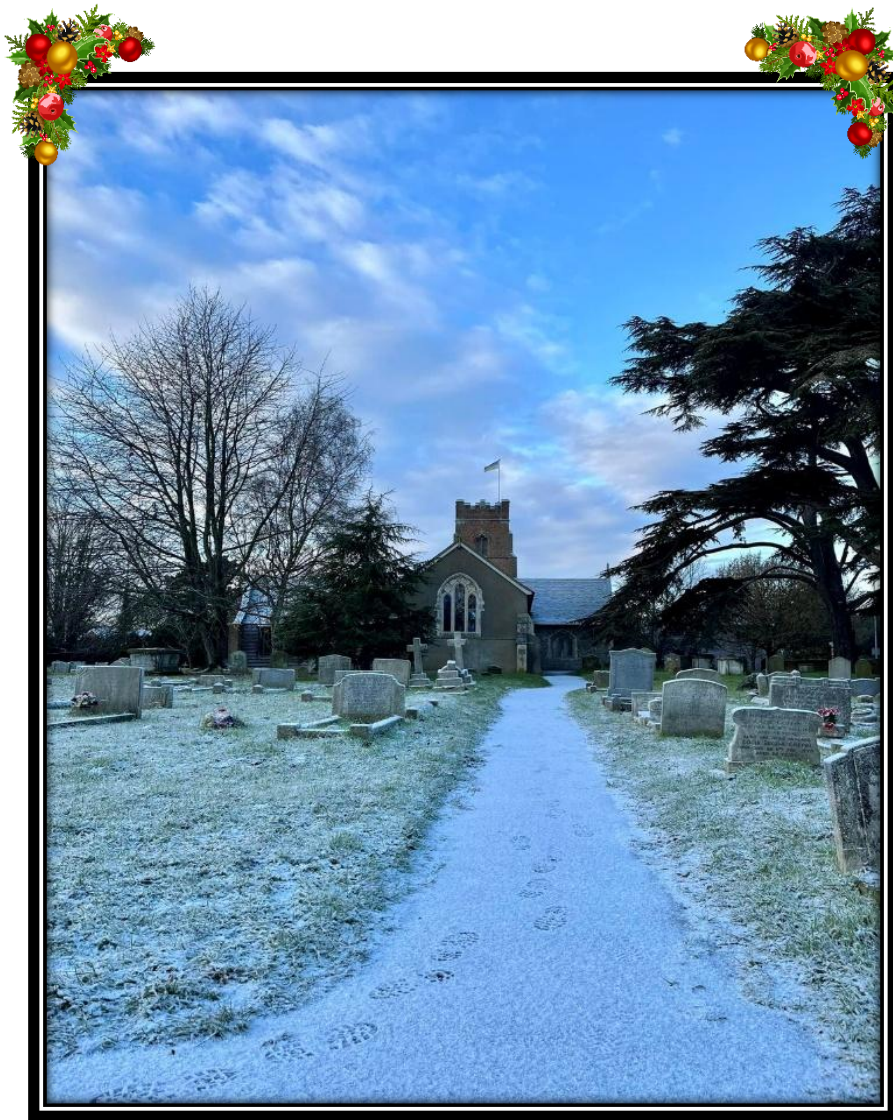




ALL SAINTS KESGRAVE
NEWSLETTER
ISSUE NO 126
DECEMBER 2025-
JANUARY 2026

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

By the time this is published, we will be in the season of Advent. Advent comes from the Latin word *Adventus*, which means waiting. Why is it when we are in a hurry, things always seem to take longer. My mum used to say “A watched pot never boils”! It is also the beginning of the Church’s year, as last Sunday we celebrated Christ the King, plus Stir Up Sunday. A time when the Christmas puddings were given a last stir plus a drop or two of alcohol, for medicinal purposes of course!

Now despite popular belief, the countdown to Christmas begins with advent not the coke cola advert. Advent is a time when we prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of our Lord. As humans, we are not good at waiting! We do not choose presents for our family and friends on a whim. So why do we always prepare for the coming of Christ like we are in a relay race? Let’s make time; let’s make our lives, our homes and our families ready. Let’s not rush this most Holy Season, we need that time too. We are important, five minutes a day just being ourselves, use those moments to speak to God, to share our concerns for our family, friends and neighbours; we need that space, our spiritual preparation for the coming of our Lord is important. John the Baptist came prepare the way of the Lord. Gods plan for redemption unfolding before our eyes. Yes, God’s time not ours.

The true meaning of Christmas is often seen as a time for joy, giving, and togetherness. It's celebrated to commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ, symbolizing peace, love, and hope. Christmas time is about God’s time invading our time. How do we welcome Christmas? This year feels very different; the cost of living, the uncertainty that surrounds our country at this time and that is before the chancellor’s budget. Good news is in short supply. It was not much different when Jesus was born, in an occupied country, poverty was rife, yet in a stable cold dark and in an animal trough for a bed, the greatest gift of all was given; not a place you would expect to find the Prince of Peace. The Christmas carol has these words “How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given “no fanfare. The God who came to earth because we were worth it. We are God’s children, made in His image, He promised never to abandon us.

Love changes everything, the more love we show, the nearer the Kingdom of God becomes.

More love; less hate is the true message of Christmas. We think about what our friends would like for presents and then go and buy it for them, the value is not important, what is important is the thought.

Please do join us for our Christmas services any of our Benefice Churches, whichever one you choose; you will be made most welcome.

If you require any information about the Christmas services, please visit our website, (askesgrave.org) give any of the Clergy a ring, or contact one of the churchwardens at any of our Churches.

May the peace of the Christ-child reign in your hearts and the joy of the gift of Christ be our guide.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and all the best for 2026.

Every blessing.

Reverend Gary Jones

ADVENT

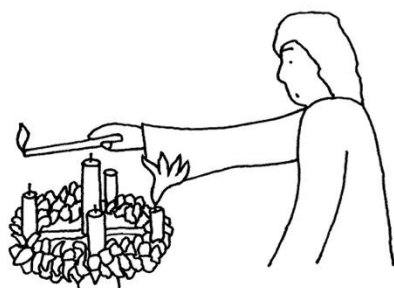
HAZARDS



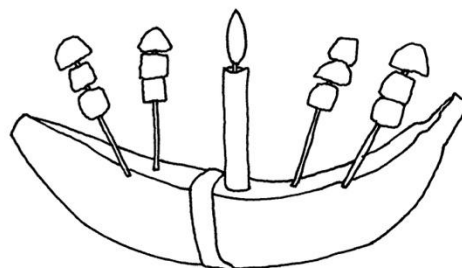
TABLES BUCKLING UNDER SHEER
WEIGHT OF MINCE PIES



UNREST OVER THE CORRECT WEEK
TO LIGHT THE PINK CANDLE



ADVENT WREATH FIRES



SUPERMARKETS RUNNING OUT
OF ORANGES

BABIES ARE FOR LIFE NOT JUST FOR CHRISTMAS

On that very First Day of all First Days of Christmas it was probably not the Silent Night of which we are fond of singing. Ask any new-born mum and she will tell you that when giving birth there is very little silence. Nor does it, as the Carol also suggests, have much 'Sleeping in Heavenly Peace' but more like months and months of sleepless nights!



The joys of a new arrival are almost always viewed through rose-tinted glasses instead of that of worn out and sleep-deprived new-born mums.

Look at Mary and Joseph. Herded into a stable by an over-worked innkeeper, their precious bundle of joy gawked at and pawed by smelly shepherds before being finally lauded over by foreign looking (and speaking) Magi. Then some bright spark thinks there is room in the corner of the manger for a Little Drummer Boy! If I were Mary the boy would have left the stable very quickly wearing the drum they thought they had come to play.

Christmas reminds us that new life is urgent and comes screaming into our lives in the darkest and deepest seasons of the year and we need to be ready to welcome it. If not with Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh but the things that help our younglings thrive. After all 'Babies are for life, not just for Christmas'.

How do we do this? How do we, with the shepherds and the Wise Men, 'Travel even unto Bethlehem'? There are many events happening - including our Follow the Star Trail and Café - which will encourage and challenge us to live life differently. May I ask that each of us try to find a child that needs some love and care and, following the words of another Carol, offer them at least a part of our hearts?

Why not save a little of your Christmas cheer to give to a child for whom there is 'no room at the Inn'. Sadly, there are far too many of them to name. Those surrounded by war and natural disaster. Those who have been orphaned or rejected by their families. Those whose only refuge from abuse is found in the dark depths of drug addiction and substance abuse.

Please help one of them, even in just a little way, and you will find that the Christ-child will indeed be 'born in you today'.

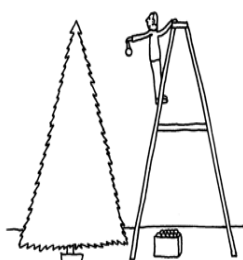
Bless you - Revd Canon Andrew Dotchin
Vicar of Kesgrave, Little Bealings & Playford

THE CHRISTMAS CHECKLIST

FOR CHURCHES



DIG OUT THE CRIB FIGURES ☐



DECORATE THE TREE AND CHURCH ☐



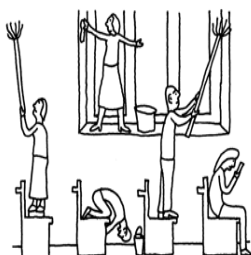
CHOOSE PEOPLE TO READ THE LESSONS ☐



MAKE SURE THE CHOIR IS READY ☐



DELIVER THE CHRISTMAS PUBLICITY LEAFLETS ☐



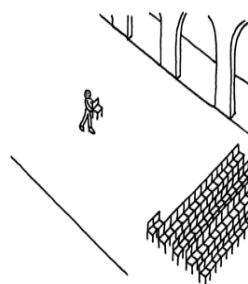
CLEAN EVERYWHERE ☐



DECIDE WHICH CLERGY DO WHICH SERVICES ☐



BUY PRESENTS FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE WORKED HARD ☐



CARRY IN EXTRA CHAIRS ☐



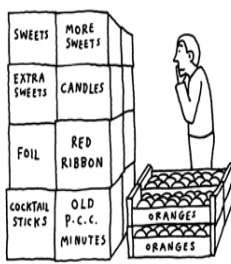
REHEARSE THE NATIVITY PLAY ☐



WRITE ALL OF THE SERMONS ☐



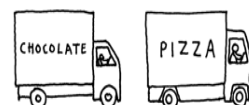
PREPARE THE CANDLES ☐



MAKE THE CHRISTINGLES ☐



COPY THE ORDERS OF SERVICE ☐



ORDER SUPPLIES FOR VICAR'S POST-CHRISTMAS BREAK ☐

WHAT'S ON - DECEMBER 2025

Livestreamed services may be followed on ASK Church YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UctZ91ENd-lxMPUZYDHR5-aQ>

Date	Time	Service	Where
Mon 1 Dec	2-4pm	Silver Screen	All Saints Church HALL, KESGRAVE.
Mon 1 Dec	2-3pm	"The Chosen" men's group	Red Lion, Marthlesham
Tue 2 Dec	10-11am	Morning Prayer	All Saints Church KESGRAVE
Wed 3 Dec	10 -10.30am	Morning Prayer	All Saints LITTLE BEALINGS
Wed 3 Dec	10.30-12pm	Fynn Valley Walks	All Saints LITTLE BEALINGS.
Wed 3 Dec	3.30 – 4.30pm	Broom Tree Café	All Saints Church HALL KESGRAVE
Thu 4 Dec	11-12pm	Holy Communion	All Saints Church KESGRAVE
Sun 7 Dec	8.30-9.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints Church KESGRAVE
Sun 7 Dec	10-11am	Holy Communion	All Saints Church KESGRAVE
Sun 7 Dec	10-11am	Morning Prayer	Church of St. Mary, PLAYFORD
Sun 7 Dec	4 -5pm	Christingle	All Saints Church KESGRAVE
Sun 7 Dec	4 -5pm	Emerge Community	PLAYFORD Village Hall
Sun 7 Dec	6.30- 7.30pm	United Service	St. Andrew's Rushmere
Mon 8 Dec	2-4pm	Silver Games	All Saints Church KESGRAVE.
Tue 9 Dec	10-11.30am	Morning Prayer	All Saints Church KESGRAVE
Tue 9 Dec	2.15-4.15pm	Brightwell Ukuleles	All Saints Church KESGRAVE
Wed 10 Dec	10-10.30am	Morning Prayer	All Saints LITTLE BEALINGS
Wed 10 Dec	10.30-12pm	Fynn Valley Walks	All Saints LITTLE BEALINGS
Wed 10 Dec	3.30-4.30pm	Broom Tree Café	All Saints Church HALL KESGRAVE
Thu 11 Dec	11-12pm	Holy Communion	All Saints Church KESGRAVE
Sat 13 Dec	9.30-11.30am	Breakfast	All Saints LITTLE BEALINGS
Sat 13 Dec	2-4pm	Christmas Wreath Making	Angela Cobbold Hall , Little Bealings
Sun 14 Dec	8.30-9.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints Church KESGRAVE
Sun 14 Dec	10-11am	Family Service (Livestreamed)	All Saints Church KESGRAVE
Sun 14 Dec	10-11am	Morning Prayer	All Saints LITTLE BEALINGS
Sun 14 Dec	10.15-11.15am	Emerge Community	PLAYFORD Village Hall
Sun 14 Dec	2-5pm	Christmas Wreath Worksh.	Playford Village Hall
Sun 14 Dec	3.30-5pm	" Follow the Star" Café	All Saints Church KESGRAVE
Sun 14 Dec	5-6pm	"Carols of Praise" with Brass Band	All Saints Church KESGRAVE
Mon 15 Dec	2-4pm	Silver Screen	All Saints Church HALL, KESGRAVE.
Mon 15 Dec	2-3pm	"The Chosen" men's group	Red Lion, Marthlesham
Mon 15 Dec	3-4pm	Christingle	All Saints LITTLE BEALINGS

Date	Time	Service	Where
Tue 16 Dec	2.15-4.15pm	Mothers' Union	All Saints Church KESGRAVE
Wed 17 Dec	10-10.30am	Morning Prayer	All Saints LITTLE BEALINGS
Wed 17 Dec	10.30-12pm	Fynn Valley Walks	All Saints LITTLE BEALINGS.
Wed 17 Dec	3.30 – 4.30pm	Broom Tree Café	All Saints Church HALL KESGRAVE
Thu 18 Dec	11-12pm	Holy Communion	All Saints Church KESGRAVE
Thu 18 Dec	7-8pm	Nine Lessons and Carols	All Saints LITTLE BEALINGS
Thu 19 Dec	6.30 -7.30pm	Blue Christmas Service	All Saints Church KESGRAVE
Sun 21 Dec	8.30-9.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints Church KESGRAVE
Sun 21 Dec	10-11am	Nativity Play (Livestreamed)	All Saints Church KESGRAVE
Sun 21 Dec	6-7pm	Nine Lessons and Carols	Church of St. Mary, PLAYFORD
Sun 21 Dec	6.30- 7.30pm	Nine Lessons and Carols	All Saints Church KESGRAVE
CHRISTMAS EVE		CHRISTMAS EVE	CHRISTMAS EVE
Wed 24 Dec	4-5pm	Crib Service	All Saints Church KESGRAVE.
Wed 24 Dec	10-11pm	Midnight@Bethlehem	All Saints Church KESGRAVE
Wed 24 Dec	11pm-12am	Midnight Mass	All Saints LITTLE BEALINGS
CHRISTMAS DAY		CHRISTMAS DAY	CHRISTMAS DAY
Thu 25 Dec	8.30-9.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints Church KESGRAVE
Thu 25 Dec	10-11am	Christmas Family Service (Livestreamed)	All Saints Church KESGRAVE
Thu 25 Dec	10-11am	Christmas Communion	Church of St. Mary, PLAYFORD
Sun 28 Dec	8.30-9.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints Church KESGRAVE
Sun 28 Dec	10-11am	Benefice Communion (Livestreamed)	All Saints Church KESGRAVE
Tue 30 Dec	10-11.30am	Morning Prayer	All Saints Church KESGRAVE

MOTHERS' UNION

Our **final meeting for 2025** will be our **Carol Service at 2:15pm on Tuesday 16 December** at All Saints Church. We are having a break in January.

Our first meeting for 2026 will be held on **Tuesday 24 February, 2-30pm** at All Saints Church. This will be a communion service followed by our AGM.



Visitors are always welcome to join us at our meetings.

Jenny Billinge – Secretary

☀️ **“FOLLOW THE STAR”** ☀️ **TREASURE TRAIL**

Let's come together this Christmas to “Follow the Star”, celebrate our community, and rediscover the light, hope, and JOY of the Nativity story.

“When you follow the Star, you become a star in the hand of God.”

✦ **LAUNCHING ON 1st DECEMBER !** ✦

Set off on an exciting Treasure Trail around Kesgrave this Christmas! There are 12 Star Posters, each marked by a numbered Star — and together, they'll reveal a hidden Christmas carol!

☀️ **How to Take Part**

1. Pick up a Trail Booklet with full instructions:

Available to pick up from All Saints Church, Kesgrave, or
Download and print a copy from our website

<https://www.akesgrave.org/notices.htm>

2. Follow the clues!

Each clue in the booklet will point you to a location in Kesgrave — can you guess where it is?

3. Find the Stars

At each of the 12 Star Stops, you'll spot a special Star Poster.
Each poster reveals a Letter and a Symbol from the Christmas Nativity Story.

4. Uncover the Carol

Once you've visited all 12 stars, use the letters you've found to solve the puzzle and discover the famous Christmas carol hidden within the trail!

4. Bring Your Completed Booklet

Drop your booklet in our Star Post Box in the Church porch or bring it to **“Follow the Star” Café at All Saints Kesgrave on 14th December, 3.30pm**

Remember to Look Up!

As you walk, enJOY all the brilliant stars shining both in the sky and throughout the Christmas displays around Kesgrave.

These stars remind us of the great light that guided the Wise Men to Jesus.

Why not include a Star in your own Christmas decorations this year? Let it be a bright reminder to Follow the Star and discover the true meaning and joy of Christmas. ✨

We'd love to see your creations!

Share a photo of your Star display on Facebook

(www.facebook.com/Askesgrave) and tag us in your post — let's fill Kesgrave with shining stars this Christmas! 🌟

“Follow the Star” Café **Sunday, 14th December at 3:30pm** All Saints Church, Kesgrave,

Join us for a festive afternoon filled with:

 Tea, coffee, and delicious cakes

 Fun children's activities

✨ A display featuring all the Nativity symbols from the trail

 A special Christmas treat for everyone who completes the trail!

(Don't forget to bring your completed booklet with your uncovered Christmas carol! Completed booklets will be entered into a prize draw.)

Christmas Cracker – “Carols of Praise”

Stay on afterwards for our JOYful **“Christmas Cracker – Carols of Praise” with the Brass Band at 5pm!**

Sing along to your favourite carols, celebrate with friends and family, and share in the warmth and wonder of the season.

Let's make this Christmas shine brightly across Kesgrave — as we come together to Follow the Star and celebrate the love, light, and JOY of Christmas.

CHRISTMAS BELLS
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
1807 –1882

This poem was written by H W Longfellow during the American Civil War in December 1863; it remains a tribute to Christ's vision for mankind

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!
And thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Till ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime,
A chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Then from each black, accursed mouth
The cannon thundered in the South,
And with the sound
The carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

It was as if an earthquake rent
The hearth-stones of a continent,
And made forlorn
The households born
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head;
“There is no peace on earth,” I said;
“For hate is strong,
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!”

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
“God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men.”

This musical version is by a group called "Casting Crowns" and sung here by the Slavic Chorale

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kCos4OeiJrU&list=RDkCos4OeiJrU&start_radio=1

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

December 2025

By the time you read this news sheet we will be in the season of Advent, when many people will be starting to prepare for Christmas, yet it does not seem that long since we were celebrating the birth of Jesus last year.

When we look around us the shops are full of decorations and we are even seeing Christmas trees appearing covered with all the tinsel and coloured lights

For those who watch television we have even seen the Christmas Coca Cola advert, this always make me think that Christmas is getting near.

As we look back over the past year there have been many events which have caused great concern to many people, and are still a difficulty in some countries now.

Many people are already beginning to think about parties and celebrations but for a moment let us think of the many people who have

no hope, those without homes because of disasters that have happened over the past year.

The many people who have become dependant on food banks, those who are in fear of loosing their homes for different reasons, and the many people who have to decide whether they can heat their homes or have enough food.

As we enter the season of Advent, a time for preparation and a time when we look forward to the birth of Jesus, may we give a thought to all those in need, those who have lost that hope by doing something special for the lonely.

God sent his Son into the world to show us the way when times are tough, he gave us a love beyond our understanding to share with those around us, our neighbours and the lost, let us share with them a love and a hope for the future.

As we are told in Isaiah 9 v 6 'For to us a child is born, to us a son is given and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace'.

**Mike Bryer,
Reader**

THE BIBLE IN ONE YEAR RUN BY REV ROB ALLINSON

If you would like to follow a helpful plan of bible reading in 2026 please email Rev Rob Allinson who is based at Martlesham/Brightwell The 2026 plan will be different from the 2025 one, but any plan helps you to realise that you are reading in the company of others, even if you can't see them!

Sally Wainman

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE!!

- **7 December, (Sunday) 4pm:**
Christingle at Kesgrave
- **9 December (Tuesday), 2.15pm:**
Brightwell Ukulele Concert at Kesgrave
- **14 December, (Sunday) 2pm:**
Annual Christmas Wreath Workshop at
Playford Village Hall
(Fundraising for Playford Church - Helen 07889907615
helenclarksonfieldsend@gmail.com)
- **14 December, (Sunday) 3.30pm:**
'Follow The Star' Café at Kesgrave
- **14 December, (Sunday) 5pm:** 'Christmas
Cracker - Carols of Praise' with Brass Band
at Kesgrave
- **15 December, (Monday) 3pm:** Christingle at
Playford
- **16 December, (Tuesday) 2.15pm:**
Mothers' Union Carol Service at Kesgrave
- **18 December (Thursday), 7pm:**
Nine Lessons and Carols
at Little Bealings
- **19 December (Friday) 6.30pm:**
Blue Christmas Service at
Kesgrave
- **21 December, 10am:**
Nativity Play at Kesgrave
- **21 December, 6:30pm:**
Nine Lessons and Carols at Kesgrave
- **21 December, 6pm:** Nine Lessons and Carols at Playford
- **CHRISTMAS EVE, 24th December**
 - **4pm:** Crib Service at Kesgrave
 - **10pm:** Midnight@Bethlehem Communion Service
at Kesgrave
 - **11pm:** Midnight Communion at Little Bealings



• CHRISTMAS DAY, 25 December

- **8:30am:** Christmas Communion at Kesgrave
- **10am:** Christmas Service at Kesgrave
- **10am:** Christmas Communion at Playford

You are all warmly welcome to join us for these special events!



GIVING

“I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me. I will not shut out the lessons that they teach.”

Charles Dickens - A Christmas Carol



I am writing this article on "Giving" in the wake of the latest Budget news and the freeze on income bands so that even very modest earners may find themselves caught by "fiscal drag" and hence paying tax even on very small increases on pensions and wages etc.

What should our response be?

Firstly please seek help as early as possible if you find yourselves falling into debt;

Christians against Poverty will advise on the first steps: <https://capuk.org/> the nearest CAP Debt Help centre is run from Hope Church, Ipswich.

There is also StepChange <https://www.stepchange.org/>

Debt can have a terrible affect on people's health as the worry and feelings of hopelessness consume them, so please contact an organisation like the ones above and GET HELP

Secondly: please pray: we want to keep our church open and welcoming, particularly as research shows that churches contribute a great deal to social well being and a feeling of belonging. Donations in any form are welcome: cash, cheque, contactless giving through the machines in church, BACS transfer and the Parish Giving Scheme: PGS People can join online, or by telephone or through the new paper copies of the application form.

The code for Kesgrave All Saints is **330 633 093** and our diocese is St Eds and Ips diocese. Please ask if you want help with this; the PGS has recently upgraded its website and you will need a new password if you are managing your account on-line

<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/kesgrave-all-saints-ipswich>

3) Switching energy companies? We are with Octopus Energy and if you sign up then both you and the church currently receive £50 each: using this link: <https://share.octopus.energy/glad-prawn-862>

4) Wills and Legacies: The Church of England offers a free Will service for simple estates, but other options are available.

Contact Sally Wainman on 07807 984589 with any queries or Emma Burrows our Treasurer: ASK.treasurer@gmail.com

Thank you to each and every person who contributes to keeping our church open!

Use this QR code to access online giving to make a regular or one-off gift.



Sally Wainman - Local Giving Advisor

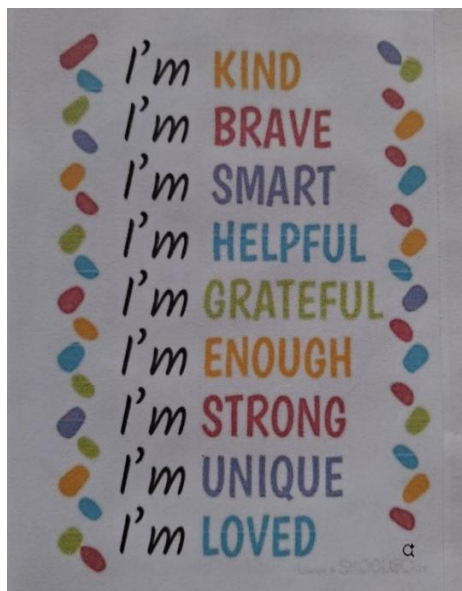
F.I.G. FAMILY (Faith in God) SERVICES

Every Third Sunday of the Month

10:00 AM – In the Church Hall

❖ *All ages welcome – come and share faith, friendship, and fun!* ❖

For our November FIG we focused on themes of bravery and courage as shown in the famous story of David and Goliath. We adapted 1 Samuel 17 from a combination of translations, including Jess's ever useful Children's Bible. In his fight against Goliath, David used not only his faith in God but all the skill and training he'd acquired as a Shepherd, saving his flock from lions and bears.



Craft work, organized by Liz, included wonderful cardboard and tinfoil armour, a booklet on the spiritual symbolism of armour from Ephesians 6 and preparations for the Follow the Star fortnight.

Thank you, as always, to the Mothers Union for Breakfast and to all involved in Team Fig, especially Sarah and Peter Elmer on Tech.





FIG FAMILY NATIVITY PLAY in the Church ***10am on 21 December***



If you want to take part please come to the Church Hall at 9.15am to allow time to dress up and have a brief (optional) dance rehearsal, organised by Breanna Keown, a wonderful dance teacher; we hope to import a few angels and enjoy a re-telling of the "greatest love story, under heaven." NB Nobody will be forced to dance! Children can choose to be angels, shepherds or kings, but please bring your own costumes along; you can also bring your favourite cuddly toy, especially if it's a sheep!

(P.S. No Breakfast Special on that day as the Hall will be in use for Nativity rehearsal)



Sally Wainman - 07807 984589

SILVER GROUPS

We welcome anybody who wishes to come to the Silver events. There's always a good variety of food to enjoy with tea, coffee, chocolate, and sometimes squash. The Screen is in the hall, and the Games are in the church. When you turn up you can be assured of a warm welcome.

The next sessions of **Silver Screen** are on:

Mondays 1 & 15 December, 5 & 19 January at the Church Hall, 2-4pm

Seeing so many people get so much out of those sessions has been a pleasure. Following the screening, we have a short talk.

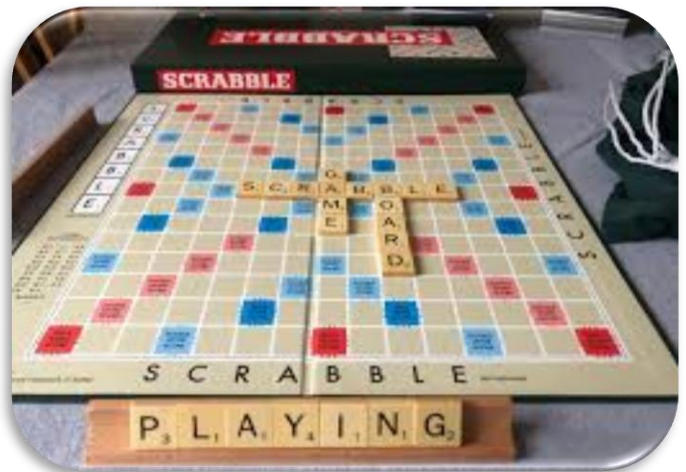
Come along for an enjoyable afternoon and companionship.



The next sessions of **Silver Games** are on:

Mondays 8 December, 12 & 26 January at the Church - 2-4pm

Come and enjoy playing the old fashioned and some modern games such as Up-Words, Scrabble, Mexican Train, Uno, Rummikub and Scrabble. Even if you don't play board games you will be welcome to just come along and sit with our regulars and have a chat.



For more details contact
Chris or Mike Bryer
01473 611143

STARTING RITE

We have just finished our first Starting Rite course, and we had the loveliest time. It was such a privilege to be able to share with the mums that came the activities that relate to faith-based messages, and sowing seeds about God's love.

We were so fortunate to have had Emma Allinson from Martlesham on board and Pam Shultz, who both mostly led the sessions. We were so grateful to Maggie Thomas for helping us with refreshments and joining in, and Liz Wigby for covering when Maggie could not be there.

All the materials for the sessions were purchased as a result of donations for which we were very grateful. We had a tinge of sadness at our last session but were so pleased when some of the mums said they would like to do the course again. The pictures below outline the subjects of each session, and the word cloud was taken from the evaluations done with the mums.

We have already thought about 'Wave 2' of Starting Rite. Hopefully commencing around March next year. We would love the opportunity to explore the 'Messy Church' model of all age worship, that we could then set up alongside the Starting Rite as a way of further introducing Jesus and for people to grow closer to him.

Carolyn LeMay

We are almost ready for week one of Starting Rite. The first week the activities are based around peekaboo and reflections, so we have a shiny treasure basket when uncovered there's lots to explore. Still places available if you wanted to join us 😊

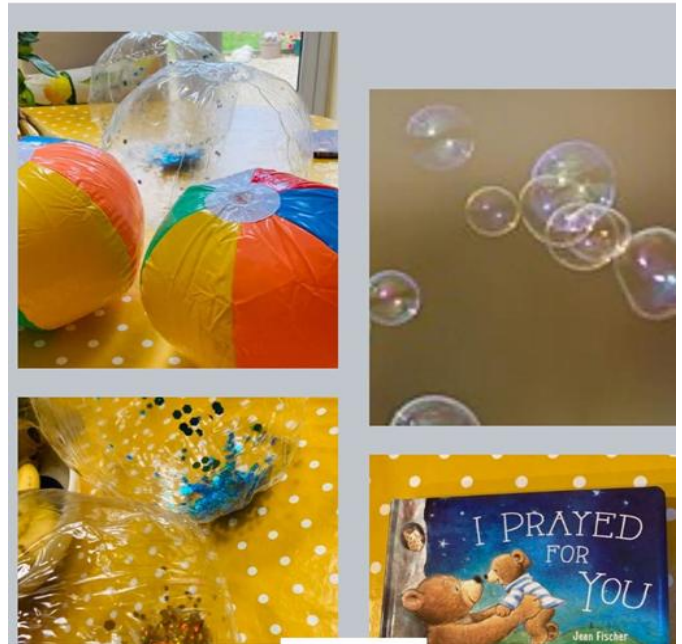
We enjoyed 'Week 2' of Starting Rite exploring love and God's love for us



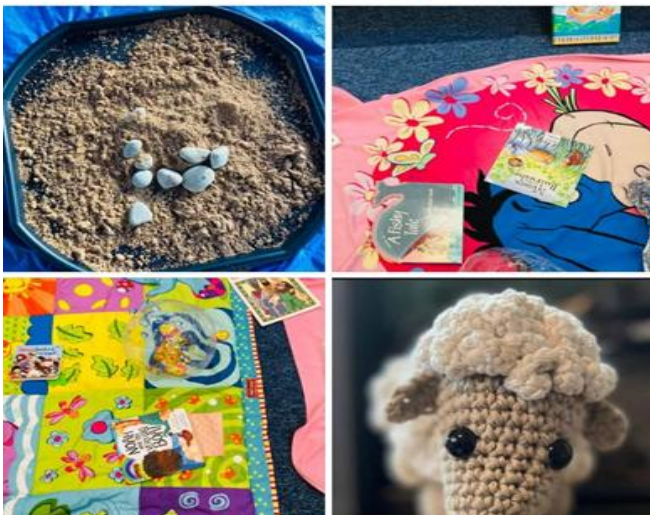
Week 3 Starting Rite. Symbols associated with christenings. Water, light and God knowing us



Week 4 Starting Rite was all about communication and how we say prayers. Some beach balls and bubbles helped us explore those topics



Our last week of Starting Rite. We explored fairy tales and parables. We found the lost sheep 🐑 and the wise man built his house on a rock 🪨 (in the sand pit) . We have loved this last 5 weeks. Thank you to all the lovely mums and babies that attended and the volunteers who helped



helpful sensory great stories snacks
happy fun waterplay
informative enjoyable
supported lovely
welcoming

KESGRAVE LIBRARY NEWS December 2025



The staff at Kesgrave Library would like to wish all their customers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you for all your support throughout 2025, and we look forward to seeing you all soon.

Sunday Crafts 11 – 12pm (After Church) – during December, we will be making the following crafts:

Sunday 7th – Design an envelope and stamp for your Christmas list letter to Father Christmas.

Sunday 14th – Makemosaic Christmas baubles for your tree.

Sunday 21st – Create a Christmas tree picture by drawing around your hand and decorating it.

Sunday 28th – Make a New Year's Wish – what will you wish for?

Activities are free. Parents must stay with under eights.

Word Play Sessions – Every Thursday Morning. Trained staff run these free sessions. **No sessions on Thursday 25 December.**

Tot Rock – 9.45 – 10.15am – active songs and rhymes for pre-school children.

Baby Bounce – 10.45 – 11.15am – Gentle songs for you and your baby to enjoy.

No need to book. Please just pop along. We look forward to seeing you.

Friday Fun Time – Every Friday 9.45 – 10.15am

Fun stories, rhymes, songs and toys – this is a free activity. We hope to see you soon. **No Session Friday 26 December.**

Lego Club – Every Tuesday 3.30 – 4.30pm Free play with each child given a basket of Lego bricks to create designs of their choice. We hope to see you soon. **No session on Tuesday 30 December.**

Stay and Play – Every Tuesday 10 – 11am No Session on Tuesday 30 December.

Bring your little ones to our Stay & Play group for a relaxed and informal opportunity to meet other parents and carers, share experiences and chat. This session will be stopping over the summer whilst the Reading Quest is running.

Our Stay & Play groups are a chance for parents to socialise and give their babies and young children a fun, interactive play session that engages their senses and helps their development. These sessions are suitable for under 5s.

This event is part of our Me Myself and Baby perinatal support service. The aim of the project is to help reduce isolation and improve emotional wellbeing for new parent.

Morning Book Group – Tuesday 2nd December 10am at the library.

The group are discussing *Eight Detectives* by Alex Pavesi.

Afternoon Book Group – Thursday 4th December 2.45pm

The group are currently reading *The Black Dress* by Deborah Moggach.

Evening Book Group – Thursday 18th December 7 – 8pm

The group are currently reading *Wakenhyrst* by Michelle Paver.

New Tuesday Book Group beginning Tuesday 9th December 11am

This group will be reading *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus.

If you are interested in joining any of the above book groups, please contact library staff on 01473 851374. The library supplies copies of the titles being read.

Knit and Natter – From 2.30pm This month there is only one session on Thursday 11 December. You don't need to be able to knit, crochet or embroider to attend – just pop along for a natter.

Tea/coffee and biscuits are provided.

Scout Post Box – this will be in the library from Tuesday 25 November - Tuesday 9 December. Each card costs 40p to post. Please place the cards and money in a sealed bag before posting.

Somersham Ward Christmas Cards – CASH ONLY. This year, Kesgrave Library Community Group are selling Somersham Ward Christmas cards to fundraise. All cards sold, will benefit the cancer wards at Ipswich hospital and the library.

New Baby Weighing Station – this facility will be available during our Word Play sessions every Thursday only:

Christmas/New Year Opening Hours

Monday 22nd/Tuesday 23rd - Open as usual

Wednesday 24th - CLOSED

Thursday 25th and Friday 26th - CLOSED

Saturday 27th to Tuesday 30th - Open as usual

Wednesday 31st - Closing at 4pm

Thursday 1st January - CLOSED

Friday 2nd - Open as usual



Book Donations:

We are still looking for good quality book donations, mainly fiction – adult or children to fundraise for Kesgrave Library Community Group. This group raises additional funding for the library. Please speak to staff if you are interested in donating some items to us. Thank you to everyone who has already donated items.

Usual Opening Hours:

Monday	9 - 12noon
Tuesday	9 - 12noon and 2.30 - 5pm
Wednesday	2.30 - 6pm
Thursday	2.30 - 8pm
Friday	9 - 12noon and 2.30 - 6pm
Saturday	10am - 5pm
Sunday	10am - 5pm

Maggie Lusher - Kesgrave Library Manager
Tel: 01473 626103 www.suffolklibraries.co.uk

ALL SAINTS CONTACT DETAILS

Priest in Charge:

Canon Andrew Dotchin 07814 949828 revdotchin@gmail.com

Assistant Priests:

Rev Chris Nunn 01473 622363 revchrisnunn@gmail.com

Rev Gary Jones 01473 412329 revgaryjones1985@gmail.com

Readers:

Martyn Shakespeare 01473 610367 mshakespeare@dunelm.org.uk

Sally Wainman 07807 984589 sallywainman3011@gmail.com

Mike Bryer 01473 611143 bryermike@gmail.com

Chrissie Bryer 01473 611143 bryer90@gmail.com

Pioneer (at Emerge):

Ben Wale 07769183638 ben.wale@cofesuffolk.org

Parish Administrator:

Natalie Lawrence 07737 821034 allsaints.parish@outlook.com

Church Wardens:

Karen Pringle 07737 968298 ask.churchwarden2@gmail.com

Bob Bullamore 07810 251177 bob.bullamore@gmail.com

Church Hall Bookings:

Bob Theobald 01473 620709 rwtheobald@btinternet.com

Fred Upson Hall Bookings:

Karen Pringle 07737 968298 fredupsonhall@gmail.com

Prayer Chain:

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Safeguarding Officer:

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Treasurer:

Emma Burrows 07811106995 ask.treasurer@gmail.com

FINAL WORD

Thanks for taking the time to read this edition, we would appreciate any feedback you may have. If you would like to receive this Newsletter electronically, please email allsaints.parish@outlook.com to be added to the distribution list. You will be welcome to unsubscribe at any time. Your e-mail address will not be passed on to third parties. Alternatively, it is available on our website.

Our church website www.asksgrave.org has all the information you might need. We try to regularly update notices and information as they become available, as well as adding items onto our pages on The Church of England's 'A Church Near You' site – <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/2061/>

If you are on Facebook, please like and follow us on our page – All Saints Church Kesgrave <https://www.facebook.com/Askesgrave/> – where we will also upload important developments and information, videos, and ideas for prayer and worship.

Issue 127 is available from 25 January 2026 – **FEBRUARY 2026**. Please note, should you wish to have something included in this issue, the deadline is *Tuesday 20 January 2026*.



WHAT'S ON - JANUARY 2026

Livestreamed services may be followed on ASK Church YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtZ91ENd-lxMPUZYDHR5-aQ>

Date	Time	Service	Where
Thu 1 Jan	11-12pm	Holy Communion	All Saints Church KESGRAVE
Sun 4 Jan	8.30- 9.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints Church KESGRAVE
Sun 4 Jan	10-11am	Holy Communion (Livestreamed)	All Saints Church KESGRAVE
Sun 4 Jan	10-11am	Morning Prayer	Church of St. Mary, PLAYFORD
Sun 4 Jan	10.15-11.30am	Emerge Community	PLAYFORD Village Hall
Mon 5 Jan	2-4pm	Silver Screen	All Saints Church HALL, KESGRAVE.
Tue 6 Jan	10-11am	Morning Prayer	All Saints Church KESGRAVE
Wed 7 Jan	10 -10.30am	Morning Prayer	All Saints LITTLE BEALINGS
Wed 7 Jan	10.30-12pm	Fynn Valley Walks	All Saints LITTLE BEALINGS.
Wed 7 Jan	3.30-4.30pm	Broom Tree Café	All Saints Church HALL KESGRAVE
Thu 8 Jan	11-12pm	Holy Communion	All Saints Church KESGRAVE
Sun 11 Jan	8.30-9.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints Church KESGRAVE
Sun 11 Jan	10-11am	Family Service (Livestreamed)	All Saints Church KESGRAVE
Sun 11 Jan	10-11am	Morning Prayer	All Saints LITTLE BEALINGS
Sun 11 Jan	10.15-11.15am	Emerge Community	PLAYFORD Village Hall
Mon 12 Jan	2-4pm	Silver Games	All Saints Church KESGRAVE.
Tue 13 Jan	10-11am	Morning Prayer	All Saints Church KESGRAVE
Wed 14 Jan	10 -10.30am	Morning Prayer	All Saints LITTLE BEALINGS
Wed 14 Jan	10.30-12pm	Fynn Valley Walks	All Saints LITTLE BEALINGS.
Wed 14 Jan	3.30-4.30pm	Broom Tree Café	All Saints Church HALL KESGRAVE
Thu 15 Jan	11-12pm	Holy Communion	All Saints Church KESGRAVE
Sun 18 Jan	8.30-9.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints Church KESGRAVE
Sun 18 Jan	9.15am-10am	Breakfast Special	All Saints Church HALL, KESGRAVE
Sun 18 Jan	10-11am	F.I.G (Faith In God) Family Service	All Saints Church HALL, KESGRAVE
Sun 18 Jan	10-11am	Holy Communion (Livestreamed)	All Saints Church KESGRAVE
Sun 18 Jan	10-11am	Family Communion	Church of St. Mary, PLAYFORD
Sun 18 Jan	10.15-11.15am	Emerge Community	PLAYFORD Village Hall
Sun 18 Jan	6.30-7.15pm	Evensong	All Saints Church KESGRAVE
Mon 19 Jan	2-4pm	Silver Screen	All Saints Church HALL, KESGRAVE.
Tue 20 Jan	10-11am	Morning Prayer	All Saints Church KESGRAVE
Wed 21 Jan	10 -10.30am	Morning Prayer	All Saints LITTLE BEALINGS

Date	Time	Service	Where
Wed 21 Jan	10.30-12pm	Fynn Valley Walks	All Saints LITTLE BEALINGS.
Wed 21 Jan	3.30-4.30pm	Broom Tree Café	All Saints Church HALL KESGRAVE
Thu 22 Jan	11-12pm	Holy Communion	All Saints Church KESGRAVE
Sun 25 Jan	8.30-9.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints Church KESGRAVE
Sun 25 Jan	10-11am	Holy Communion (Livestreamed)	All Saints Church KESGRAVE
Sun 25 Jan	10-11am	Family Communion	All Saints LITTLE BEALINGS
Sun 25 Jan	10.15-11.15am	Emerge Community	PLAYFORD Village Hall
Mon 26 Nov	2-4pm	Silver Games	All Saints Church KESGRAVE.
Tue 27 Jan	10-11am	Morning Prayer	All Saints Church KESGRAVE
Wed 28 Jan	10 -10.30am	Morning Prayer	All Saints LITTLE BEALINGS
Wed 28 Jan	10.30-12pm	Fynn Valley Walks	All Saints LITTLE BEALINGS.
Wed 28 Jan	3.30-4.30pm	Broom Tree Café	All Saints Church HALL KESGRAVE
Thu 29 Jan	11-12pm	Holy Communion	All Saints Church KESGRAVE

