# KERSEY PARISH NEWSLETTER March 2024



50p\*

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### **CONTACT NUMBERS**

#### Parochial Church Council -

Vicar: Rev. Geoffrey Clementrevgclement@gmail.com or 01473 657316
Vice Chairman: Lucy Oldham
Church Warden: Rachel Wells 01473 822230
Bellringers – Bell Captain: Neville Whittell
Forget-me-nots – Organiser: Veronica Partridge
Tuesday Club – Rachel Wells
Table Tennis Club – Adrian Blyth         01473 827805
Parish Council –
Chairman: John Hume
Clerk to the Council: Sarah Partridge
Footpaths – Chairman: Kevin Pratt
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
Secretary: Rachel Wells 01473 822230
Grays Trust –
Chairman: Peter Martin 01473 828361
Secretary: Philippa Harris
Nightingale Trust/Allotments – Info: Natalie Blyth
School – Joint Headteachers: Jess Damant and Claire Dunnell Paley 01473 823397
Kersey Playingfield Assoc. (Glebe) – Mark Pertwee
Kersey Community Website
Hadleigh Health Practice    01473 822961
West Suffolk Hospital (Bury St Edmunds)
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust
Police
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.

Cover photo courtesy of Wendy Sadler, WyS Images

### PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

### **Church Clergy:**

### Church Warden:

Rev Geoffrey Clement 01473 657316, revgclement@gmail.com 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.

### PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

#### Revision of St Mary's Church Electoral Roll 2024

We are updating the church Electoral Roll in preparation for our Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Wednesday 10th April. If you wish to be added, application forms are available on the noticeboard inside the church. Alternatively I can email you a copy. Those currently on roll need take no action to remain.

Please return completed application forms to:

Jenny Partridge, Trickers Farm, Boxford Road, Kersey, IP7 6EW. Phone: 07747 778 608

Email: jenny.partridge19@btinternet.com Jenny Partridge.

### WELCOME AND FAREWELL

Farewell to Luke, Yas, Ernie & Rosalie who have moved from Kersey Tye to Little Bealings. Welcome to Samantha and Adrian and their son who have moved into The White House.

Also a belated welcome to Brian and Alison who moved into Row House last year.

### INVALIDS

Our best wishes go to all those who are unwell especially Neville Whittell (our tower captain) who has been in hospital.

### FLOWER ROTA

The flower rota for the coming year is now up on the notice board. If everyone could arrange flowers for Easter I would be grateful. **Rachel Wells.** 

### SUFFOLK GUILD of RINGERS

The Suffolk Guild of Ringers will be holding a practice on March 23rd from 3-4.30.

### ST MARY'S ANNUAL MEETING

The date of St Mary's annual meeting has had to be changed, this will now take place on the 10th April and not the 17th as originally advertised. Time to be confirmed.

### CHURCH CLEANING

Week beginning: 11th March – Susannah March and Annie Delmar 30th March – Everyone for Easter

### PARISH NEWS



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#### **TUESDAY CLUB**

Our first meeting of 2024 is on 5th March Village Hall at 2.30pm. We will be joined by Roger and Tina Loose from Boxford who will talk and show pictures of wildlife and flowers from the Garrigue region of Southern France. Competition A sign of spring.

We are getting a bit low on numbers so it would be good to have some extra people join our meetings. It only costs a  $\pounds$ 1 which includes refreshments.

#### **Rachel Wells.**

### **KERSEY VILLAGE HALL**

**AGM** – Monday 22nd April at 7.30pm in the Hall. Please come along for our annual meeting, all welcome. Would you like to join our committee? For further information, please contact Natalie Blyth – 01473 827805 / nablyth1@gmail.com

**AUTUMN BUFFET** – Saturday 19th October, 7.00pm to 9.30pm. NOTE our new start and finish times. More time to enjoy the delicious wine and buffet, have fun with the Quiz and meet up with friends. Further information to follow regarding tickets etc. in future Newsletter editions.

### **KERSEY PROJECTS**

Our Burns Night celebration was a huge success, enjoyed by all that attended, with delicious food cooked, once again, by Stuart McQuaker and Matt Smith. Music was provided by The Hosepipe Band from Hadleigh, with many of our guests dancing the night away. A big 'Thank You' to all who attended and helped us hold such a lovely event. Proceeds made will allow us to host a free Summer Party for Kersey Parishioners to enjoy.

#### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 24th August – Summer Party. Saturday 30th November – Christmas Floral Decoration Workshop

Keep a close eye on your Newsletter for more information. Kersey Projects are Suzie Rudkin, Lorna Smith, Sarah Williams and Natalie Blyth.

### LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Suffolk County Council is running a consultation to seek opinions to influence the development of Suffolk's Local Transport Plan. This will shape the infrastructure and provision of transport for the future, including public transport. This consultation is open until early May. Please take a look on the SCC website or by following this link. https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/ltp4.

### PARISH NEWS (cont.)

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### KERSEY CRIME REVIEW

Crime in Kersey appears low, there has been no reported crime within this period. Outside of my patch though, there has been a spate of vehicle thefts, due to this I would encourage you to keep your car keys secure within your home somewhere (preferably not on display). If you have a keyless car, please get a faraday pouch or box and keep the keys in there to prevent the signal being copied. For more advice on crime prevention, please visit the Suffolk Police website www.suffolk.police.uk – the website is also useful to view crime and anti-social behaviour stats in your area and that section has a zoomable map.

My patrols include Kersey and I recently attended the Primary School to say hello, I intend to do the same with local business soon as well.

I would encourage all of you with Facebook or X (aka Twitter) to follow the Hadleigh Police pages on these social media platforms. I put the odd post on there with some of what I get up to in the local area. If you scroll back to 23/1/24, there is also a community survey canvasing your thoughts and feelings about your local area, the results are reviewed by the Police Inspector for this area and could help to determine future police action/focus.

By the time this article is published, my next monthly engagement location will be within St Mary's Church in Hadleigh (Church Street) on the morning of 1st March 2024 between 9:30-midday, pop along if you have any ongoing issues for the police or simply want to say hello. The church has a café and craft market event running between those times as well.

Kind regards,

### PC 1293 Niall Johnson – Hadleigh Community Police Officer.

*P.S.* On a lighter note, I have been amused by comments on social media likening my appearance to PC Ventress from the old TV show Heartbeat. All I will say is, as I take my hat off the similarity ends, as I have far less hair than him.

### HADLEIGH CHORAL SOCIETY

Save the date for what promises to be a memorable evening of beautiful music – Hadleigh Choral Society will perform Haydn's sweeping oratorio "The Seasons" in the original German libretto for our Spring concert on Saturday 23rd March at 7pm. We will be joined by professional soloists Alys Roberts, Richard Symons and Owain Browne, and the Colchester Symphony Orchestra, all conducted by Christopher Phelps. Tickets are £16 (free admission for those in full time education) and will be available online through www.hadleighchoralsociety. org.uk, members of the choir, The Idler bookshop in Hadleigh, or on the door. For more information contact 01473 823 791.



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### PRIDE IN OUR PARISH

Spring is a time of year for a quick tidy. There are many of you who while walking around the parish kindly pick up litter helping to keep Kersey looking beautiful. The volunteers from the KVG (Kersey Volunteer Group) deserve a special thank you. KVG volunteers have each been allocated a small area of the parish to keep tidy. They walk their routes regularly picking up litter and reporting any potholes or other hazards. Not an onerous task but without their commitment Kersey would not look so good. If anyone is interested in joining this group please do get in touch with me or the Clerk, Sarah Partridge on kerseypc@gmail.com to find out more..

> John Hume **Chair, Kersey Parish Council**

### **Community Organisation Spotlight:**

### **Kersey Forget-Me-Nots**

The Forget Me Nots is a local organisation that was set-up in the 70's by Mr Hacker and affiliated to the Church. They met every fortnight in the Village Hall to play cards and other games. Over the years the group has developed and now meets in local venues for coffee mornings, lunches and afternoon teas.

The group is led by Veronica Partridge. Currently 12 people attend every couple of weeks, more people would be warmly welcomed to join this group. It is open to all the residents of Kersey but, especially those that have retired. You are welcome to drop in and out of the programme but they are always delighted to see you.

If you would like to get more information, please contact Veronica on 01473 823188.

The next issue is April 2024.

Please send items for inclusion well before the deadline of 22nd March to:

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

To advertise in the Kersey Parish Newsletter please contact: Colin Grannell at hawkcg@hotmail.com or 01473 829074 1/4 page – £6.00 per issue, 1/2 page – £11.00 per issue

#### The Kersey Parish Newsletter

The Parish Newsletter is sponsored and distributed by St. Mary's Church on behalf of all parishioners. 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: 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

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### ST. MARY'S CHURCH

#### Dear Friends,

This year Easter Day is March 31st, and maybe for some of the more mature residents, Easter Day is on or near their wedding anniversary. Back in the good old days people got married as close to the end of the tax year as possible so as to claim a full year's tax as a married couple. I only know this because my parents were married on 4th April 1959. My father claims they chose the date because it was spring, my mother always said it was for the tax break.

Easter is in some ways a bit like a wedding. In both cases there is a time of preparation leading up to the event, and maybe a little bit of self denial too (so as to fit into the wedding suit or dress!). But perhaps on a more serious note both are celebrations of new beginnings and new relationships. Easter is about having the chance to enter a deep and personal relationship with God; through the death and resurrection of Jesus God invites us to enter into his love.

As part of my own personal preparation for Easter I have been in the church each Tuesday morning at 9:30am for a short Celtic Morning Prayer. A small group also join me, and I'd like to extend the invitation and say anyone is welcome to join us for a short moment of prayer and reflection each Tuesday morning. If you are not able to join us, please be assured that we will be praying for the village, the school, the pub and local businesses each Tuesday morning.

#### Easter Services across the benefice:

March 28th Maundy Thursday 6.30 Holy Communion at Chattisham

#### March 29th Good Friday

10 am Informal "Easter Garden" service at Hintlesham
2pm service at Chattisham
2pm Service at Aldham
6:30pm Service of reflection at Elmsett
31st March Easter Day 11am Holy Communion St Mary's Kersey
We look forward to welcoming you to any of these services.

### Geoffrey

#### **Revd. Geoffrey Clement**

PS and if it is your wedding anniversary, then I hope it is a very happy one and may God bless you with many more to come.

### Kersey Community Website

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

### ST. MARY'S CHURCH SERVICES

3rd Mar 9am	<b>BCP Holy Communion</b>	Rev. Geoffrey Clement		
10th Mar 11am	(Mothering Sunday) Parish Service	Rev. Adrian Waller		
17th Mar 4pm	Evensong	Rev. Adrian Waller		
24th Mar 11am	(Palm Sunday) No service.	Aldham 11.00am		
31st Mar 11am	(Easter Sunday) Holy Communion	Rev. Geoffrey Clement		
7th Apr 9am	Holy Communion	Rev. Adrian Waller		
There is a short service in St Mary's during Lent on Tuesdays at 9.30am taken by Rev.				
Geoffrey Clement.				

### **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:

	January	February
1st Prize –	Mary Pearce	Chris Partridge
2nd Prize –	Linda Newbigging	Viv Marsh
3rd Prize –	Nick Hamblen	Trevor Stirling

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*.

### **DIARY DATES**

4 Mar – Parish Council 19.30
5 Mar – Tuesday Club 14.30
13 Mar – PCC 19.00
19 Mar – Lent discussion and light lunch St Mary's church 11.00
25 Mar – VPA Annual meetingVillage Hall19.30
30 Mar – Bridges Farm Open Day Kersey Tye 11.00-15-00
2 Apr – Tuesday club 14.30
10 Apr – Church Annual meeting St Mary's Time TBC
15 Apr – Annual Parish assemblyVillage Hall19.30
22 Apr – Village Hall AGM 19.30

### PARISH COUNCIL



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### KERSEY PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPT 2024/25

The eagle eyed amongst you will see that your Parish Council has agreed to increase its element of your Council Tax bill for a Band D property to  $\pounds$ 75.46 per year. An increase of  $\pounds$ 1.35 per month for the coming year.

Your council recognised the financial pressures everyone is under and took the decision only after a lot of analysis and debate.

Recent high inflation has inevitably pushed up our operating costs and this is reflected in the numbers, but the increase has also been driven by two exceptional items which deserve some further explanation:

#### 1 Reserves

The Parish Council owns a number of assets around the parish such as street furniture, playing field equipment, dog bins etc. These items have to be purchased and have various anticipated lives at the end of which they will need to be replaced. So that we are not caught by surprise with a sudden large bill when something wears out, it is normal practice to put aside money each year into a separate reserve fund which prevents the need for sudden increases in the annual precept to meet the replacement cost.

Having reviewed the level of reserves we currently hold and looked at best practice in other councils we concluded the size of the reserves are too low. To begin the process of catching up on the shortfall we have added a total of £900 to the precept this year.

#### 2 Speed limit signage

Semer Parish Council, supported by ourselves, have run a long campaign to get Suffolk County Council to agree to introduce 40mph speed limit on the A1141 between Letts Pools and Stone Street which should improve the safety of Kersey residents turning on to the main road. After much consultation they accepted the proposal.

Much to our surprise however, Suffolk County Council then said that they will not pay for the 40mph signage along the road and that a mix of Parish Councils, local councillors, businesses and residents would be expected to cover the costs. After a long discussion we have reluctantly agreed to contribute up to £2000 to these costs (in total they are likely to be around £12,000). This will be a one-off cost and will obviously be taken out of our precept needs for the following year.

As of today the full funding for the new speed limit has not been found although work continues to find sponsors and contributors. It is therefore possible we will not spend the money which would be reflected in lower bills next year.

We hope that explains why we have had to increase the Kersey element of the Council Tax significantly this year. We tried everything we could to minimise the demand but with a normal annual budget of around £12,000 we could not accommodate these significant one-off demands.

### PARISH COUNCIL (cont.)



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A parish council meeting was held on the 29th January.

Present were John Hume chair, five councillors plus clerk, county councillor and district councillor.

**Apologies** received from one councillor, one councillor who could only attend for part of the meeting and one member of the public.

**Declarations of interest:** Two councillors declared an interest in planning applications. **Minutes** of previous meeting were confirmed and signed as correct.

Reports had been circulated to all councillors.

**County councillor Robert Lindsay:** His report was discussed. He answered questions on flooding and drainage ditches. There is a possibility that the Council may need to contribute to rural bus services if there are new services introduced.

**Impact of flooding:** Following Storm Babet and the flooding in Kersey the parish is listed for an investigation by Suffolk County Council. As well as properties near the Splash and at Kersey Mill being affected by internal flooding. There were other areas in the village which have been affected by flooding several times this winter. These include Kedges Lane, Vale Lane, Wickerstreet Green and the A1141 crossroads.

**Consider contributing** to the new 40mph signs on the A1141 Union Hill, Semer. Robert has offered 50% from his highway locality budget. Parish councillors agreed to contribute to this.

**Consider a request** for a water depth marker at the Splash. A resident had asked why there was no water depth marker at the Splash and whether one should be installed. After consideration it was agreed to explore the costs.

**Consider making** a complaint to SCC about the large number of potholes on the highways. The council is concerned by the poor state of roads in Kersey and surrounding areas. There are too many very large and dangerous potholes often full of water, so the hazard is not visible. Councillors believe more regular maintenance of the highways should be a priority rather than a stream of reactive repairs. Robert commented that it is a problem all over Suffolk and encouraged everyone to continue to report potholes using the SCC website.

**Babergh District Councillor Leigh Jamieson's** report was discussed this included the budget gap, building in Babergh and second homes/empty properties tax. Councillors are considering higher tax premiums for owners of second homes and long-term empty properties. There are almost 600 empty properties in Babergh and many residents are frustrated at the building of new properties while so many lay empty. Questions were raised about parking charges; a consultation is to be launched soon. Councillors wanted to know what the alternative is if parking charges are not introduced? What other service funding would be cut to make up Babergh's budget shortfall.

**Parish time:** Concerns were raised about flooding and overflowing ditches in the parish. Robert said they are the responsibility of the landowners. Concern was also raised about mud/silt covering the tarmac section of Kedges Lane. The tarmac



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### PARISH COUNCIL (cont.)

surface has also been damaged. SCC said it was not bad enough to repair. County and District councillors left the meeting.

**Appoint** a new parish council representative for the Nightingale Trust. The trust runs the allotments and holds meetings, twice yearly inspections of the allotments and maybe some maintenance work. Councillor David Butcher was appointed.

**Planning – progress:** Conversion of agricultural building to dwelling in Water Lane has been approved by Babergh.

**Applications to consider:** Cherrywood, The Tye – Erection of detached garage/ cart lodge and barn for storage of machinery. Three Stones, The Uplands – Erection of two storey linked extension to provide annexed accommodation for a family member. Little Manor, Church Hill – Tree works. Kedges End – Erection of detached cart lodge with solar panels associated battery storage and electric car charging point. All these applications were fully approved by councillors.

**Clerk's report**: Hedge in Vale Lane opposite the bungalows should be cut soon. The defibrillator at The Bell is available. The new defibrillator for Kersey Uplands has arrived and waiting to be installed. All those who contributed to this have been thanked. A new leaflet promoting the Kersey Good Neighbour group is being produced. The clerk has reported various highway and footpath problems via the SCC reporting tool.

All correspondence has been circulated to councillors and noted.

Finance: Financial statement, balances etc. plus payments were approved.

**Footpath working group:** The footpaths have suffered as a result of the winter rain. Many trees have fallen, steps broken, and bridges washed away. Some issues have been resolved with some still outstanding. All equipment is in working order ready for the new season. Thanks go to the resident who donated hard core for use at the allotment footpath.

**KCPC:** Very little activity. The swings are still out of use.

**Consider whether to progress** with the Parish Review or complete a Neighbourhood Priorities Statement. It was decided to set up a working group to complete a NPS.

**Consider spring litter collection** It was agreed that now the Kersey Volunteer Group regularly collect litter there is no need to organise a special time. The school will be asked if they would like to tidy the area round the school. There have been some incidents of fly tipping recently. Babergh has collected this.

**Confirm precept for 2024/25:** It was resolved to increase the precept to £14,322. **Agree content for newsletter** Pride in our Parish. This will focus on litter and thanking the KVG.

**Training:** SALC continues to offer online training.

**Reports** from other meetings are circulated when available.

Full report can be found on the website. Next meeting 4th March. **Rachel Wells.** 

### **FARMING NOTES**

### KERSEY VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

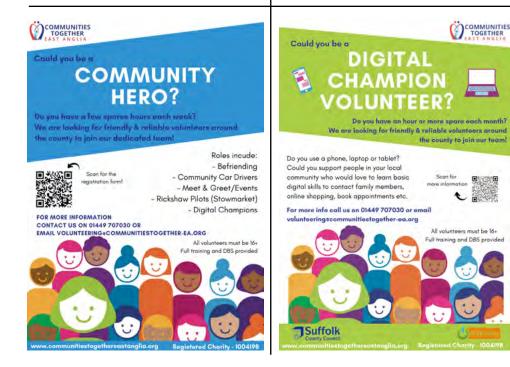
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#### Arable

The huge amount of work we did in preparation for the Health and Safety officers visit in early February was largely effective. Although if everything looks to be tidy and in order, it tends to cause deeper investigation into more obscure things, and this proved to be the case with the inspector leaving us with a list of minor items to address. We are very grateful to Sarah for all her hard work in achieving this.

I am pleased to report that Ryan and his partner Danielle have managed to secure a house in Assington, and we wish them well for the future, especially for the birth of their expected baby. The weather has continued in a challenging fashion with rain never far away, so I am quite pleased to report that all the land that grew sugar beet until the new year has now been drilled with milling wheat, which we expect to be in shorter supply later this year. We have had a few issues with flooding at the Groton end of the parish and these have now been resolved at least on a temporary basis, until we find time to coppice some hedges and dig out some more roadside ditches thoroughly. To this end we have acquired a mini-digger that will allow us to work without disrupting the traffic as much as the lager machine.

Nitrogen fertiliser was applied to our 150 acres of Oil Seed Rape in mid Feb and the crop has responded well, beginning to grow away from the ever present threat of pigeon damage. To help with this problem at this time of year we reluctantly use gas banger bird-scarers which are always set to go off only in daylight hours. They occasionally malfunction and if anyone hears them going off persistently at night, feel free to call Rob on 07836 283454 **Rob Partridge** 

#### Sheep

Lambing started about a week ago and so far things have been going fairly smoothly, almost all of the 25 lambs born so far have got to their feet and suckled from their mothers unaided within a couple of hours of birth. It is very important that lambs get their first feed of mums' milk (colostrum) soon after birth. Not only does it give the baby warmth and energy but also antibodies to protect it from the various bacterial challenges that will always be present. One such challenge is a condition known as watery mouth - this is when a build-up of bacteria in the gut of the lamb will cause it to become listless and to drool. Watery mouth is very difficult to treat once symptoms appear and the lamb usually dies. Until recently a small oral dose of a specific antibiotic given at birth would protect the lamb, but this product is no longer available, meaning that good hygiene, dry clean bedding and early colostrum intake are vitally important. We inject the ewes with a seven in one vaccine a few weeks before lambing and this helps boost their immunity to diseases such as tetanus, braxy, pasteurella pneumonia and pulpy kidney. This immunity is also passed to the lamb from its mother via colostrum and should last until we vaccinate the lambs at 8 weeks of age. Who knew there were so many things a sheep could die of! Calves are also challenged by various infection risks and are similarly protected by their mother's colostrum, but fortunately they are more resilient and don't usually turn up their toes at the first opportunity.

Hopefully despite all of the above we will have lots of lambs and calves on view at our charity farm open day here at Bridges Farm on Easter Saturday - 30 March 11am to 3pm.

**Chris Partridge** 

#### 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.

## Family Fun at Bridges Farm Saturday 30 March 2024

11am - 3pm Bridges Farm, Kersey Tye

£5 per person (under 2's free) £20 per family All proceeds to charity, inc Friends of St Mary's Church, Kersey

See our animals in the barns and fields while enjoying the beautiful countryside. On our working livestock farm you will see:

Cow with their calves Big Bulls Sheep with their lambs Hens and chicks Ducks

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Chris and Sarah Partridge Tel: 07765 916162 Bridges Farm, The Tye, Kersey, Ipswich IP7 6HB Email: thecovey@kerseylivestock.co.uk www.kerseylivestock.co.uk



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