

# PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, MENDLESHAM



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

**Vicar: Father Philip T Gray, B.A. S.S.C.**  
Mendlesham Vicarage;  
01449 766359

**Hon Assistant Priest**  
**Fr Timothy van Carrapiett, ssc.**  
01394 271338

## **Churchwardens**

also St Joseph Centre Bookings:

**Andrew Fleming** 01449 711065

**Tina Pipe** 01449 766339



## **Sunday Services**

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

**Saturdays:** 1st Mass of Sunday - 5.00 pm  
(*except Sat 4<sup>th</sup> Feb – 3.00 pm*)

**Daily Mass:** *See calendar on back page, but also check porch notice sheet & weekly bulletin.*

**Daily Morning & Evening Prayer:** *Times on porch notice sheet*

**Baptism, Marriage, Anointing of the Sick & Holy**

**Communion from the Reserved Sacrament:** *please contact Fr. Philip.*

**Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions):**

Saturdays 4.00pm (*except Sat 4<sup>th</sup> Feb – 2.00 pm*)

**Before Lent:** Sun 19<sup>th</sup> Feb: 4.30 pm; Ash Wednesday: 6.45 pm;  
*or make an appointment with Fr. Philip or Fr. Timothy*

## WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Feb</b>	<b>EVE OF CANDLEMASS</b> – 7.30 pm: Blessing of candles, procession & Sung Mass. Shared Party afterwards
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Feb</b>	Candlemass Day. 9.30 said Mass
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Feb</b>	St Blaise. 2.30 pm Mass in Mason Court – all welcome
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<i>1<sup>st</sup> Mass of Sunday at <b>3.00 pm</b> owing to over 65's parish party</i>
<b>7<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	6.30 pm: Mass in St Joseph's Centre 7.00 pm: Supper 8.15 pm: Prayer Course – <b><i>Preparing for Holy Communion</i></b>
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	9.30 Requiem – February Anniversaries
<b>10<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	2.30 pm Mass & Healing Service - all welcome
<b>12<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	Revision of Electoral Roll begins
<b>14<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	11.30: Mass in St Joseph's Centre 12 Noon: lunch 1.15: Prayer Course – <b><i>Preparing for Holy Communion</i></b>
<b>17<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	2.30 pm – Mass in Mason Court – all welcome
<b>19<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	Nomination papers will be in church, near door, for: Election/re-election of Churchwardens at Vestry meeting at 10.30 on 11 <sup>th</sup> March. Closing day – 9 <sup>th</sup> March;
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> Feb</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> Masses: 9.30 (said) & 7.30 pm (sung) with ashing ceremony
<b>26<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	Electoral Roll revision closes. Nominations for PCC begin.
<b>28<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	6.30 pm: Mass in St Joseph's Centre 7.00 pm: Supper 8.15 pm: Prayer Course – <b><i>Praying the Stations of the Cross</i></b>

### FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

**Holy Baptism: 11<sup>th</sup> December: Amy Jessica Nicholson**

### LOOKING BACK

**THANK YOU** from St Mary's to Carolyn Triscott for all your hard work in putting together the village newsletter for so many years.

Thank you to all who decorated and helped prepare the church for the Christmass festivities, to Ralph Lambert for donating the magnificent tree and to all who donated to parcels for the sick & housebound, crib appeal, carol singing & refreshments after. It was a truly memorable festival. Thanks, too, to the East Suffolk Morris Men for their contribution to Plough Sunday and to Paul at the King's Head for his generosity with refreshments. Last, but not least, thank you to Owen Sheppard for being our 'Boy Bishop'.

### BOY BISHOP

A comprehensive and detailed book on 'Boy Bishops' has recently been published. The author, Neil Mackenzie, writes *'From what I gleaned from your website St Mary's certainly seems to be fun and exciting – some things that seem to be lost in the modern church. I think it all comes down to a lack of sense of drama.'* This book may be obtained from the author for £10.00 inclusive of p&p and I highly recommend it. His address is: 25 Bramley Road, Market Deeping, Peterborough. PE6 8JG.

Email: [mackenzie.neil@btinternet.com](mailto:mackenzie.neil@btinternet.com)

Bishop Norman with 'boy bishop'  
Owen in St Mary's on Advent IV



### **FR PHILIP WRITES...**

Ash Wednesday is the first day of the forty days of Lent – the period in the year that both recalls the 40 days

Christ spent being tempted in the wilderness at the start of His ministry and which serves as a preparation for Easter. Last year's Palm Crosses are burnt and at the Ash Wednesday Mass the priest dips his thumb into these ashes, which are moistened to a paste with holy water, and makes the sign of the Cross with them on the forehead of each person, saying, *'Turn away from sin and believe in the Gospel.'* Lent actually spans 46 days, but the six Sundays are, as always, commemorations of Christ's Resurrection, so

are not days of self-denial and fasting.



After 3 years of fundraising, the work of redecorating St Mary's should begin in mid-February. The church will be used for Saturday and Sunday services but weekday Masses are likely to be held in St Joseph's Centre. Please consult the church notice sheet in the porch and our weekly bulletin for precise details. Thank you to all who have generously contributed to this project. I hope by Easter we shall have a church building worthy of the worship of Almighty God

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This month we have two very important days to observe: Candlemass & Ash Wednesday, which heralds the start of Lent. For a number of years we have been supporting the Additional Curates' Society, which is currently supporting 105 men considering offering themselves for ordination. That is not to say that they will all be ordained, because the process is slow and difficult and the standards set are high. Between 2010 and 2015 the C of E predicts that over 700 paid clergy will retire and that the number of candidates entering the priesthood will be insufficient to replace those retiring. This Lent we need to pray for more vocations to the priesthood, which begins with God calling and not ourselves. The Additional Curates' Society is doing a grand work with Vocation Conferences, but all this needs resourcing, which is where our Lent boxes come in. A sacrifice of some luxury in Lent could help fill a box that will be dedicated in the Mass of the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday (4<sup>th</sup> April).

**Almighty God, give us priests:**

**To establish the honour of your holy name;**

**To offer the holy sacrifice of the altar;**

**To give us Jesus in the holy sacrament;**

**To proclaim the faith of Jesus;**

**To baptise and to teach the young;**

**To tend your sheep;**

**To seek the lost;**

**To give pardon to the penitent sinner;**

**To bless our homes;**

**To pray for the afflicted;**

**To comfort mourners;**

**To strengthen us in our last hour;**

**To commend our souls;**

**Almighty God, give us priests!**

