



# Mepal People February/March 2019



## **Christmas Celebrations and light switch on**

It was lovely to see so many people at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mepal Christmas Celebrations and light switch on. The Village Hall was full of slightly different stalls and activities this year and Father Christmas was kept busy handing out gifts to all the children who had been good! The Chapel was full of families enjoying a traditional game whilst tucking into fish and chips and drinking hot chocolate!

The Isle Singers, a local ladies choir got us all into the Christmas spirit before the lovely Tony Angier turned the lights on our slightly bigger Christmas tree.

We would like to thank Fenland Mobile Catering, Beans Coffee van, Wardy Hill WI, Mepal & Witcham Pre-School, Mepal and Witcham Primary School and all the business stall holders for being part of our event.

We would like to give a special thank you to Father Christmas and his elves for keeping all the children happy! Baz Woodward for the music and controlling the crowds. Dave, Pam, Maureen and Maria for their tombola skills and Helen and Jo for keeping the Mulled Wine warm. Thank you to Mepal Neighbourhood Watch group for giving up their time to keep everyone safe outside. Thank you to Mark Brill for the outside lights and microphone and to Sutton Tree Services for the wood donation.

Thank you also goes to the small team that supported us this year with the preparations and on the night; Rebecca, Ann and Michelle.

Happy New Year to you all,

Zoe and Emma



## Dates For Your Diary

### St Mary's Church

#### February

Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Holy Communion	8.00am
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Eucharist	10.30am
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Communion	8.00am
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Eucharist	10.30am

#### March

Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Coffee Morning at Village Hall	10.00am
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Holy Communion	8.00am
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup>	Ash Wednesday Service at St Andrews Sutton	7.00pm
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Eucharist	10.30am
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Communion	8.00am
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Eucharist	10.30am
Sat 30 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee Morning & Easter Sale at Village Hall	10.00am
Sun 31 <sup>st</sup>	Joint Service	10.30am

### Good Companions

#### February

5 <sup>th</sup>	The Village Hall	2.30pm-4.30pm
19 <sup>th</sup>	The Village Hall	2.30pm-4.30pm

#### March

5 <sup>th</sup>	The Village Hall	2.30pm-4.30pm
19 <sup>th</sup>	The Village Hall	2.30pm-4.30pm

### Disclaimer

The views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the editor or the Parish Council.

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[mepalparishcouncil@msn.com](mailto:mepalparishcouncil@msn.com)

### Friendship Club

#### February

6 <sup>th</sup>	Bingo at the Village Hall
13 <sup>th</sup>	Quiz at the Village Hall
20 <sup>th</sup>	Lunch at The Isle of Ely
27 <sup>th</sup>	Beetle Drive and Gift swaps At the Village Hall

#### March

6 <sup>th</sup>	Bingo at the Village Hall
13 <sup>th</sup>	Auction at the Village Hall
20 <sup>th</sup>	Lunch at Cobblestones
27 <sup>th</sup>	Bingo at the Village Hall

### Union Chapel

#### February

3 <sup>th</sup>	Service with Communion	10.30am
17 <sup>th</sup>	Family Service	10.30am

#### March

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Chapel Anniversary with tea and coffee afterwards	3.00pm
17 <sup>th</sup>	Family Service	10.30am

**FEBRUARY 14<sup>TH</sup>**

**HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY**

**The Deadline for the next issue of the Mepal People is Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> of March all entries to be received by 5.30pm**

If anyone would like to contribute an article or diary dates then please contact us at:

[mepalpeople@gmail.com](mailto:mepalpeople@gmail.com)

# MEPAL & WITCHAM PRE-SCHOOL



Our campaign to raise vital funds for the Pre-school continues to go well with generous donations and fundraising. The Committee are working hard together to continue the fight and consider options for the long-term future of the Pre-school.

## JOIN OUR 50 CLUB

A 50 Club is a way for you to support us whilst having a good chance of winning a monthly cash prize. You pay £3 a week to be part of the club. This buys you one membership number, which enters you into the monthly prize draw. All participants must be over 16. The drawer is open to your friends and family too. The drawer takes place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month and the name of the winner will be published on the Pre-Schools Facebook page and Website. The prize is 25% of the membership fee taken that month (for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> prize) and the remaining 75% goes towards helping the Pre-school continue into the 2019/20 school year. If you are interested in joining please contact Evelyn Woodward on 07808 921562 or [mepalwitchampreschoolchair@gmail.com](mailto:mepalwitchampreschoolchair@gmail.com)

Mepal & Witcham Pre-School are open 9-3pm (Monday, Wednesday and Friday) and 9am-12pm (Tuesday and Thursday). On the longer days (M, W & F) there are several options; 9-3pm, 9-12pm, 9-1pm or 12-3pm with lunch club being 12-1pm. More information will be available on our website.

Please get in touch if you would like to arrange to have a look around our friendly setting. This can be arranged for any day with prior notice.

Mepal and Witcham Preschool is a small friendly setting in the village of Mepal with an Ofsted rating of Good. For more information [www.mepalandwitchampreschool.org.uk](http://www.mepalandwitchampreschool.org.uk) or [mepalpreschool@aol.co.uk](mailto:mepalpreschool@aol.co.uk) or 07510 173818.

Ofsted registration number 221729 | Registered charity number 1057125

## **Governor recruitment at Mepal and Witcham C of E Primary School.**

A school Governor can make a valuable contribution to every child's education. Being a Governor is a challenging but hugely rewarding role. Mepal and Witcham C of E School is seeking to develop and grow its Governing Body by recruiting new Governors to provide a more balanced diversity of knowledge, skills and experience. Any new expertise would be welcome. Anyone aged over 18 can be a Governor. There is no requirement to have an understanding of the education system, just the time to commit to termly meetings and visits to school. Training is available to help learn more about the role. If you are interested in finding out more about becoming a school Governor please contact the Headteacher or Chair of Governors:

via e-mail [office@mepalwitcham.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@mepalwitcham.cambs.sch.uk) or call school on 01353 778300.

# MEPAL PARISH COUNCIL



Councillors: Mrs Elizabeth Stazicker (Chairman), Mr Alan Catley,  
Mrs Diana Bray, Mr Brian Rollason, Mr Stephen Green  
and Mr Mark Brill

Clerk: Mrs Emma Harris. Tel: 07842 499377

Email: [mepalparishcouncil@msn.com](mailto:mepalparishcouncil@msn.com) Website: [www.mepalparish.org.uk](http://www.mepalparish.org.uk)

- The Community Led Plan Questionnaire responses are currently being analysed and the Parish Council will start to look at them in detail once the results have been published.
- East Cambs District Council (ECDC) recently undertook a community governance review for which Mepal Parish Council requested some boundary changes. We have now received confirmation that the 3 following areas will cease to be part of the parish of Sutton and shall become part of the parish of Mepal; (1) the fields on the right and left as you enter the village from the A142 which includes the site for the proposed development in the Local Plan. (2) the area of land currently called Lilibet Wood behind Meadow Way with the new boundary line being the A142 and (3) along Mepal Road towards Witcham to include the dwellings on the south side of the road. This is great news for the Parish as any Section106 monies from the new development can be used to the benefit of Mepal. We welcome residents of Mepal Road to the village.
- VACANCY - The Parish Council are looking for a new Parish Councillor. Anyone interested in finding out more about the role please contact the Parish Clerk.
- The previously postponed drainage line work on the recreation field is due to start in March/April 2019 weather permitting. It is hoped that two pitches will be ready for playing on in time for the football season 2019/20.
- The Parish Council have approved the grant payments to applicants from local community groups for the financial year 2019/20. They are pleased to support these groups.
- Please remember anyone can contact the Parish Council by email or phone if they need any information, have any queries or want to provide any feedback about anything the Parish Council is dealing with.
- The Parish Council have been working closely with Local Councillors and Anglian Water to improve the drainage issues in Mepal. An update was reported in October 2018. The Parish Council are pleased to hear that after some rain over the last few weeks no reports of sewerage flooding or surface water flooding have been reported.
- Remember to report any graffiti or fly tipping etc to the District Council.  
<https://self.eastcambs.gov.uk>
- There are two vacant allotment plots in Mepal. They cost £20 per plot per year. Please get in contact by email or facebook if you are interested.
- The next two Full Council Meetings will be held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February and Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at the Village Hall at 7.30pm. EVERYONE WELCOME.

## VILLAGE HALL NEWS

It was good again this year to see so many people enjoying themselves at the Christmas lights switch-on that took place on 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Emma and Zoë have again generously donated £50 to Hall funds. We all owe them a big debt of gratitude for this and for all the hard work they put into arranging the event.

In the last Mepal People we put forward various ideas for events around Village Halls Week in January. None of these attracted enough support so we invited local organisations to display their wares at an Open Day on Monday 21<sup>st</sup>. Some of you were prepared to rise nobly to the challenge, but not enough to make it really viable, besides which too little time remained to publicise it properly and attract enough of the public to make the effort worthwhile. We reluctantly decided to cancel, but at the same time we didn't want to waste the work which some of you had already done in preparation.

It therefore struck us that our breakfast mornings are among the best attended events in the village, and the next one on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February is a golden opportunity to reach as many local residents as possible. We hope to have information on display about everything that goes on in the village, and there will be a chance for representatives of local groups to say a few words to those present if they wish. Anyway, we look forward to seeing many of our fellow-residents between 9.30 and 11 that morning for the usual Full English or something lighter if you prefer.

Thanks also to those of you who have already provided letters of support for our application to Awards for All, for a grant towards the cost of renewing the fire exit doors and their frames. The more such expressions of support we can get, emphasising not just the need for repair but the opportunities that could be "opened up" in all senses, the better the chance of our bid succeeding.

**To hire the Hall** contact Bookings Clerk Rowena Pleasance (01353) 777275. Local community groups and private parties £10 per hour, reduced to £8 for local community groups before 6 pm. Commercial bookings please enquire.

Chairman: Allen Sallis, Treasurer: Tony Pleasance, Secretary: David Stazicker 778129 [david.stazicker@gmail.com](mailto:david.stazicker@gmail.com) Other members – Ernie Barlow, Lynne Read, Gordon Reid, Rosemary Wells.

### The Friendship Club

The friendship club has booked a coach, for the 24th of April, to visit Ayscoughfee Hall in Spalding. Ayscoughfee Hall was built in the 1450s and is a beautiful and interesting place to visit. We would like to invite any villagers that would like to go on the trip, to join us for a lovely day out. Free entry to the Museum and the gardens. Coach fare to be arranged with the friendship club. Contact us at the club on most Wednesdays at the village hall, between 10.00am and 12.00pm

Ann Frost Secretary

## Mepal gardening Club

I can't believe how quickly the months have gone since our last meeting but we are off and running with the Garden club again on March 18<sup>th</sup> for 2019.

So, while we start to put our thinking caps on about what we are going to grow in the garden this year or if we will give our gardens a makeover or sowing seeds it's a busy time for us.

We have some great speakers this year we start off with Claire and Neil Callan, some of us visited their garden last year and what a treat it was, they are coming along to let us see how they created Horseshoe Farm well worth coming along to the club to hear about it.

We also have Mike Petty April 15<sup>th</sup> with Taming of the Fens it will be interesting to see how it was done.

We meet at the village hall starting at 7-30pm it is £2-50p pay at the door and grab a cup of tea while you listen to our speakers. If you have recently moved here it is a great way to meet people or have a good catch up so, do come along and support your Gardening club

Pam White Secretary

Dates to remember

March 18<sup>th</sup>, Claire and Neil Callan. How we created Horseshoe Farm

April 15<sup>th</sup>, Mike Petty. Taming of the Fens.

### ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH

RECTOR: REVEREND MARY HANCOCK TEL. 01353 778722  
CHURCHWARDEN: MRS ELIZABETH STAZICKER TEL. 01353 778129

#### Events in March

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March Coffee Morning with Pancakes 10am – 12 midday at the Village Hall

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March Coffee Morning & Sale of Easter Gifts 10am – 12 midday at the Village Hall

#### Future Events

Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup> - Plant Sale & Coffee Morning

Saturday June 22<sup>nd</sup> - Garden Fete

Sunday August 17<sup>th</sup> – Safari Lunch

Friday October 18<sup>th</sup> – Harvest Supper

Saturday November 23<sup>rd</sup> – Christmas Market

New Electoral Roll for St Mary's Church

The Church of England regulations require that a new Electoral Roll should be drawn up this year. Any parishioners wishing to be included on the new roll, even if your name is on the existing roll, are required to complete an application form by 21<sup>st</sup> March 2019. Please contact the secretary, Jo Hamilton, on 01353 778871 for a form, or speak to the Rector or Churchwarden. Membership of the roll entitles you to attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and to vote for the election of church officers. Please see the notice in the church porch for more information.

**Details of all our church services & events can be found on the Diary Page and on the noticeboards at the church and at Mepal P.O. and Stores.**

## ***12 FUNKY FACTS***

### ***Did you Know?***

Polar bears could eat as many as 86 penguins in one sitting!

In 2017 more people were killed from injuries caused by taking a selfie than from shark attacks!

The average male gets bored of a shopping trip after 26 minutes!

Honeybees can recognise human faces!

A swarm of 20,000 bees followed a car for 2 days because their queen was trapped inside!

A crocodile can't poke its tongue out!

It snowed in the Sahara for 30 minutes on 18<sup>th</sup> February 1978!

Recycling one glass jar saves enough energy to watch television for three hours!

Snakes can predict earthquakes!

An Octopus has three hearts!

A hippo's wide open mouth is big enough to fit a 4 foot child in!

The Guinness book of records holds the record for being the book most stolen from public libraries!