

# 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) 3<sup>rd</sup> February  
in Old Schoolroom, then to church at  
10.00

First Mass of Sunday:

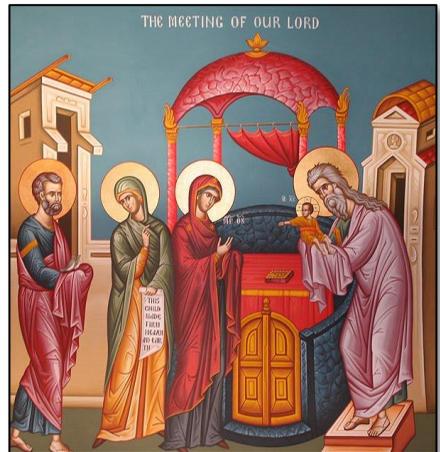
Saturdays: 3.00 pm

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 2.00pm *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 below**

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Feb</b>	Eve of Candlemass. 6.30 pm: Sung Mass, blessing of candles & candlelight procession around the church.
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Feb</b>	9.30: Parish Mass. A new Electoral Roll of church members is to be drawn up, concluding on 3 <sup>rd</sup> March.
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	9.30: Requiem Mass: February anniversaries 7.15 pm: Shared supper and Bible study in the Old Schoolroom
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Feb</b> <b>22<sup>nd</sup> Feb</b>	2.30 pm: Mass at Mason Court, followed by refreshments – all welcome
<b>9<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	3.00 pm: Mass 7.30 pm: Concert in church – <i>'Out of the Shadows'</i>
<b>11<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	2.30 pm: Mass & Healing Service 7.15 pm: Shared supper and Bible study in the Old Schoolroom
<b>18<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	7.15 pm: Shared supper and Bible study in the Old Schoolroom
<b>21<sup>st</sup> Feb</b>	9.30: Requiem Mass: Don Handscombe 1 <sup>st</sup> anniversary
<b>25<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	9.30: Requiem Mass: James Telford-Taylor 1 <sup>st</sup> anniversary 7.15 pm: Shared supper and Bible study in the Old Schoolroom

### THANK YOU:

- To Ralph Lambert for the gift of the Christmass tree for St Mary's, to Ray Clements & family for bringing and putting it up - and removing it!
- To all who decorated St Mary's so beautifully at Christmass.
- Carol Singing collection for Crisis and Shelter for the Homeless raised £373.60, split equally between 'Crisis' & 'Shelter' (£151.78 Mendlesham Green & £221.82 Mendlesham 'Street'). Thank you to Jean Martin and Liz & Adrian Palfrey for kind hospitality afterwards.
- For £221.57 sent to Save the Children from the Christmass Eve Carol Service.
- To Kathleen, for raising £260 for church funds from cakes & biscuits.
- To East Suffolk Morris Men for dancing on Plough Sunday and Paul at the King's Head for refreshments after the plough procession.

### LOOKING AHEAD:

- From 3<sup>rd</sup> March nominations will be open for election/re-election of churchwardens on 24<sup>th</sup> March.
- The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) will be on 7<sup>th</sup> April after Parish Mass.
- On 25<sup>th</sup> March the Bishop of Richborough will celebrate Mass and Confirm.

## Fr Philip Writes...

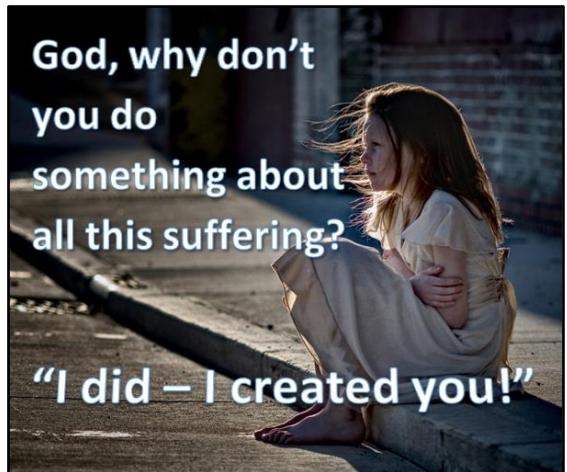
**At the beginning of February we celebrate Candlemass** – the day Simeon proclaimed Jesus as the Light of the World.

All Christians have a directive from Jesus, who said, **“You are the light of the world. No-one, after lighting a lamp, puts it under a bushel-basket, but on a lampstand and it gives light to the whole house.”** (Matthew 5 v 14-15)



Before Christmass we celebrated St Lucy's day. She is often depicted in art wearing a crown of evergreen leaves in which are set five candles. She was born in Syracuse, Sicily, around the year 283 AD and lived at a time when it was dangerous to be a Christian because they were badly persecuted by the Emperor Diocletian. They met in secret and Lucy carried trays of food to their secret meeting places. So that her hands were free to carry the food she carried candles around her head so she could see where she was going.

I would like us to think of a few ways that we can bring some light into the lives of those who surround us. A lady saw a poorly-dressed girl and was angry. She said to God, ***“How can you allow a child to suffer like that; why don't you do something about it?”*** She then heard a voice, ***“I did - I created you.”*** In other words, God says, ***“You are my hands and feet in the world.”***



I recently spent a day off in Norwich and was appalled to see how many people were sleeping rough. I received the newsletter from St Martin's Housing Trust in Norwich (i.e. the Night Shelter) that we support at Harvest and I quote from James' story:

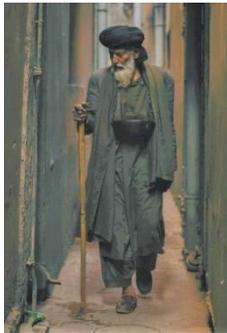
*While I was sleeping rough I discovered just how judgmental and downright horrible other human beings could be. I have been thrown up on, urinated on, spat on, called names and had all my worldly goods stolen... it makes you feel you are worthless and there is no point in your existence."*

St Martin's supported James off the street. He is slowly and surely making better choices in order to move on with his life positively. To learn more, see St Martin's website:

[www.stmartinshousing.org.uk](http://www.stmartinshousing.org.uk).



Henry van Dyke wrote a story, first published in 1895 and retold in many different formats since, called *'The Story of the Other Wise Man'*. It was about an imaginary 4<sup>th</sup> Wise Man (accepting the tradition that they numbered three). He was called Artaban and was supposed to go with the other 3 in search of the newborn King, for



whom he had a pouch of precious gems as a gift. On his way to join the other three he stopped to help a needy person. The delay was just enough to cause him to miss the other wise men. He never did catch them; he kept helping people and giving away all his gems. He ended up as a beggar in Jerusalem. One day he saw a criminal carrying a cross and was sad he couldn't help him. As the criminal drew near, he turned to Artaban and said,

**"Don't be sad; you've been helping me all your life."** Artaban did, indeed, find his king.

As Jesus said, ***"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."*** (Matthew 25 v 40).....**May we all be lights for Jesus Christ.**