

KERSEY

PARISH NEWSLETTER

December 2023/January 2024

The Rev. Geoffrey Clement and the
Parochial Church Council cordially invite you all to:

A Candlelit Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

at St Mary's Church, Kersey on
Sunday 17th December 2023 at 4pm
and afterwards you are all invited to stay
for mulled wine and minced pies.

We look forward to seeing you!

***A Happy Christmas and peaceful
new year to all our readers!***

50p*

www.kersey.suffolk.cloud

* **WHERE SOLD.** Delivered FREE to properties within the parish.
(50p is the approximate production cost per copy. All contributions gratefully received.)

CONTACT NUMBERS

Parochial Church Council –

Vicar: Rev. Geoffrey Clement revgclement@gmail.com or 01473 657316

Vice Chairman: Lucy Oldham 07753 626899

Church Warden: Rachel Wells 01473 822230

Bellringers – Bell Captain: Neville Whittell 01473 822616

Forget-me-nots – 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

Secretary and Bookings: Natalie Blyth nablyth1@gmail.com or 01473 827805

Treasurer: Norah Orriss

VPA (Village Produce Association) –

Chairman: Peter Partridge 01473 827231

Secretary: Rachel Wells 01473 822230

Grays Trust –

Chairman: Peter Martin 01473 828361

Secretary: Philippa Harris 01473 827079

Nightingale Trust/Allotments – Info: Natalie Blyth 01473 827805

School – Joint Headteachers: Jess Damant and Claire Dunnell Paley 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 Geoffrey Clement
01473 657316, revgclement@gmail.com

Church Warden:

Mrs Rachel Wells 01473 822230.
and vacant position.

Weddings: For all enquiries regarding weddings at St. Mary's Church please contact adrianwaller@mac.com or phone 01473 652561.

SERVICE

A service of remembrance was held at St Mary's church and taken by Rev. Liz Law. The names of the fallen were read by William Steed and the wreath placed by Jenny Leeks great niece of Stanley Mann whose name is commemorated on the memorial. David Anderson and Peter Dilnott also took part in the service. A collection taken will be given for the work of the British Legion.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

A PCC meeting was held on the 15th November at Quiet Waters. Rev. Geoffrey Clement opened the meeting with prayer.

The Action log was updated.

A new safeguarding officer for the Benefice is needed.

Church matters: A new administrator and wedding coordinator is needed.

A retiring collection taken at the recent licensing service was donated to Kagara.

Pattern of services were discussed. A candlelight Carol service will be held on the 17th November.

A café church was also suggested, other services may change in the new year.

Financial report was given and discussed. A donation is to be given to the Royal British Legion.

Fund raising. Reprint of the church booklet is needed.

Newsletter. A new editor is still required.

Church and churchyard. Autumn clean up of the churchyard has been done. The Perspex on the South Porch doors needs replacing.

FOSM. The recent Jazz night was very successful raising £1500. Next event is the Christmas supper on the 8th December.

Next meeting 17th. January.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Hayley and Ben on the birth of Wilbur Benjamin Coleman, born on the 14th November. Brother for Jacob and Ralph. 5th grandchild for Natalie and Adrian and another great grandson for Brian and Julia.

Also to Luke and Yas Whitwell on the arrival of their daughter Rosalie on 27th November. A sister for Ernie.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (cont.)

WELCOME

To Peter who has moved to Church Hill.

CHURCH CLEANING

Week beginning: 4th Dec – Philippa Harris and Iqbal Alam.

FLOWERS

I would be grateful if the church could be decorated ready for the Carol service on the 17th December. **Rachel Wells.**

BELL RINGERS

On the 24th November a very experienced team of ringers rang a peal of Bristol Supreme Major. This was to welcome Rev. Geoffrey Clement to the Benefice.

INVALIDS

Our best wishes go to those who have been in hospital, attending appointments or unwell at home.

THANK YOU

Thank you to those who have given so far to our newsletter appeal. It's not too late we are still collecting donations, please give to your distributor or pay online.

PARISH NEWS

KERSEY PLAYGROUND CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT

A quiz with fish, chicken or sausage and chip supper was held on the 10th November. 11 teams took part. In first place was "Call the Quizwife", 2nd "It's coming home", 3rd "Chelsey". Other teams taking part "Wooden Spoons", "Babet's Babes", "Kersey Konquitzadors", "Feisty Foxes", "Ace of Hearts", "Magpies", "Meet the Fokaers" and "I Know Who's Going To Win". Best named team were "Meet the Fokaers". Winners of the wooden spoons were the team "I Know Who's Going To Win". All money raised will go to the community playground.

TUESDAY CLUB

At the November meeting members welcomed an old friend back to the club – Chris Parfitt from Rendlesham. His title for the evening was "Romania beyond Dracula". In April 22 he spent 15 days in Romania. He started by showing a map of the country and explained how it has grown to the size it is today. He flew to Bucharest meeting up with guide Andre who was to take him around and show him the sights. He began by telling us about the original 15th century Vlad Dracula and how the story which we know today came about. He then went on to show pictures and talk about

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PARISH NEWS (cont.)

some of the many things he did and places he saw. These included a horse and cart ride and journey on a steam train which was powered by wood. Dinner one evening consisted of traditional soup, lamb stew followed by doughnuts. Much of the country is forests but there were also lots of sheep grazing. The sheeps milk is made into cheese which is sold at the markets along with fruit and vegetables, pickles and local crafts. Much of the architecture especially churches were painted with colourful designs. One town visited there was a Merry Cemetery where wooden carvings are painted to depict the deceased person or their life. He also visited a disused salt mine, so large it has now been transformed into an entertainment centre, theatre, medical centre with salt baths and even a lake with boats. Textiles are made and embroidered, another popular craft is egg painting with very intricate designs. His guide also took him to an area where he was lucky enough to see brown bears. He ended this trip in Tulcea and a trip on a car ferry where they saw many bird species including cormorants, spoonbills and ruffs. The talk ended with a sunset on the Danube. A very interesting talk accompanied with some lovely pictures. He brought along some textiles and painted eggs for members to look at.

Competition for “Something colourful” was won by Natalie Blyth.

Our last meeting of 2023 will be in the Village Hall at 2.30pm on 5th December when we will be having our Christmas party.

Rachel Wells.

FRIENDS OF ST MARY’S

Jazz Night

On Friday 3rd November, we held another jazz evening at St Mary’s. The brilliant ‘Art Themen Trio’ performed for us and we raised £1,510 with help from our sponsors Nevelli Designer Home Heating & Interiors. The church was transformed into a jazz club for the evening and looked stunning with beautiful cordless table lamps very kindly supplied by TDC Cordless Lighting. Our thanks go to BGA Print and Viv Marsh for help with our marketing materials, to Tom Gordon for supplying the band lighting, to our fabulous FoSM team for all the hard work and, of course, to all those who came to enjoy and support the event.

Christmas Supper Dance

Our next event is our Christmas supper dance on Friday 8th December. We have a few spaces left, so please contact fosmkersey@gmail.com if you are interested.



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





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PARISH NEWS (cont.)

LISTED BUILDINGS, ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY CONSULTATION

Babergh is exploring ways to help owners of listed buildings make their properties more energy-efficient and sustainable, while preserving their historical significance. This consultation is an opportunity for you to influence how we can collectively enhance the energy efficiency of listed buildings, contribute to our carbon neutrality goals, and safeguard our precious heritage. Everyone interested is encouraged to respond by 29 December. Use this link to share your views

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/MUEQAA/> or go to the Babergh website.

NEWSLETTER PRODUCER REQUIRED

After 5 years the current newsletter production editor intends to stand down.
Would you be able to help design, layout and produce this newsletter?
No editorial input necessary.

FULL SUPPORT PROVIDED

For more details please contact:

Colin Grannell hawkcg@hotmail.com

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Kersey Community Website

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

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

Dear Friends,

I made the mistake once in a previous parish when the local primary School were on an RE visit to the church to ask them to count how many crosses they could find in the church. The problem began because they still had 20 minutes before their scheduled time to leave and they were getting "restless". In my naivety I thought there surely couldn't be more than a dozen on memorials and in stained-glass and it would keep them quietly engaged for the remainder of the time. One poor lad came back to me very frustrated because he said he had counted 256 but then lost count and had to go back and count again whilst his friend had reached over 300! Turns out there are a couple of windows in the church where each little piece of glass had a cross on it! Once the children had pointed out to me all the places where there were crosses, I began to realise I had been looking at them all the time but just hadn't seen them – something about not seeing the wood for the trees.

Which brings me onto the subject of Christmas. Christmas is all about God coming to dwell amongst us, in John's Gospel the Greek literally say: The Word (Jesus) "pitched his tent amongst us" (John Chapter 1v14): God dwelt amongst us. However, at the time most people couldn't really see that it was God in the person of Jesus. It is all too easy at Christmas to not see the Jesus come amongst. We can get a little too caught up in shopping, decorating, putting up the tree or just soaking up the general feeling of expectation that is so contagious at this time of year.

Hopefully at some point between now and Christmas Day you will have time to stop and reflect on what is at the heart of the festivities; God became one of us that we might become more God-like in our lives. To see that God really is in our midst, we just have to open our eyes and look a little closer at not just those around us but at everything that surrounds us. The Celtics put it like this: Split the wood and find me, lift the stone and I am there.

Then of course one week later we dive into more festivities as we celebrate New Year. January is named after Janus (Ianuarius), the god of the doorway; the name has its beginnings in Roman mythology, coming from the Latin word for door (ianua) – January is the door to the year.

Following the idea of doorway, we often think of January as marking the beginning of not just the New Year but of a new start in our lives. This new start is often marked by the New Year's Resolution. More often than not this seems to involve cutting back on food after the overindulgence at Christmas. But why shouldn't we mark the beginning of the new year by stepping through the doorway and making a change in our lives? It might be something as simple as just smiling more when we meet people, after all most smiles are started by another smile! Of course, someone is bound to say: but New year's Resolutions nearly always end in failure! So what? From the Christian perspective God always gives us another chance, another try at bettering ourselves.

Whatever your new resolve for 2024 I hope that the New Year is a new doorway for you into a brighter and better future.

I remain

Your Friend and Rector

Geoffrey

Revd. Geoffrey Clement

ST. MARY'S CHURCH SERVICES

3rd Dec 9am	BCP Holy Communion	Rev. Geoffrey Clement
10th Dec 11am	Parish service	Rev. Liz Law
17th Dec 4pm	Carol service	Rev. Geoffrey Clement
24th Dec 10pm	Christmas Eve Communion	Rev. Adrian Waller
31st Dec 10am	Benefice service Chattisham	
7th Jan 9am	BCP Holy Communion	Rev. Geoffrey Clement
14th Jan 11am	Parish service	
21st Jan 4pm	Evening service	

CHURCH FLOODLIGHTS

If you would like the church floodlit to celebrate a birthday, anniversary or in remembrance etc. the cost is £10 per night. Contact **Rachel Wells** 01473 822230.

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S 500 CLUB LOTTERY

Latest **500 Club** draw results:

	October	November
1st Prize –	Claire McQuaker	Claire McQuaker
2nd Prize –	Jackie Rigby	Bruce Newbigging
3rd Prize –	Joan Hutton	Mark Rigby

Well done to all the winners and thanks to everyone who has already joined the club.

For details of the **500 Club** monthly lottery and FoSM membership information please contact either **Mark Rigby** on **07484 649235** or **Mark Pertwee** on **07919 166782** or email **fosmkersey@gmail.com**.

KERSEY CALENDAR ON-LINE

We also have a Kersey Community *Google calendar* on the website:

<https://kersey.suffolk.cloud/events/>

If you are planning an event in Kersey please email the information to Sarah Partridge at **kerseypc@gmail.com** so it can be included.

(If you already use Google Calendar you can add this to yours.)

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Arable

We wrote the last farming notes earlier than usual (16th Oct) and up until that point we had almost begun to think that this farming lark was easy as the weather had been so benign! We had progressed well with the autumn work and had a good plan in our minds for the rest of it up till about the beginning of December, when all the important arable work would have been completed. We, and the rest of the village/country were rudely awakened when twice in late October we received record amounts of rain. As well as the awful floods, this caused all the recent drillings to struggle with water logging and the stress to the crops was such that any compacted areas including lots of headlands, and very recently drilled crops, were lost due to rotting seed. The oil seed rape suffered severe yellowing for the same reason, although it has recovered somewhat since then. I was definitely dreading the next lift of sugar beet, thinking that we would be left with badly damaged soil structure and filthy roads, due to hauling 1200 tons of beet off the wet fields and down the road!

Imagine my delight then, when Ryan managed to locate a beet harvester equipped with rubber 'crawler' tracks and the weather turned in our favour. We were able to complete the lift with minimum mess, and the resultant crop looks pretty good with very large roots which are now stored, ready for haulage, on our concrete pad at Trickers Farm. Thanks are due to Lawrence and Jimmy for keeping the roads tidy, and to Adam for his brilliant effort in carting the beet. Ryan has even been able to plough the aftermath in fairly good conditions due to the dry and windy weather. However, we will probably need to sow a larger than planned area of Spring barley in March 24 due to the above losses, and will soon have to have that home saved seed dressed in preparation for the spring work.

Rob Partridge

Livestock

With the arrival of very wet and then fairly cold weather I was pleased to get all of the cattle housed. The tasks mentioned last month have mostly been carried out: weaning of the calves was followed by ultrasound pregnancy scanning of the cows, pregnancy rates were good but scanning did identify a few barren cows, the oldest of these have been sent to market while the younger cows will be given another chance to breed. Our annual cattle herd health test this year was accompanied by testing for Bovine Tuberculosis (TB).

While in some parts of the country TB is a massive problem, here in the East we are fortunate that cases are few and far between. Testing which only has to be done once every four years involves the vet inoculating the skin of all adult cattle with two types of inactivated TB serum (Bovine and Avian) and then comparing the immune response of cattle four days later. As I write these notes we have just finished the initial test having had a long day of cattle handling. This will have to be repeated for the TB read day on Thursday. Fingers crossed that we do not find any TB reactors. The herd health test mentioned above involves the vet taking blood samples from all the relevant cattle, these samples are sent to the lab for screening (at some considerable cost) for five different diseases, and we will be nervously awaiting the results.

Meanwhile, there is a small group of cows due to calve in December, these being the result of pedigree British Blue embryos which were implanted into crossbred surrogate mums 9 months earlier.

Chris Partridge

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A meeting of the Parish Council took place on the 20th November. Present were chair John Hume plus four councillors and clerk.

Apologies were received from two councillors, two members of the public, plus county and district councillors.

Minutes of the September meeting were confirmed and signed as correct.

Reports: County councillor Robert Lindsay: In his report it stated that the speed limit on Union Hill, Semer has been approved.

He has contributed towards the defibrillator planned for Kersey Uplands.

Reduction of speed limit in Stone Street has been approved from 40mph-30mph.

Bid for new bus services. Parish Councils are being asked to bid in conjunction with operators.

District councillor Leigh Jamieson: The big talking point locally had been the flooding caused by storm Babet. Many villages in Babergh and Mid Suffolk were cut off leaving homes and businesses counting the cost.

Listed building consultation. Led by Green Party councillors the district council have opened a consultation on how to allow energy efficient upgrades on old buildings. It could eventually help reduce energy bills, protect buildings from climate change, cut carbon emissions and help preserve ageing properties.

There are significant issues with the state of council housing stock. The council have released money to help clear the repair backlog. Following the flooding Babergh were able to help people most in need. Only a small number of tenants had been affected. Support and advice had also been given to businesses.

Joint local plan has now been fully approved.

The councils have introduced a new scheme to improve the well being of young people in schools. The council have launched a new website that should be more user friendly.

The councils are again supporting the Silver Sunday campaign. This is designed to help tackle social isolation, particularly for older residents in rural communities.

Parish time: Concern was raised that the hedge in Vale Lane in front of the bungalows had not been cut this year. District councillor to be asked for help in getting this done.

New PC representative for Nightingale Trust. This was left until the next meeting.

Planning Progress: Land to West of Alexander Lodge, Kersey Tye. Plans for single storey dwelling had been withdrawn.

Agricultural building, Water Lane. The council had not changed its view of the development since the earlier application and fully support the proposal.

Land rear to 1-6 the Street. Babergh do not object to proposed tree works.

Outbuilding at Curtis Farm. Remedial works in respect of oil contamination of the soil. Consent was granted.

Ballyquirke, Hadleigh Road. Erection of single storey link extension. Permission was granted by Babergh.

Planning to consider: Agricultural building, Water Lane. The council had not changed its view of the development since the earlier application.

Clerk's report: The fixed timber assets have been repaired. Some Councillors met on site to discuss the overgrown at the bottom of Water Lane, the bank by the church and the large poplar trees on Cherry Hill which are obscuring the view of the village. There was also discussion about replacing the large gate at the bottom of the hill with a pedestrian gate. These points have been raised with the landowner. The defibrillator is checked regularly and is ready for use if needed. A new defibrillator for the Uplands area will be ordered soon. The cont/

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clerk has been in touch with the County Council several times as to why the verge cutting in Kersey has not been completed. An apology was given for any confusion caused this year and will ensure they are cut as required next year under the new contract. Babergh will be repairing the two seats in Vale Lane. The ancient coin found in Kersey is to be photographed and a display board with a description put in church.

Amongst correspondence: There is no change for Kersey in the review of polling stations. Suffolk Constabulary are changing its local policing model in order to provide the best possible service.

Babergh consultation on listed building consent orders to help owners of listed buildings make their property more energy efficient. The council to respond to this.

Suffolk libraries are offering warm spaces again this winter.

Doctor Franey's charity has the power to give small grants to people in need in Kersey and local parishes.

Finance: All bank balances and payments were approved. Payments were made for insurance, Bell Inn, SALC, footpath expenses, fixed asset repairs and KCPC quiz expenses. The clerk confirmed the council's insurance had been agreed with a new provider. The council approved the increase in pay rate for the clerk.

Internal audit had been carried out, everything was in order.

Footpath working group: The volunteers have had extra work this year due to the weather, rapid re growth and fallen trees. All paths are in good condition despite the recent flooding. The chair of the working group thanked all volunteers for their service.

KCPC: The grass cutting rota had gone well. A maintenance day was held to cut internal hedges and tidy the playground for the winter. The RoSPA inspection had highlighted a problem with one of the swing supports. This is now out of use until a repair is done. A successful quiz night raised £830.

Consider progress for the Parish review. A representative is coming to offer advice on what to do. Consider the evolution of the Community support group. Following a meeting with volunteers and councillors it was agreed to make the group permanent. It will be called Kersey Good Neighbours and will support residents with shopping, collecting prescriptions and dog walking.

Consider the impact of the flooding. The Parish Council is communicating with those who were affected. Suffolk County Council inspected the footbridge at The Splash and confirmed there was no sign of damage. At one point this became unsafe due to floodwater. Local residents who were affected by the flooding were grateful to the kind volunteers who helped fill sand bags and move furniture.

Meeting dates for 2024 were agreed. 29th January, 4th March, 15th April Annual parish assembly, 13th May PC annual meeting, 1st July, 2nd September, 18th November.

Clerk's job appraisal: The chair had conducted the clerk's appraisal. Feedback was positive and he spoke of gratitude for her contribution and guidance.

Budget and Precept: The councillors went through the draft budget and set provisional precept.

Agree content for Pride in our Parish: This will be a thank you for the community support given, achievements and things funded by the council over the past year.

Training: SALC continues to offer online training which two councillors have completed.

Report: Enhanced bus Partnership Passenger Group. A councillor has been attending these meetings and would respond to the consultation.

Next meeting 29th January. **Rachel Wells**

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Please send items for inclusion well before the deadline of 24th January to:

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

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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:

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

Rachel Wells, 1 Vale Corner, Vale Lane, Kersey.

Or make online transfers (or arrange an annual standing order) to:

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

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

DIARY DATES

1 Dec – Lighting of the Christmas Tree. The Splash, Kersey 18.00
5 Dec – Tuesday club party. Village Hall. 14.30
8 Dec – Christmas Supper Dance. St Mary's. 19.00
15 Jan – Village Produce Association Village Hall. 19.30
17 Jan – Church Council. TBC. TBC
26 Jan – Burns supper Village Hall. 18.45
29 Jan – Parish Council Village Hall. 19.30

PRIDE IN OUR PARISH

It is the aim of Kersey Parish Council to make Kersey a great place in which to live, work and visit.

As we near the end of another challenging year, I am writing to thank all those who have contributed to achieving that goal. We are a small parish, but we have over 20 organisations and charities that contribute to our community spirit. These include our Village Hall, the Grays Trust, the Nightingale Trust, Tuesday Club, the Village Produce Association and the Kersey Projects team. We are also grateful to the Footpath Working Group, who ensure our many delightful walks are kept accessible and safe. The Kersey Community Playground Committee keep the Glebe and the Playground in great condition for use by everyone. The Kersey Volunteer Group has collected litter, reported increasing numbers of potholes and dealt with occasional fly-tipping in the areas allocated to them. All these groups are run by unpaid volunteers.

Earlier in the year, we celebrated the King's Coronation with a picnic on The Glebe. Other Parish Council activity included conversion to LED street lights, replacement of the Church Lychgate bench, repair and treatment of the timber benches, a new gate and posts for The Glebe and, at last, the replacement of the stolen historic street signs on Church Hill. A new defibrillator will shortly be installed which will be accessible for residents in Uplands, Williams Green, Kersey Tye and Wickerstreet Green.

I also wish to again thank all those who helped in preventing further damage in the recent floods and took part in the subsequent clearing up. The Parish Council is advising those who suffered flooding in claiming the Suffolk County Council storm damage payment. We will work with the Environment Agency and County Council on prevention and protection initiatives.

We have no current vacancies on the Parish Council. Since COVID, fewer people come to our meetings. Your opinion matters and if you want to be involved, have your say and improve life in Kersey, we would welcome your attendance at Parish Council Meetings.

Finally, on behalf of Kersey Parish Council, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Prosperous and Safe New Year.

John Hume
Chair, Kersey Parish Council

Kersey Projects

Burns Supper

We would like to invite you to enjoy another evening of Scottish fayre and entertainment to celebrate the life and work of Robert Burns on:

Friday, 26 January 2024

at 6.45 pm prompt

in Kersey Village Hall

With music from The Hosepipe Band

Cost: £30* per head to include a welcome drink and a three-course meal with Ceilidh dancing afterwards. Please feel free to bring your own additional drinks.



We will be serving a traditional meal of haggis, neeps and tatties. If you require a vegetarian option, this should be booked in advance.

Spaces are limited so please reserve your tickets emailing us on: kerseyprojects@gmail.com

*Profits will go to support future community activities and events.