

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) for children:

1st September at 9.30 in Old Schoolroom,
then to church at 10.00

First Mass of Sunday:

Saturdays: 7th and 28th Sept: 9.30;

14th Sept: 5.00 pm.

No first Mass on 21st Sept.

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

Daily Morning & Evening Prayer

see porch notice.

**Baptism (Christening), Weddings,
Visiting, Anointing of the Sick & House
Communion - contact Fr Philip**

Sacrament of Reconciliation

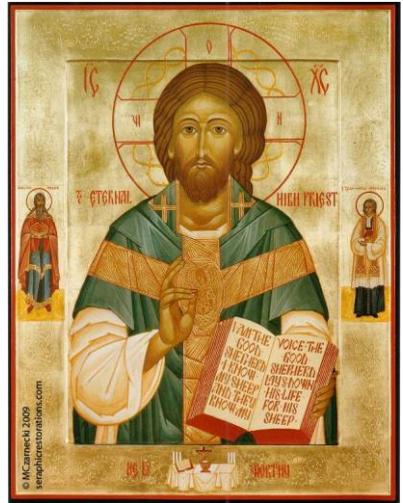
Fri 6th Sept: 4.30 pm;

Sat 14th Sept: 4.00 pm;

Fri 20th Sept: 4.00 pm;

Fri 27th Sept: 4.00 pm.

or contact Fr Philip



Vicar:

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

01449 766359

Churchwardens:

Andrew Fleming

01449 711065

Chris Elstone

07530 769676

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

Everyone is welcome at all events listed here

1st Sept	9.30: Parish Mass; JAM in Old Schoolroom 6.00 pm: Evensong at Fordham, nr Downham Market; Preacher: Fr Philip. Fordham is a church saved by the Friends of Friendless Churches
2nd Sept	9.30: Requiem Mass: September anniversaries
5th Sept	6.30 pm: Mass (said). 7.00 pm: silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. 7.45 pm: Night Prayer & Benediction
6th Sept	2.30 pm: Mass at Mason Court followed by refreshments
7th Sept	9.30: First Mass of Sunday n.b. change of time 2.30 pm: Meet at Intwood for final tour of round towered churches, then on to Keswick & Swainsthorpe
8th Sept	9.30: Parish Mass 5.00 pm: Evensong & Sermon at Mundon, nr Maldon, a church saved by the Friends of Friendless Churches. Preacher: Fr Philip
10th Sept	10.00 – 12.00: Coffee & Cake in Church 2.30 pm: Mass, laying on of hands & anointing for healing
14th Sept	Ride & Stride Day: full details in church 5.00 pm: First Mass of Sunday
15th Sept	9.30: Parish Mass 12.00 noon: PCC lunch & meeting in church
19th Sept	2.30 pm: Mass at Mason Court followed by refreshments* <u>Please note change of usual day</u>
21st Sept	ST MATTHEW (Fr Philip's Golden Jubilee to the Priesthood) 12.00 noon: Sung Mass. Preacher: the Bishop of Richborough
24th Sept	9.30: Mass. 10.00 – 12.00: Coffee & Cake in Church
28th Sept	9.30: First Mass of Sunday

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

HOLY MATRIMONY

10th August: Ashley Blake Fisher and Amy Johnson

HOLY BURIAL

23rd July: Mildred Irene Driver: aged 95

on 26th July Fr Philip officiated at Seven Hills Crematorium for the funeral of Colin Skilling

Fr Philip Writes...

Again and again over the years I have heard people criticize the Church in this way: “Why doesn’t the Church speak out?” It is so easy for

people to point a finger at bishops and priests but fail to look at themselves. Spreading the Good News of the Kingdom cannot be achieved in God’s Church by leaders alone, but only when laity (*those who are not ordained*) work together with them. In the Gospels we read how Jesus sent out not only the ordained - i.e. the 12 apostles: (*Luke 9 v 1-6*) but also the 72 others - i.e. the laity (*Luke 10 v 1-20*). The numbers 12 and 72 add to make 84, which in the Bible signifies completeness and perfection, since it is the product of 7 and 12, both special numbers indicating spiritual perfection.



The building of God’s Kingdom must be done by priests and laity together. In the Eastern Orthodox churches, the priest is known as the ‘**Ikona of Jesus Christ**’ – the living personification of him – not meaning the priest’s character, since all fall very short of Jesus’ character, but his function in presiding over the Mass, proclaiming

God’s Word, administering the Sacraments and leading prayer etc. But the priest cannot proclaim the Kingdom without the laity. St Mark tells us ‘**Jesus could not work many miracles there.**’ (*Mark 6 v 5*) Where? In his home village of Nazareth - because people failed to believe he was capable of doing any miracles because of their antagonism, jealousy, indifference and refusal to co-operate.

The words of Fr Arthur Stanton, that famous Anglo-Catholic priest of St Alban’s Holborn, have been my aim during my 50 years as a priest. He said,

“This is what I should like to be said of me when I am dead and gone the way of all flesh, ‘He preached Jesus’.”

I hope I have preached Jesus and continue to do when I preside at Mass, preach God’s Word and do all other priestly duties.



You, as laity are also called to live the Christian life.

Hans-Reudi Weber wrote the following words in *‘Salty Christians’*:

“Too often clergy undertake to fulfil by themselves the ministry of the church. All too often the laity delegate their ministry to one man – the clergyman. This ‘one-man show’ is deeply unbiblical. Christ does not grant special gifts only to men and women who are full time, lifetime employees of the Church. All the people of God share in Christ’s ministry to the world. Of course, the clergyman is chosen by God for certain important functions in the Church, and for these functions he is ‘ordained’. One of these important functions is to nourish, equip, help and sustain the laity for their ministry.”



Bishop Philip North writes in *‘Together’, the voice of Catholic Anglicans*: “In Mark 3:14 Jesus calls the disciples to be with him and to be sent out. It’s as simple as that. On the one hand they are to be with him in prayer, worship and

teaching and in the very same action they are to be sent out to share the Good News of the Kingdom.”

If you can fulfil that as laity and I do as your priest, we shall have the perfect balance for reaching out to others (72 +12 =84).



Fr Philip’s Golden Jubilee

On 21st September Fr Philip gives thanks for the privilege of serving as a priest in the Church of God for 50 years. There is a Sung Mass at 12.00 in St Mary’s to which all are welcome, though because of the large number expected, catering had to be pre-arranged, so he regrets the celebration lunch afterwards is available only to those who have already responded to his invitation.