

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

First Mass of Sunday:

Saturdays: 7.30 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: 6.30 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

Daily Mass and Morning and Evening prayer continue to be offered publicly and the church remains open for private prayer.

Parish Mass on Sunday will also be LIVESTREAMED

Visit <https://www.facebook.com/stmarysmendlesham/>

2nd May	9.30: Parish Mass & crowning of statue of Our Lady for the month of May
9th May	CHRISTIAN AID WEEK begins- concluding on 16 th M 9.30: Parish Mass. At end (10.20 approx.) Annual Parochial Church meeting, followed by brief PCC meeting
12th May	EVE OF ASCENSION OF OUR LORD 7.30 pm: Mass & address
13th May	ASCENSION DAY 9.30: Mass & address
23rd May	PENTECOST (WHITSUN) – end of Eastertide 9.30: Parish Mass
28th May	9.30: Requiem (May anniversaries)
31st May	Walsingham Online National Pilgrimage: https://www.facebook.com/ShrineOLW/

THANK YOU

Thanks to all who voted for St Mary's Mendlesham in the recent Goff Good Causes Campaign on Facebook. We were thrilled to hear our church had reached more than the required 1,000 votes to be awarded 500 litres of heating oil.

Father Philip writes...

Eastertide extends to the middle of May this year when we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost. In the Scriptures we see the most visible impact of Jesus on his followers. They lived as a community of prayer and worship which showed in their love and care for one another:

“They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community....” (Acts 2 v 46-47)

The celebration of the Mass (here called *‘The Breaking of Bread’*) was the centre of their worship of God and service of each other.



On a human level we all have a deep need for community and we have missed it during the restrictions brought about by Covid. We need

to re-invigorate our support for each other in faith, hope and love. In his book *‘Small Christian Communities’* the author Thomas Kleissler tells the following story of a young woman called Sylvia. She lived on the outskirts of Nairobi and every Sunday travelled by bus to the city centre to a church which had a large congregation. She hardly knew anyone and felt alone and depressed. Soon after she found a smaller church in her own area and everything changed. She did not simply hear about love but actually experienced it. She grew spiritually, made good friends and worked in the neighbourhood.

God does not mean us to do it alone. We don’t know why St Thomas was not present in the upper room when Jesus appeared to the apostles after the resurrection. It may be that he had made a big mistake by cutting himself off from the other apostles and walking alone in his grief... and it was only when he rejoined the community and encountered the risen Jesus that he found faith again. It is with the help of our community that we are able to resolve our doubts and fears and sustain our faith.



Many people today do not believe that Christ is risen and that he can be encountered. They will not change their minds or believe unless they can see Christ alive in his followers. He must be seen to dwell in us and among us. It is only in us and through us that others can see and touch him and be healed of disbelief.

*Lord help me remember when others I see
That they're reading the gospel according to me...
Mathew and Barnabas, Peter and Paul...
The world looks upon them as names. that's all...*

*For verses of Scripture, lost men merely grope,
But my life goes under the microscope.
Make me a text, Lord, easy to see
When men read the gospel according to me.*

The month of May is traditionally called 'Mary's month'. Mary is our example of communal prayer. We find her in the midst of the early Christian community after the Ascension as they assembled in the upper room and prayed for the gift of the Holy Spirit (*Acts 1 v 14*):

“All these joined in continuous prayer, together with several women, including Mary, the mother of Jesus....” Mary is a perfect model of prayer because she knew what the power of the Holy Spirit could work in the lives of those first followers of Jesus. Her complete union with God as the special temple of the Holy Spirit caused her to radiate God's loving presence to those near her. When the Holy Spirit gives life, He does not do so first for an individual, but to create a new community. **May this be our hope and prayer for our church in this month of May.**

