

KERSEY PARISH NEWSLETTER

December 2020/January 2021



*Happy Christmas and a peaceful,
healthy new year to all our readers.*

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CONTACT NUMBERS

Parochial Church Council –

Chairman: Jackson Crompton-Battersby 01473 657349
Vice Chairman: Lucy Oldham. 07753 626899
Church Warden: Rachel Wells 01473 822230

Bellringers – Bell Captain: Neville Whittell 01473 822616

Forgetmenots – Organiser: Veronica Partridge 01473 823188

Tuesday Club – Rachel Wells 01473 822230

Table Tennis Club – Adrian Blyth 01473 827805

Parish Council –

Chairman: John Hume 01473 810098
Clerk to the Council: Sarah Partridge 01787 210859

Footpaths – Chairman: Kevin Pratt 07854 390658

Kersey Community Playground Committee – Jonathan Marsh 01473 822927

Neighbourhood Watch – Vacant

Village Hall –

Chairman: Veronica Partridge 01473 823188
Bookings: Norah Orriss 01473 827513
or Natalie Blyth 01473 827805

VPA (Village Produce Association) –

Chairman: Peter Partridge 01473 827231
Secretary: Rachel Wells 01473 822230

The Lewis Mowles Trust Fund – Secretary: Rachel Wells 01473 822230

Grays Trust –

Chairman: John Robinson 01473 823247
Secretary: Philippa Harris 01473 827079

Nightingale Trust/Allotments – Info: Natalie Blyth 01473 827805

School – Acting Head Teacher: Jess Damant 01473 823397

Kersey Playingfield Assoc. (Glebe) – Mark Pertwee 01473 810227

Kersey Community Website www.kersey.suffolk.cloud

Hadleigh Health Practice 01473 822961

West Suffolk Hospital (Bury St Edmunds) 01284 713000

Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust 01473 712233

Police The non-emergency number to call if you want to contact the local police is 101 (when it's less urgent than 999) .

Please let us know of any changes.

Defibrillators – *There are two AEDs located within the parish at The Bell Inn, Kersey IP7 6DY and Kersey Mill IP7 6DP.*

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Church Clergy:

Rev. Jackson Crompton-Battersby.
01473 657349 rev@kind.church

Church Wardens:

Mrs Rachel Wells 01473 822230.
and vacant position.

Elder: Mrs Julie Boast 01787 249511.

Weddings: For all enquiries regarding weddings at St. Mary's Church please contact the Benefice administrator 07706 188842 weekday mornings.

THANK YOU

Marina and Anthony Gant, Wickerstreet Green, would like to thank friends and neighbours of Kersey for the messages of support and kind thoughts after Geoff passed away suddenly in October.

Thank you to those who have donated so far to the cost of producing the newsletter. Contributions are gratefully accepted at anytime.

Thanks to everyone who helped make the dove and poppy installation possible. It has been admired by many despite lockdown and a help to some in their time of need. It certainly had good coverage on TV and in the press.

POPPY APPEAL

Normally our collection from the Remembrance Sunday service is given to the poppy appeal. As we were unable to hold a service this year I have got a collecting box if anyone would like to donate. Rachel

SYMPATHY

Our sympathy goes to Natalie and family on the death of her father.

INVALIDS

We wish a speedy recovery and best wishes to those who have been in hospital or unwell at home. We also understand there are some people in the parish who are having to isolate due to Covid.

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Due to the pandemic the opening of The Children's Society boxes was delayed but I have now received notification from the society that we should go ahead and count them. I would be grateful if those of you who have a box could kindly get it to me or let me know when it would be convenient for me to collect it. Many thanks.

Susannah Marsh **01473 822927**

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PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (cont.)

CHURCH COUNCIL

A socially distanced church council meeting was held in church on the 4th November. Everyone in a position of trust must undergo Safeguarding training and DBS checks. Review of access and risk assessment following the re-opening of the church. This all seems to be working well with sanitiser available and daily cleaning of certain areas. Finance was discussed. The cashless machines have helped to raise funds although there will be a big loss at the end of the year. It was agreed to pay the quota in full. Church fabric. Maintenance and Health and Safety matters are up to date. Fund raising. Christmas gift fayre is still going ahead as planned. A risk assessment has been completed.

AOB. Regular giving will be discussed at the January meeting.

There has been a positive reaction to the dove installation.

The Parish Council asked if the churchyard could be considered as a possible location for a new memorial bench. The PCC agreed to this.

A RBL poppy appeal collecting box will be out at the gift fayre for donations.

The Nightingale Trust have asked if any spare vegetables could be put in the church. The PCC didn't think this would work and suggested they try care homes.

A large collection of books have been offered to the church.



**Please remember to keep
dogs under close control
where necessary and to
clean up after them.**



The next issue will cover **February 2021**.

Please send items for inclusion well before the deadline of 25th January to:

Rachel Wells: 01473 822230 - rachel@kersey-village.co.uk or

Viv Marsh: 07747 175858 - kersey@moonridge.me.uk

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PARISH NEWS

FAREWELL AND WELCOME

Welcome to Alan and family who have moved into Pax on Church Hill.

We hope you all enjoy living in our community. Sorry if we have omitted anyone.

BECOME A 'FRIEND' OF ST MARY'S CHURCH

Dear Friends

We are at long last now able to open membership to the Friends of St Mary's (FoSM). You may recall we launched this charitable trust in January 2019 and commenced fund raising through a variety of events during that year. Covid-19 then changed things this year and our fund raising progress stalled a little. The trustees now have two new ways in which you can help protect and restore our beautiful St Mary's Church in Kersey.

1. You can become a 'Friend' of St Mary's Church Trust. Your membership subscription will go directly towards the restoration, protection and development of St Mary's Church building in Kersey. We will also be able to keep you directly informed about future events.
2. By joining the FoSM '500 Club' lottery! We have set up a small capped lottery i.e. there is a limit to the number of tickets we can sell each month, which keeps everyone happy in the Church and Charities Commission. The idea is that you mandate to buy a ticket for £5 each month (to a maximum of 5 tickets per household, so everyone gets a chance). 50% of the ticket sales go to the FoSM trust fund and 50% is paid out in cash prizes each month. Monies are collected by monthly standing order by the 15th of each month, giving us time to see who is in the draw at the end of the month. Winners are notified and paid by the Trust immediately after each draw. Come and see the draw for yourself in the Bell Inn!

So, with these two great ways to support our beautiful church building, what are you waiting for!

Please contact Bruce Newbigging on **07734 595404 / 01787 210137** or Mark Rigby on **07484 649235** or email **fosmkersey@gmail.com** for further details.

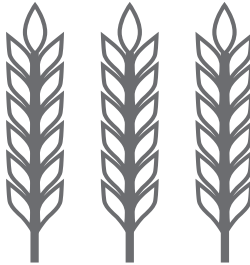
WEATHER – OCTOBER

Rainfall 119mm (3¾")
Maximum temperature 19°C (66°F)
Minimum temperature 5°C (40°F)



Thank you to Kate Banks who records the weather for us in Wickerstreet Green. The rainfall amount sometimes varies in different parts of the parish.

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NEWS FROM KERSEY SCHOOL

Otters (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) :



Otters Class have had a great start to the half term with a new focus book – 'Naughty Bus'. We had fun playing pass the parcel and discovering that we had a big and small naughty bus of our own. We have explored the fantastic photographs in the book, looked at the fun way the language is portrayed and even created a bus station of our own in the classroom. We have also had fun reading lots of other books about different types of transport and went on a class 'trip' to the Ipswich Transport Museum – via Google Earth!

Badgers (Years 3 and 4):

Since half term, Badgers class have been exploring what it was like to live in the Stone Age. We have been investigating prehistory and how evidence from artefacts can be used by archaeologists. We have found out about cave paintings and how drawing was invented. In art, we have been practising our sketching techniques, comparing our work to famous artists and preparing to recreate our own cave pictures.



Our book is 'Ug: Boy Genius of the Stone Age and his Search for Soft Trousers' by Raymond Briggs. This humorous story is full of anachronisms which we are enjoying and using to write our own instructions for a game. In PE, we are learning new rules about how to play invasion games including rugby and hockey.

All of the children have also enjoyed the opportunity to prepare and present an expert talk on their favourite subject. The presentations have been detailed and very informative. We have learned a lot about each other's interests. As a school, we continue to Read for Pleasure which is very popular with the children.

Owls (Years 5 and 6):

Gone in a flash! The last few weeks for Owls have flown by as they've dived headfirst in to their new areas of learning. Times table facts zoom around the classroom as they learn a range of multiplication and division written methods. Journeying with Odysseus in our



English lessons has only further enflamed Owls' love of reading in our classroom, as well as bringing the Ancient Greeks back to life from this text. An era again being relished in our History lessons.

Remembering the hugely deserved contributors from both World Wars and being aware of all Children in Need, under the watchful eye (and energising workouts) of Joe Wicks, have helped keep our values of responsibility and service at the forefront of our minds.

And now... we can start entering in to the Christmas spirit (or is it too soon?).

If you would like to know more about Kersey school or would like to arrange a visit please ring the office on 01473 823397, email: admin@kersey.suffolk.sch.uk or visit our website: www.kersey.suffolk.sch.uk

We are holding an open evening on Monday 7th December, 4pm – 7pm for prospective parents. Please come along!

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

2020 began with excitement and positivity. The 2019 launch year of Friends of St Mary's had been a triumph with concerts, talks and fabulous food. A casual look at the parish magazine shows just how many events take place across the community with the Art Group, Tuesday Club, Table Tennis and Village Produce to name a few.

There were the plans for the rehallowing of Kersey Shrine and the installation of a prayer dish and future art installations to go in along the way.

The monthly Parish Service was going well with lots of us attending once a month, the children singing and reading for us... and, ah well, whatever, I mean we all know what happened; there's no good me blathering on about the plans for 2020 because come March we just stopped; stopped and locked so we were.

The rehallowing sneaked in there just in time and was a fond memory to savour, the three choirs and the smiling faces as we all climbed up to St Mary's from the Splash. But more about that in a minute.

We had what felt like months and months with the church and pub locked and that was grim. Still, good old Kersey found new ways of connecting, new ways of caring; and with faith and not a few tears we made it through.

Then we gently emerged from lockdown with new slogans about being alert and the blumin' church was STILL locked. Finally Boris's advisors gave the go-ahead and we cautiously opened the church for private prayer and then before we knew it our first Parish Service – an early Harvest festival. Someone told me to go and look at the prayers in the dish and I stood there and had a proper cry, more than seven hundred people had come to the Shrine – parishioners, pilgrims and cautious tourists had started to fill it with prayers of thanks, prayers of mourning and prayers of hope. There are well over a thousand in there now, resting under those beautiful doves that the team installed.

It's tempting isn't it, when things are bad for a few months to write that time off? Like my summer holiday in 2016 when it rained every day of the six week school holiday and everywhere we sailed to, people told us it had been fine the week before. But 2020 isn't like a bad holiday; it's changed us, made us more cautious and more caring. It's made us more sceptical that those in authority know what they're doing and at the same time we've discovered more faith in God and less willing to be cynical about expressing a scrap of faith. I've cried more but also laughed more. I clapped for the NHS, learned to play the harmonica and prayed more.

In 5 years time we will look back and be able to understand 2020; but right now we're still living 2020. We hold on to our faith, meet whenever and however we can and trust that God, who knows where we need to be in 5 years time, will guide us there.

We're still doing Christmas by the way, please keep a weather eye on the church website at ***www.kerseychurch.org*** which will have the details.

Love to you all and best wishes for a 2021 more different to 2020 in so many, many ways.

Rev Jackson Crompton-Battersby.

Vicar of Kersey, Elmsett, Aldham, Hintlesham & Chattisham

Telephone: 01473 657349

Email: ***rev@kind.church***

All our Sunday services and other events are at ***www.kerseychurch.org***

ST. MARY'S CHURCH SERVICES

Every Tuesday	Morning prayer 9.30am	Lay lead
6 December	BCP Holy Communion 9.00am	Rev. Jackson
13 December	Cafe church 11.00am	
20 December	Torchlit Carol service 4.00pm	A 30 minute service taken by Rev Jackson will take place in the churchyard so Carols are able to be sung.
24 December	Christmas Eve Midnight Mass 10.45pm	A 30 minute service taken by Rev. Jackson
27 December	Benefice on line service	
3 January	BCP Holy Communion 9.00am	Rev. Jackson
10 January	No service in Kersey 10.00am	Holy Communion at Elmsett.
17 January	Candlemas and Christingle 4.00pm	Rev. Jackson
24 January	Cafe church 11.00am	
31 January	Benefice on line service	

Sunday services are continuing online on YouTube. Search for “Parish Connection” or use the QR code here.

You may also subscribe to the channel via YouTube – search “Parish Connection”. A lovely way to ‘visit’ our Benefice churches.

Please go to www.kerseychurch.org for more information.



Kersey Community Website

Remember to check www.kersey.suffolk.cloud regularly for latest news, information and updates.



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PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council met remotely on the 16th November.

Present were Chairman J. Hume, five councillors, clerk and one member of the public. County and District councillors were present for part of the meeting.

Apologies were received from one councillor.

Reports: County councillor Robert Lindsay said the cabinet had given Highways money to promote "Quiet Lanes". The aim is to make drivers aware of pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders.

A shortfall in the budget due to extra spending and lost revenue due to Covid has been plugged by a government grant. A local Covid alert has been issued in Hadleigh following outbreaks in a care home and at the High school. The County council is working closely with the care homes to make sure testing and other measures are in place. Boundary changes. He was against the proposed reduction in councillors but it was agreed they be cut from 75-70. In Babergh there will be nine divisions, Hadleigh will have to have some neighbouring villages tacked on to it. The number of people claiming Universal Credit in Suffolk has increased since March and there has been a dramatic increase in food handed out from Suffolks food banks. There are also 104,000 people still furloughed from their jobs. "Home but Not Alone" phonenumber has been reactivated. The aim is to put people in touch with local voluntary help. **0800 8766926.**

Hedgerow Survey. Data from this survey has yet to be digitised, if villages have hard copy of this data it could be useful when considering future planning applications.

The government has suggested three options on pavement parking. Individuals are welcome to reply.

District councillor Leigh Jamieson outlined the changes with Covid compared to the first lockdown and spoke about business grants for closed businesses.

Planning concerns: The government has recently published two consultation papers outlining major changes. One was for a completely new national planning system the other suggests shorter term amendments to the current system. Suggested in the short term changes is an amendment to the method for assessing local housing need, this could see a significant increase in the number of properties delivered in Babergh. The council's response was a unanimous no. The council also submitted a response to the government's longer term overhaul of the planning system. The proposals run the risk of undermining local democracy and is unlikely to take account of local circumstances. Joint local plan. A working group has been reviewing this. The finalised document was approved and will now go a final consultation before being submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in the new year.

Parish time: The hedge in Vale Lane had still not been cut satisfactorily even though it had been reported. Despite being reported the banks in Water Lane and Vale Lane have been missed from the council's grass cutting rota.

Minutes of previous meeting had been circulated, these were approved.

Clerk's report: The clerk had been in contact with Highways about the uncut banks.

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PARISH COUNCIL (cont.)

A response had been given on the Boundary commission reforms. A reprint of the footpath map was needed.

Correspondence: This had been circulated. One item to note was Community funding for Quiet Lanes. It was agreed to register and then look at it in more detail. Changes to CIL were supported.

Finance: All noted and agreed. Insurance has been paid.

Planning: Application for alterations at Manor Farm. Councillors supported this subject to the pre-application advice from the planning officer.

River House farm barns. This was similar to a previously approved application. Councillors fully supported and were pleased that something was at last going to be done.

Footpaths: Two posts are in need of repair. Thanks were expressed to the volunteers who keep the paths in good order.

KCPC: The annual inspection by ROSPA had been carried out. Due to Covid the annual quiz did not take place. It is hoped that the application for funding would be successful.

Memorial bench: A suitable location is being considered in consultation with the donor. It is not possible to locate the bench on private land as originally hoped. The PCC has offered a site in the churchyard on the south side.

Public life and Covid: All volunteers are continuing where help is needed. Some villagers are having to isolate. The playground remains open.

Website: This has been updated to meet accessibility requirements.

Dates for 2021 meetings were noted. 18th January, 1st March, 12th April, 10th May, 5th July, 6th September, 15th November.

Budget: A draft budget and precept of £9,533 was agreed. The money saved from the emptying of the dog bin would go towards the newsletter.

SALC: Minutes from the recent meeting have been circulated.

Date of next meeting: 18th January (time to be arranged).

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FARMING NOTES

Arable:

Although not perfect, the weather, and the timely borrowing of a tine drill from a helpful neighbour, has allowed us to sow most of our winter wheat, leaving a couple of fields that we hope to complete in the last week of November, for which the forecasted weather looks hopeful. Tine drills, as the name suggests, do not use discs or coulters as other drills but are based on a spring-tine cultivator leg with a seed tube attached. These tend to put the seed at a rather irregular depth and spacing and leave the seedbed very loose and fluffy, just how the slugs like it! In a normal year when we sow with our disc drill and are able to roll the land post drilling, slugs are not usually a problem and we use no slug pellets as the seedbed is firm and they find it difficult to move around underground. However this year with wet, loose seedbeds we are having to apply some pellets, particularly on the heavier outcrops and where there is excess trash such as on unploughed oil seed rape stubbles. Wet years also encourage slugs as they are able to move easily underground to find and hollow out the seed and also to multiply very quickly. It is surprising just how small the slugs that do the damage are – often less than 5mm in length and they are able to hollow out a grain of wheat and leave it looking intact but infertile and unable to grow. This can happen in the short time it takes for the crop to emerge, so if you wait to see if it comes up it can be too late!

We will also be harvesting our sugar beet later this week and I apologise in advance for the mud on the roads! However, we always make strident efforts to clean up, both during and after the job. Sugar yields are not good this year mainly due to the virus yellows resulting from the removal of the seed dressing containing neonicotinoids that I wrote about in earlier farming notes.

Livestock:

All of the cows and calves were housed in October and then weaned. The calves are now settled into their winter diet of malt nuts, fodder beet and straw. The vet advised a faecal egg count for stomach worms (a packet of poo was duly sent off) and the result came back that worm numbers were very low and no treatment was recommended, this is nice because as well as saving a job and some money it means fewer chemicals being used in the production of lovely Kersey beef! The exceptionally warm wet autumn has allowed late grass growth so we turned the cows back out to graze for a few more weeks which makes savings on food and straw and as margins are tight this is important.

New stock ram 'Bentley Zoom' together with borrowed ram 'Midhope Itoje' appear to have got most of their ewes in lamb. Although we get a definite confirmation of pregnancies later when we ultra sound scan, it is useful to have an early indication of how a ram is performing. This is achieved by putting coloured paint (raddle) on the ram's sternum, each time he serves a ewe he leaves a mark on her rump. After one 17 day cycle we change the paint colour and then we know that if the ewes return to season and are marked again they were not got in lamb first time round and it might be best to change the ram. If a ram is fertile he should achieve about 90% conception to first service. It is quite unusual for a ram to be totally infertile. After two cycles red paint is put on the ram and any ewes marked thereafter may be culled because even if they did get in lamb they would lamb very late.

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The newsletter is delivered **FREE** to properties within the parish 10 times a year and is also available to download from:

www.kersey.suffolk.cloud/our-community/newsletter/

The approximate production cost is 50p per copy (£5 per year). All contributions gratefully received – please pass via your distributor or to:

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Kersey St. Mary PCC, 30-13-52 00694777.

For further parish details and events, please see www.kersey.suffolk.cloud

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

I doubt many of us will be sad to see the back of 2020. It has been a difficult year to say the least, a year that has totally changed our daily lives. Who would have thought, a year ago, we would be in the position that we are now, with many people losing their jobs, compulsory wearing of masks in shops and on public transport; for those lucky enough to still be working it is likely to be from home, and there are still many people in a position where they haven't been able to meet friends or relatives since the start of the year.

One highlight for me, during these difficult months, was the way our communities voluntarily pulled together and helped each other. The support groups that were set up in the towns and villages happened almost overnight and left the authorities playing catch up. It was wonderful the way friends and neighbours took time to collect prescriptions, deliver food or just to check up on each other. I admire everyone for the hard work they have put in this year and the hard work they are still doing to keep each other safe.

Babergh Council have also worked hard this year to support residents and businesses across the district. Working with Suffolk County Council and local partners the Council made sure that those in need were swiftly re-assured and supported with reduced bills and government funding. Departments were swiftly set up to contact and help the local community groups and all local businesses were contacted by officers and councillors with advice on the government funding schemes available. This support is still going on through the second lockdown and beyond. However, if anyone feels that they need support or have concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. If I cannot help directly, I will find someone that can.

We have of course had to alter the way we work at the council with all meetings now being completed online. While the technology is far from perfect and is never going to be as good as meeting in person it has allowed us to continue committees and working groups with minimal impact on the running of the council.

Away from Coronavirus it has been a big year in terms of planning for Kersey. The approval for the development behind 1 to 6 The Street is still difficult to fathom for me. As I said a few months back the argument for housing in Kersey, or not, may be something the village needs to talk about. However, this development was in the wrong place and went against so many of the council's policies. To approve it was wrong and hopefully the battle is not over.

On a brighter note I am hoping that the wonderful work that is being put in by the village to improve the playground pays off and I will continue to offer my support and help with this bid if and when it is needed.

Ahead of us we have Christmas. While it will not be the same for any of us, I do hope you have the happiest time that you can in the circumstances and lets all look forward to, and hope, for a better year ahead.

Merry Xmas

Leigh Jamieson (Cllr.)

leigh.jamieson@babergh.gov.uk

Mobile: 07825 290605

PRIDE IN OUR PARISH

It has certainly been a challenging year for everyone. However, it has been a source of comfort and pride that so many people in Kersey have gone out of their way to help and look after others in our community. I thank them all for their kindness and generosity with their time.

Although there have been some encouraging signs recently, it will be some time before life gets back to anything like normal. We are moving into winter and this year's big family Christmas and New Year celebrations may be a little muted.

The good news is that there are many people in the Parish willing to help others. Our volunteer team are also available if you need any assistance – or a chat – so don't be shy about asking.

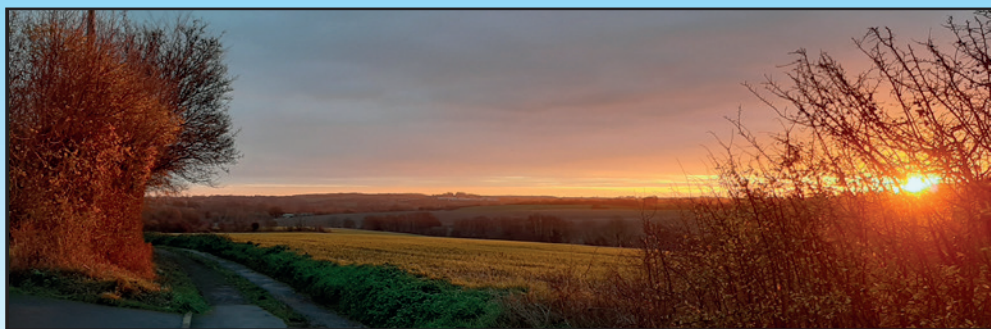
Contact details for all the community support volunteers are on the flyer delivered to you all in March. If you need a new flyer please ring Sarah Partridge **01787 210859** or send an email to ***kerseypc@gmail.com***.

Best wishes for Christmas and 2021 from your Parish Council.

John Hume
Chair, Kersey Parish Council

Most of this detail is on the **Useful Information** page on the Kersey website:
www.kersey.suffolk.cloud.

If you don't have access to the internet, contact a Parish Councillor for help.



DIARY DATES

5 Dec	– Christmas Fayre	10.00-18.00	
20 Dec	– Torchlit Carol Service.....	16.00	
12 Jan	– Church Council	19.30	
18 Jan	– Parish Council meeting	On-line*	TBC

**Until further notice Parish meetings are being held online using “Zoom.us”.*

Links are published on <https://kersey.suffolk.cloud/parish-council/meetings/>