

# Mepal Matters

The newsletter for Mepal people

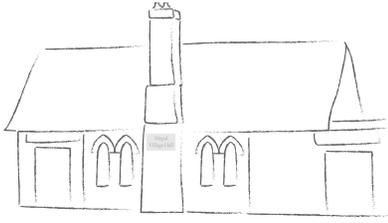
May/June 2022



\*Welcome Spring sign made by resident crafter, Rebecca Margieson  
A big thank you for creating this special piece!

[www.mepalparish.org](http://www.mepalparish.org)

## Village Hall News



By the time you read this, two events will have come and gone – firstly on Sunday 24th April our first breakfast

morning since before Covid, and secondly our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 27th April. At the AGM we always hope to recruit new members to the Committee, and although nobody came forward at our 2021 AGM, we've been lucky during the year that Alan Fayers and Amanda Cox have both volunteered and have immediately set about doing sterling work. However, we can always do with more helpers.

The quiz night organised by Vijay Puri on 18th March was a resounding success, attracting ten competing teams and raising £325 for Comic Relief. Vijay has generously offered to repeat these events every three months in aid of different good causes, and the next one, again with a bar, will be on Friday 24th June. Look out for further details.

Amanda Cox has been working hard on the Village Hall's contribution to Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebration weekend from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June. On the Sunday there will

be a market and other stalls, slide shows about the village and its history, competitions, children's games, and tables inside the Hall and under cover in the car park for you to eat and drink your own picnic while serenaded by a singer. Watch for further details around the village and on social media.

Meanwhile we are planning to create our own website. We are grateful to the Parish Council and to Cambridgeshire ACRE for the coverage we already receive on their websites, but today there are a few organisations that don't have one of their own, and we think it is time we take this step and make it easier for local people and the wider community to find out about the Hall and the facilities it offers.

Chairman: Allen Sallis, Treasurer and Bookings Clerk: Lynne Woodward: 776272 LDSWoodward@hotmail.co.uk, Secretary: David Stazicker 778129 david.stazicker@gmail.com Other members – Amanda Cox, Alan Fayers, Kristi Stewart-Elliott.

## Friendship Club

We have had a busy few months since the last time we posted in the Mepal Matter's newsletter.

We met at Twenty Pence Garden centre, had coffee and a wander about, an Easter bonnet and craft morning (decorating the cakes then eating them was best!). We held a quiz, although I think I made this one too easy. We have also hosted an afternoon tea and many more different things.

At the last Mepal Market we ran the cake stall and were very pleased with how well it did; we hope everyone enjoyed the cakes.

On May 15th at Mepal Market we are doing a plant sale and we will be selling a wide variety of plants, so come along and grab a bargain. On that day we are once again looking after the refreshments, so you can grab a tea, coffee, and a nice bit of homemade cake.

We intend to visit Cambridge Botanical Gardens in May and hopefully we can organise a coach and enjoy a lovely sunny day out. We plan to have a meal out at Arbuckles in Ely (beside the cinema) and also have plans to arrange a speaker from Caring Together, so there is lots going on.

We meet every Wednesday at Mepal village hall at 10am- 12 so come along and make new friends as it will be lovely to see you. If you would like to propose any ideas for new activities, we would love to hear them.

## MEPAL AND DISTRICT CAMERA CLUB

**A SMALL AND FRIENDLY GROUP WITH THE SAME INTERESTS, FROM BEGINNERS TO THE EXPERIENCED PHOTOGRAPHER USING ANYTHING THAT WILL TAKE AN IMAGE!**

Meetings are held in Mepal Village Hall, School Lane CB6 2AJ once per month on Friday evenings. Dates are published on our Facebook page. Scan this QR Code or simply search Mepal & District Camera Club. Alternatively email: [mepaldcc@gmail.com](mailto:mepaldcc@gmail.com)



## Community Pavilion – update

Over the last two years the Parish Council have been grappling with the management of the Community Pavilion situated at the Witcham road entrance to the field. The issues with the surface level on the field that caused the junior clubs to leave Mepal and resulted in the Seniors playing their games away from home and the delay to a return to the home pitch last season have been well documented, but the investment over the last 18 months will allow us to welcome the team back to Mepal for the 2022/23 season.

With only 4 Parish Councillors in post since April 2021, we have had to manage a high workload and inevitably this means slower response times and no progress on some topics. The Parish Council employ 2 part-time staff, but the hours contracted are less than 1 full time employee so running the Parish Council relies on having a full complement of Councillors. We currently have 3 vacancies and hope to be able to co-opt a new councillor soon, but that will still leave 2 vacancies and would therefore welcome applications for new Councillors, particularly if you have planning experience and if you are not working full time. The current Parish Councillors are all struggling to balance home and work life with families which impacts the amount of time available to dedicate to Parish Council business.

With a lack of councillors this means we must focus on a reduced set of priorities, but one of them was preparing the pavilion for full use from 31st May 2022. This means that all the safety checks for the showers electrics and access were carried out, and we were advised that some aspects of the building do not meet building regulations and the building control officer has made suggestions. This has resulted in the Clerk having to close the building to hirers until May 31st, to be able to carry out the essential work and have the facility fully open in time for the Big Village picnic on Sunday June 5th.

Those of you who have lived in the village long enough will be aware that the M.E.S.S.A.G.E (Mepal Sports Action Group) was formed with the aim of promoting community participation in healthy recreation by the provision of facilities for playing sports in Mepal and the surrounding area. They were a registered charity undertaking fund-raising activities and were part of the successful Football Foundation grant with Mepal Juniors and Mepal Parish Council. Sufficient grants with other funding was eventually secured to complete the £229,000 project to build the Pavilion located on the edge of the Recreation Field in 2007.



We are aware that our community has a wide range of opinions or views regarding how the Parish Council should manage its assets and meet its legal obligations and with rising costs we must balance those requirements fairly for all.

Over the last 2 years the current Parish Council have had to undertake remedial work to replace non-functioning and non-compliant equipment. Our plan is that the work will finally be completed when we reopen the Pavilion and welcome you all to come along on 5th June during the big village picnic, to allow you all to look around the pavilion. We will have some poster boards for you to be able to understand the projects that the Parish Council have carried out and our future plans to improve access and facilities. The Pavilion will be open for bookings from 1st June 2022, with a new online booking and key access system to be able to manage bookings more efficiently.

## MEPAL MAKERS

**LOVE MAKING THINGS?  
WANT TO LEARN A NEW SKILL?  
NEED SOMTHING REPAIRING?**

Woodworking, CNC machining,  
Laser engraving, coffee,  
Power tools, glass kiln,  
Biscuits, electronics lab,  
Software, people,  
Crafting, painting,  
Poster printing,  
Space, fun

Mepal Makers is a new community workshop in the village for people wanting to make things, repair things, upcycle or recycle. Whether it's a hobby you've always wanted to try but didn't want to buy the tools until you were sure, or a side hustle to earn some money, or just for the family fun of building things. Membership is free, materials are free- just bring your enthusiasm.

Meet Learn Build Play

For more information:  
[www.mepalmakers.co.uk](http://www.mepalmakers.co.uk)  
[info@mepalmakers.co.uk](mailto:info@mepalmakers.co.uk)  
07801 892331

# St Mary's Parish Church

For all enquiries regarding christenings, weddings and funerals please contact the Churchwarden:

Elizabeth Stazicker tel. 01353 778129 eliz.stazicker@gmail.com

Weekly Sunday morning services are at 11.30am; there is also a monthly 9.30am BCP Communion and a non-Eucharistic Family Service – for full details please see the Diary Dates page and notices at the church and Mepal Stores.

Plant Sale May 21st, 12.30 – 2pm at the Village Hall: come and see us for bedding plants, perennials and summer vegetables – stay for coffee & lunchtime snacks! All funds raised in aid of St Mary's Church.



## WHEN WILL THE VILLAGE HAVE A NEW 'VICAR'?

**Who appoints our priest?** In ordinary times, now that the Rev Mary has retired, it would be for our patron, the Cathedral Chapter, to appoint another priest. (They have had that responsibility since 1459!) The Rev Mary of course served not only Mepal, but also Witcham and Sutton, which also have the Chapter as their patron, and we work as a unit. But these are not 'ordinary times'. Although the Chapter presents the priest, he/she is paid by the Diocese of Ely.

**So where does the money come from?** 100 years ago, mainly from the Church Commissioners, who administer the lands and properties given to the churches, cathedrals and dioceses over earlier centuries. But 100 years ago priests were paid very little, they had no retirement, no pensions and little help to run their vicarages. To ensure that men continued to come forward to be priests, this had to change. As a result, by the mid-1980s only 50% of the costs came from the Commissioners. Now more change, and changes in investment income,

have meant that for some years in Ely diocese not only the whole of a priest's earnings but also her/his pension costs, housing and other costs of diocesan 'support' have to be met by the individual churches.

## So how much does a priest (with oncosts) cost?

Our Diocese of Ely reckons these costs as an average of £76,000, and 'where necessary' finds funding to pay £16,000 of that out of Diocesan resources. So if our three parishes were to have a priest between them, we should have to pay around £20,000 each. And on top of that we have the church insurance, running costs, repairs etc to pay for, which any householder knows do not come cheap. We cannot find that amount of money from St Mary's; nor can any of the other village parishes in our deanery.

## So what is going to happen?

We are about to set out, as a deanery, to work out how best our parish and Diocesan resources can be used to provide priests. Part of this will be using volunteers, the ordinary lay people who form our parochial church councils (PCCs) and congregations, to do some of the clerical and administrative things which traditionally a priest has done. This planning work will take some time – a plan could be ready for discussion at the earliest by next Spring – and only when the plan is accepted will the Bishop allow our patron to take part in making an appointment, working with the patrons of those parishes with whom (when we have discovered who they best are) we shall share a priest.

**Meanwhile what happens?** Whilst we work hard with deanery colleagues at planning and finding sources of finance, we are lucky at St Mary's to have the help of the Revs Alan Jesson and Stephen Bowring, retired priests, to keep services running, and the PCC is running the church. We have already made some changes. Our main service on the 4th Sunday each month is now a more informal service, led by one of us. And on days when the church is open, there is free coffee/tea and biscuits, with chairs you can take out into the churchyard if the sun shines. We want to provide what any of you might want. Why not come, and then tell us what we could do to make it better? We are a church for everyone, not a members' club, and if you need help of any sort, including christenings, weddings and funerals, let me know and we'll do what we can ourselves, and find a priest for ceremonies. If you have any thoughts or questions, please let me know.

Elizabeth Stazicker, churchwarden and PCC chairman  
01353 778129, eliz.stazicker@gmail.com



St Mary's Church

# Plant Sale

on Sat 21st May

12.30 - 2.30pm at

Mepal Village Hall

We're selling bedding plants, perennials  
& summer vegetable plants

Plus - coffee & lunchtime snacks!

Funds raised in aid of St Mary's Church, Mepal



Mepal and Witcham Church  
of England Primary School

## Summer Fete

It's back and going to be great!

# 25<sup>th</sup> June

Save the date and more details  
will follow!



## Mepal Market



We had 21 stalls booked at the March Market! It was great to see so many lovely different stalls, many from our village. The word is getting round about our market and I hope to have the biggest markets yet in May and July. There are still new stall holders being added each time. Please do pop in and see what the stall holders have to offer, as well as sample the refreshments.

If you have not heard about the market before ...

The bimonthly market is held at the Village Hall between the hours of 10 am and 12 noon and entry is free. Refreshments are served by local community groups or individuals raising money for their own group or their chosen charity.

Please get in touch by emailing Evelyn at [mepalmarket@gmail.com](mailto:mepalmarket@gmail.com) if you would be interested in having a stall or providing the refreshments.

### Dates for 2022

May 15th refreshments by Friendship Club

July 17th refreshments by Friends of the School

September 18th refreshments TBC

Nov-27th **NEW DATE** December 11th refreshments TBC

# Mepal Jubilee Village Fete Saturday 4th June 2022

A day of activities for all ages

Cream teas with live music 12 noon  
till 2pm at Mepal Village Hall



Some tables pre-bookable at £5.00 pp. To reserve your table  
please email [amandac459@aol.com](mailto:amandac459@aol.com)

Bake a Jubilee cake or Jubilee pudding  
contest at Mepal Village Hall 11am



PTA Childrens Games and Scavenger Hunt

Stalls arts and crafts and Mepal History over  
the decades at Mepal Village Hall

Duck Race organised by The Three  
Pickerels



The Village Hall is pleased to announce the  
next Quiz Night is being organised for the 24th  
June due to its recent success.

# Mepal Sports Football Club & Mepal Parish Council invite you to celebrate the Jubilee Weekend

**Big Village Picnic**  
at the Recreation Field  
on Sunday 5 June, 3pm-6pm



Bring some food, drink, a rug or chair to sit on  
the field with friends or seating available in the  
Refreshments Marquee (monies raised from  
refreshments to go to D.E.C Ukraine)

Why not try your luck on the Mepal Sports Adult  
or Kids Tombola's or the other games & quizzes?

No Charge for The Football Fun Factory  
Inflatables, Beat the Goalie or Walking Football



Mepal Sports Football Club  
Secretary: 01353 778141

# DIARY DATES

## May

Sun 1st	St Mary's Parish Eucharist	11.30
Weds 4th	Friendship Club Bingo and Book Exchange	10:00
Fri 6th	Mepal & District Camera Club Monthly Meet	19:30
Sun 8th	St Mary's Holy Communion	11.30
Weds 11th	Friendship Club Trip to Botanical Gardens, Cambs	10:00
Sun 15th	Friendship Club plant sale & hosting refreshments at Mepal Market	10:00
Sun 15th	Mepal Market at Village Hall	10:00
Sun 15th	St Mary's Parish Eucharist	11.30
Weds 18th	Friendship Club Meal at Arbuckles	10:00
Sat 21st	St Mary's Plant Sale at Village Hall	12:30 - 14:00
Sun 22nd	St Marys Holy Communion	09.30
Sun 22nd	St Marys Family Service	11.30
Weds 25th	Friendship Club Speaker, Caring Together	10:00
Sun 29th	St Marys Joint Service at Sutton	10.30

## June

Weds 1st	Friendship Club Bingo & Book Swap	10:00
Fri 3rd	Queens Jubilee Weekend	
Sat 4th	Mepal Jubilee Village Fete at Village Hall	11:00 - 16:00
Sun 5th	St Mary's Parish Eucharist	11.30
Sun 5th	'Big Village Picnic' on recreation field	15:00-18:00
Weds 8th	Friendship Club Pink bags	10:00
Sun 12th	St Mary's Holy Communion	11.30
Weds 15th	Friendship Club Meal out	10:00
Sun 19th	St Mary's Parish Eucharist	11.30
Weds 22nd	Friendship Club Speaker	10:00
Fri 24th	Village Hall Quiz Night	
Sat 25th	Mepal & Witcham Primary School Summer Fete - save the date	
Sun 26th	St Mary's Holy Communion	09.30
Sun 26th	St Mary's Family Service	11.30am
Weds 29th	Friendship Club TBA	10:00

## July

Sun 17th	Mepal Market at Village Hall	10:00
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'The Big Lunch' happens each year but this time they are combining with the Jubilee celebrations.

Mepal are joining the national 'lunch' by hosting **The Big Village Picnic** on the Jubilee weekend Sunday 5th June.

The Football Club is running two Tombolas and would be grateful for any donations – adults & children so bottles of all sorts, sweets, children's drinks, packet balloons, balls etc. They can be brought to Georgina at 5 Brick Lane, 01353 778141.

The Parish Council will be opening the Community Pavilion and putting the gazebo up to provide additional refreshments and give people a chance to look around the facilities available for hire.



THE BIG JUBILEE LUNCH

2-5 June 2022



# WE'RE RE-OPENING OUR OUTSIDE BAR

Opened: Friday 15th April

The Three Pickerels opened their outside bar for the Easter Bank Holiday weekend - keep an eye on their website for opening times.

[www.facebook.com/thethreepickerels](https://www.facebook.com/thethreepickerels)



### Mepal Matters Print Dealines

June 14th - July/August issue  
October 11th - November/December issue

August 9th - September/October issue  
December 8th - Jan/Feb 2023 issue

Mepal Parish Council:  
Clerk: Karen Peck - 01353 741066  
Chairman: Brian Rollason  
Vice Chair: Lorna Williams,  
Councillors: Sam Foord, Jack Hickman



Mepal Matters is provided by the Parish Council  
Send articles to: [mepalmatters@mepalparish.org](mailto:mepalmatters@mepalparish.org)  
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