed and sweated, in those who have lost hope, in those who are struggling to make good.

**Look for Jesus.** And when you see him, gird yourselves with his towel and try to wash their feet.”

That is the meaning of following Christ the King. Let us make a resolution for this to be **our** experience. **Happy New Year!**