

Services for March 2020

	Gestingthorpe	G Maplestead	L Maplestead	Pebmarsh
Sunday 1 March	8.15am Holy Communion	6.30pm Evening Prayer	09:30 Holy Communion	
Sunday 8 March	4pm Compline	9.30am Holy Communion		9.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 15 March	11am Morning Prayer (BCP)	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	
Sunday 22 March			10am Mothering Sunday Service and leaving service for Gay & Nick	
Sunday 29 March	10am Team Service in Earls Colne Church			
Sunday 5 April	Palm Sunday Service starting in Little Maplestead at 10am, Those who wish to walk, walk to St. Giles Great Maplestead and join those who go straight to St. Giles for the remainder of the service starting at 10.45am			

Dates for the Diary

Monday 2 March 7.30pm Pebmarsh PCC Meeting.
 Wednesday 4 March 7.30pm Gt. Maplestead PCC Meeting
 Thursday 5 March 7.30pm Lt. Maplestead PCC Meeting.
 Wednesday 18 March 7.30pm Gestingthorpe PCC Meeting
 Saturday 28 March 2.30pm Pebmarsh, Thanksgiving Service for Tim Black

Church Annual Meetings are coming in April and we would encourage as many of you as possible to attend as the church is there for the entire parish: The Annual report for each church will be posted in the church porch prior to each meeting.

Gestingthorpe 2 April
 Great Maplestead 1 April
 Little Maplestead 26 March
 Pebmarsh

Towards the end of Lent we will have our Palm Sunday Walk 5th April. As with last year the walk will be between the two Maplestead churches.

This magazine is available electronically on the parish council web sites

**Parish
News**

Great and Little Maplestead Pebmarsh and Gestingthorpe



Church and Community together
March 2020

Free

Village contacts and information

Reverend Gay Ellis and the churchwardens see page 26.

Village Emergency Telephone Service and Neighbourhood Watch representatives see page 25

Magazine copy and deliveries see page 23

Parish Clerks

Gt Maplestead	Ann Crisp	01787 460216	anncrisp@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk
Lt Maplestead	Ann Harris	01787 462818	littlemaplesteadparishclerk@gmail.com
Gestingthorpe	Kevin B Money	07810 781509	gestingthorpepc@gmail.com
Pebmarsh	Shelley Boydel	07801 492312	pebmarshparishclerk@gmail.com

The Maplesteads

WI	Carol Brownlie	01787 461527	carolbrownlie@gmail.com
WEA	Jill Newton	01787 463893	gilliannnewton4@gmail.com
Autumn Show	Carol Brownlie	01787 461527	carolbrownlie@gmail.com

Gt Maplestead

Task Force	Martin Elms	01787 461421	martinelms@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk
Village Hall	Liz Newton	01787 461308	lizatlucking@hotmail.com
Playing Field	Joe Newton	01787 461308	lizatlucking@hotmail.com
Mixed Ability Yoga	Victoria Ashworth	07751 911923	justinashworth@hotmail.co.uk
Pilates	Catherine Pawsey	07814 459683	catherinepawseypilates@gmail.com
Dance & Keep Fit	Judy Cowell	01376 561757	judy.cowell@btinternet.com
Carpet Bowls	Janice Chaplin	01787 469600	bobandjanicechaplin@btinternet.com
Youth Club	Myra Jeggo	01787 474285	m.jeggo@sky.com

Gestingthorpe

Village Hall	Steve Bagby	07840 367182	
Village amenities	Nick Duncan	01787 313558	
Tower bell ringing	Valerie Fullman	01787 462755	
Cricket Club	Nick Duncan	01787 313558	
Football Club			
History Society	Gill Webb	01787 581836	gillwebb880@gmail.com

Pebmarsh

Village Hall	Jonathan Nott	01787 269231	jonathannott44@hotmail.com
Dog Training	Halstead Dog Club	01787 473154	halsteaddogclub@hotmail.co.uk
Card making	Pauline Andow	01787 228790	
Ladies Club	Pauline Andow	01787 228790	
	Sandra Beaney	01787 222220	
Carpet bowls	Jim Crayston	01787 222241	jim@craystonfarms.co.uk
Youth club	Carol Parker	01787 269996	taximother@googlemail.com
Baby Sensory Class	Helen Whiting	07703 790273	braintree@babysensory.co.uk

Footpaths

Gt Maplestead	Steve Harris	01787 462818	steve198harris@gmail.com
Lt Maplestead	Geraldine Holloway	01787 476530	geraldineholloway2017@gmail.com
Gestingthorpe	L Crumpton-Taylor	01787 460277	lesliecrumpton-taylor@gmail.com
Pebmarsh	Michael Sharp	07725 909986	michael@broomhills-farm.co.uk

All villages

Book Club	Alison Cantor	01787 462537	acantor@linus.plus.com
Knitting group	Carol Brownlie	01787 461527	carolbrownlie@gmail.com
Handbell Ringing	Margaret Crudgington	01787 469049	
Solar Society	Miles Scrivens	01787 469766	lauri.scrivens@gmail.com
Benefice Choir	Gill Peskett	01787 462786	gillpeskett43@gmail.com
Scouts	Stuart Carter	01787 461149	
Guides	Kathy Hoy	01787 280200	
Molly's Wood	Jane Postma		https://www.mollyswood.org/contact

March dates for your diary

2 March	2.30pm	Solar Society	Castle Hedingham
5 March	7pm	The Maplesteads WI	Great Maplestead
4 March	7pm	Bowls Club	Pebmarsh
10 March		Ladies Club	Pebmarsh
13 March	10am	Coffee Morning	Gestingthorpe
14 March	3pm	Jumble Sale	Great Maplestead
17 March	7.30pm	Tuesday Talk 'Call my wine bluff'	Gestingthorpe
20 March	7pm	The Art of Wellbeing	Great Maplestead
27 March	10am	Coffee Morning	Great Maplestead
28 March	2.30pm	Tim Black Memorial Service	Pebmarsh
28 March	12noon	Charity Lent Lunch	Great Maplestead

Save the date

Great Maplestead Flower Workshop - 11 April 2020
 Great Maplestead Easter Walk - 13 April 2020
 Great Maplestead Lets party like it's 1945 - 8-9 May 2020

Parish News is printed by **Paul Clark Printing Ltd**
 Suite 6 . Enterprise House . Rippers Court . Sible Hedingham
 Halstead . Essex . CO9 3PY 01787 469628 sales@paulclarkprint.co.uk

The copy deadline for the February magazine is **Friday 20 March 2020**

We need to know who, what, where and when

Submit your copy early to guarantee inclusion. Email me or our village reps.

Copy

Editor	Jenny Bishop	01787 472159	pmeditor@icloud.com
Gestingthorpe	Andy Craig	07970 395640	andy@mdamarketing.com
Gt Maplestead	Ann Harris	01787 462818	ann66harris@gmail.com
Little Maplestead	Beverley Bratley	01787 473281	beverley.bratley@gmail.com
Pebmarsh	Jan Bond	01787269082	janbond381@btinternet.com

The Churchwardens serving our Benefice are

Great	Gill Peskett	01787 462786	gillpeskett43@gmail.com
Maplestead	Jill Newton	01787 463893	gilliannewton4@gmail.com
Little	Jane Piper	01787 473933	jane-piper@hotmail.co.uk
Maplestead	Karen Sunnucks	01787 472145	karen.sunnucks@btinternet.com
Gestingthorpe	Alice Nolda	01787 469688	-
	Peter Nice	01787 460126	peter.427nice@btinternet.com
Pebmarsh	Jim Crayston	01787 222241	jim@craystonfarms.co.uk

Would you like a lift to church?

If you would like to attend any of the church services in the Benefice but have no transport please feel free to approach one of the churchwardens who will be happy to arrange it for you. Service times are shown on the back cover and Churchwardens are shown above.

Fancy a cup of coffee and a chat?

Come to the Tower Room in St Giles Church, Great Maplestead

Open every Wednesday Morning 10.30am to 12noon

No charge, this is a social get together, not a fund raiser. Everyone is welcome - for more details please ring

Dorothy on 01787 829963 or Gill on 01787 462786



Funerals

Pebmarsh 27th January Tim Black

Gestingthorpe 6th February Vera Coe

Baptism

Gestingthorpe 2nd February Freddie Richard Crowe

The Reverend Gay Ellis

The Rectory
Church Street
Great Maplestead
CO9 2RG

Email gayellis@aol.com
Telephone 01787 460273
Mobile 07749 838769

Church Social Media

Web site - www.knights-hospitallers.org.uk

Twitter - @knightsparishes

Face book - Knights Hospitallers Parishes, Little Maplestead Church, Gestingthorpe Church, Pebmarsh Church

Letter from the editor



It is really sad, we are losing our great Vicar, Gay and her partner, Nick who have done so much for us and our four churches over the time that they have been here. I will miss her and her support for the magazine and myself. It is great to know that they aren't going far.

Gay and Nick's last service will be the Mothering Sunday Service at the Round Church in Little Maplestead at 10am on the 22 March and all will be welcome.

On a personal note, I am now getting involved with people with dementia and I am becoming very aware of the lack of support available. However, the Empire Theatre in Halstead is starting a Dementia Choir in March and runs a monthly dementia friendly film, more information can be found on page 16).

As a resident of Little Maplestead I lack a decent broadband connection, County Broadband are providing the opportunity to provide fibre but need a 30% show of interest from the people in the village, have a look at the article from County Broadband on page 12. If you can support it, please do.

On a lighter note, there is an 'Art of Wellbeing' evening that everyone is welcome to, there is more information on page 9.

And finally, thank you to Sarah Maguire for the cover photograph

Jenny

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Letter from the Rectory

August 2012 saw the first of our Letters in the Parish Magazine and here we are nearly eight years later, submitting our last as your Ministers. In fact, the first entry in a parish register with one of our names in it was in January 2011, as we started providing cover at services during the previous vacancy. Those nine years created many happy memories for us as well as times of sadness as long-standing members of the communities died.

Each of the four churches, with the exception of Little Maplestead, has a list of Rectors and Vicars going back many centuries. Due to its association with the Knights Hospitalers, Little Maplestead has only had a Vicar for about 150 years. Throughout all those years the church has continued its ministry to the parishes, for Vicars are only the servants of the churches for a short time.

A Vicar leaving does not mean that the church changes. In the coming months there will be some changes, Revd Beverley Vincent will be looking after the parishes when we leave, but the pattern of services will not alter. The love and care you show to each other will not diminish. God's love for each of you will remain, the life of the parishes goes on as normal.

The Churchwardens and Church Council members will have more work to do and carry more responsibilities but we know you will support each other and grow stronger through working together for the benefit of parish, the church and Gods Kingdom.

Our final Sunday service will be at Lt Maplestead on Mothering Sunday, when we have a short Mothering Sunday service followed by a short communion as we do on Christmas Morning. We do hope as many of you as possible will be able to come.

For both of us this is just as much a beginning as an end. Hopefully we will have more time to relax, although re-establishing and then maintaining the large garden at our cottage in Sible Hedingham will be a major project. In addition, each of us has accepted offers of new forms of ministry and as a result, some of you might encounter us in those roles in the future.

We have made many friends and are grateful to you all and to God for making our years among you, happy years.

You are great parishes and an inspiration to each other.

God bless. Gay & Nick Ellis.



Mothering Sunday.

This year our Mothering Sunday Service will be held in Lt Maplestead Church at 10am on the 22nd March. This delightful simple service will be children friendly and there will be small posies for the Mums. Please do come, we would be delighted to see you.

Village Emergency Telephone Service (VETS)

All our four villages now have defibrillators, and Little Maplestead, Gestingthorpe and Pebmarsh have a Village Emergency Telephone Service. The purpose of VETS is to provide support when a defibrillator is required although the first action must be a 999 call. The telephone numbers of the village VETS are:

Little Maplestead 01787 852252
Gestingthorpe 01787 852850
Pebmarsh 01787 852300

Hire of Great Maplestead, Pebmarsh and Gestingthorpe Village Halls

Each of our village halls is available for hire for all types of functions. Little Maplestead residents can hire Great Maplestead village hall at same rate as Great Maplestead residents. Please contact the relevant booking secretary

Great Maplestead	Liz Newton	01787 461308	
Pebmarsh	Christine Nott	01787 269231	
Gestingthorpe	Steve Bagby	07840 367182	or 01787 463592

Neighbourhood Watch representatives

Gestingthorpe	Helen Skerratt	01787 237297
Great Maplestead	Ian Johnson	01787 461109
Little Maplestead	Bill Piper	01787 473933

Ecclesiastical Insurance

Ecclesiastical Insurance will make a donation of £130 to our churches for every new home insurance policy taken out. To take advantage of this offer call 0800 783 0130 or visit www.ecclesiastical.com/Trust130.

Local and National Authority Representatives

Essex County Council

Councillor David Finch - cllr.david.finch@essex.gov.uk

Braintree District Council

Great and Little Maplestead

Councillor Peter Schwier - cllr.pschwier@braintree.gov.uk

Gestingthorpe

Councillor Wendy Scattergood - cllr.wscattergood@braintree.gov.uk

Pebmarsh

Councillor George Courtauld - cllr.gcourtauld@braintree.gov.uk

Councillor Gabrielle Spray - cllr.gspray@braintree.gov.uk

Westminster

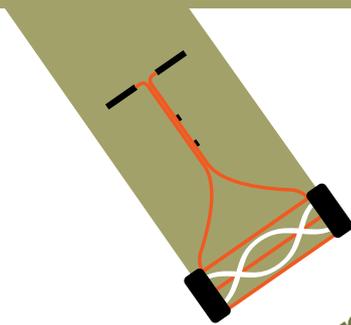
James Cleverly MP - james.cleverly.mp@parliament.uk

Parish Council Websites

Gestingthorpe	https://www.essexinfo.net/gestingthorpe/
Great Maplestead	http://greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk
Little Maplestead	http://littlemaplesteadpc.co.uk
Pebmarsh	http://parishcouncil.pebmarsh.com

Village Hall activities

Pebmarsh has the Bowls Club, the Youth Club, the Ladies Club, Card Making, Dog Training, Art Club (currently full) and Baby Sensory. Great Maplestead has Yoga, Legs, Bums and Tums, Dance and Keep Fit and Pilates. Gestingthorpe has Pilates.



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01787 375194

The F315 Local Bus Service

Bold Roman indicates fixed time. Shading indicates bus only calls if pre-booked on 0621 874411. Italic indicates the bus will be later if it has called at Great Maplestead or Pebmarsh. All journeys on the last bus each way have to be booked. Out of town, away from bus stops the bus can be hailed anywhere with good visibility.

The two times for Sudbury Bus Station and Halstead High Street shows earliest and latest arrival time. A call at Great Maplestead adds 6-7 minutes, a call at Pebmarsh adds 12 minutes.

Please always check the website for the latest timetable.

F 315 Halstead - Sudbury flexible bus service Winter 2020 until f

A call at Great Maplestead adds 6 or 7 minutes. A call at Pebmarsh adds about 1

Mondays to Saturdays						
Halstead, High Street	07:30	10:00	12:00	14:00	16:30	18:30
Little Maplestead, Pump	07:34	10:04	12:04	14:04	16:34	18:34
Great Maplestead, School	07:38	10:08	12:08	14:08	16:38	18:38
Little Maplestead, Cock Road	07:41	10:11	12:11	14:11	16:41	18:41
Pebmarsh, War Memorial	07:50	10:20	12:20	14:20	16:50	18:50
Pebmarsh, Bus Shelter	07:51	10:21	12:21	14:21	16:51	18:51
Wickham St Paul, The Victory	07:45	10:15	12:15	14:15	16:45	18:45
Gestingthorpe, Foundry Corner	07:49	10:19	12:19	14:19	16:49	18:49
Bulmer, Cross Roads	07:55	10:25	12:25	14:25	16:55	18:55
Bulmer Tye, Park Lane	07:59	10:29	12:29	14:29	16:59	18:44
Ballingdon, Strawberry Stores	08:03	10:33	12:33	14:33	17:03	18:48
Sudbury, Bus Station	08:07	10:37	12:37	14:37	17:07	18:50
Sudbury, Bus Station	08:26	10:56	12:56	14:56	17:26	19:07

SUDBURY - BULMER - GESTINGTHORPE - WICKHAM ST. PAUL'S - PEBMARSH - GREAT MAPLESTEAD -							
Mondays to Saturdays							
Sudbury, Bus Station		09:00	11:00	13:00	15:30	17:30	19:15
Ballingdon, opp Strawberry Stores		09:03	11:03	13:03	15:33	17:33	19:18
Bulmer Tye, Park Lane		09:07	11:07	13:07	15:37	17:37	19:22
Bulmer, Cross Roads		09:11	11:11	13:11	15:41	17:41	19:26
Gestingthorpe, Foundry Corner		09:17	11:17	13:17	15:47	17:47	19:32
Wickham St Paul, The Victory		09:23	11:23	13:23	15:53	17:53	19:38
Pebmarsh, Bus Shelter		09:30	11:30	13:30	16:00	18:00	19:45
Pebmarsh, War Memorial		09:31	11:31	13:31	16:01	18:01	19:46
Little Maplestead, Cock Road		09:25	11:25	13:25	15:55	17:55	19:27
Great Maplestead, School		09:28	11:28	13:28	15:58	17:58	19:43
Little Maplestead, Pump		09:32	11:32	13:32	16:02	18:02	19:30
Halstead, High Street		09:37	11:37	13:37	16:07	18:07	19:35
Halstead, High Street		09:56	11:56	13:56	16:26	18:26	19:52

Pebmarsh

Tim Black Memorial Service

A Memorial Service for Tim Black will be held on Saturday 28th March, 2.30 at St John the Baptist Pebmarsh to which all are welcome. There will also be a reception at The King's Head straight after the service - all are welcome to join the family.

The King's Head Pebmarsh

01787 267942

www.kingsheadpebmarsh.co.uk

The King's Head will be screening all the Six Nations Rugby matches in the snug - come & join us!

There's a special menu for Mothering Sunday on the 22nd March 2020. See the current lunch and dinner menus and details of upcoming events on the website www.kingsheadpebmarsh.co.uk

The King's Head building and site is owned by Pebmarsh Community Pub Ltd, which is a Community Benefit Society. See www.pcp.pebmarsh.com for further information about owning a share in this community asset.

You can follow the latest news from the King's Head on Facebook @kingsheadpebmarsh or Twitter @pebmarshpub

Clubs meeting in Pebmarsh Village Hall

Bowls Club 7-9pm on the first Wednesday monthly. For more details contact Jim Crayston 01787 222241

Youth Club Alternate Thursday's from 6.30-8.30. Contact Carol Parker 01787 269996.

Ladies Club Second Tuesday monthly. If you are interested call Pauline Andow on 01787 228790.

Card Making Last Tuesday monthly. Booking is essential, please contact Pauline Andow on 01787 228790. All tools & materials provided.

Baby Sensory Monday weekly 10.15-11.00 & 11.15-12.00. For all babies birth-13 months.

More local information

Braintree Area Food Bank

In addition to the items below they are desperately short of bags for life.

Urgent Items

- Sugar 500G Bags
- Sponge puddings
- 1L cartons long life fruit juice
- Packet mash potato
- Tinned spaghetti
- Tinned potatoes

Food that they are short of

- Pasta sauce
- Cold tinned meats (ham, corned beef etc)
- 1L long life milk
- Tea bags (40-80)
- Tinned tomatoes
- Small boxes non-biological washing powder/liquid
- Deodorant

Donations can be made via the libraries in Braintree, Witham, and Halstead and the Coop in Halstead. For more information see braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk.

The Empire Theatre Halstead

The Cinema has finally returned to Halstead. It has been a journey since the Theatre closed its doors to Cinema, but thanks to some determined fundraising and desire to bring it back it has now arrived. They are making Friday Night Film Night, plus a Kids Matinee film at the weekend either Saturday or Sunday, plus a Wednesday afternoon Matinee, with free tea and biscuits, plus our Dementia Friendly presentation on the second Thursday of the month.

See <http://www.empire-theatre.co.uk>

Halstead and District Local History Society

The Society currently has a membership of over 100 and holds meetings on the third Thursday of each month in the Baptist Church, Hedingham Road, Halstead, Essex. More information can be found on halsteadhistory.org.uk.

The Hedingham Singers

The Hedingham Singers are a mixed voices choir: Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass. At the moment, the choir numbers approximately 40 men & women. They always welcome new members, especially male bass and tenors.

If you enjoy singing and would like to sing with them, contact Bob Lilley on 07790 573435 or see <http://www.thehedinghamsingers.com/>.

More local information

Hedingham Medical Centre

As you probably know the Castle Practice in Castle Hedingham has merged with Sible Hedingham. The Castle Hedingham surgery is open from 8.30 - 13.00 and 14.00 - 18.00 Monday to Friday. 01787 461465

U3A

The University of the Third Age is thriving. Try

The U3A Halstead: u3asites.org.uk/halstead/welcome

The U3A Sudbury: u3asites.org.uk/sudbury/home

U3A Braintree: u3asites.org.uk/braintree/events

Halstead & District Photographic Society

Meetings are held every fortnight from the start of the season in September, through to April/May, on a Thursday evening in the Methodist Church and School Room in Halstead and once a month (usually the first Monday) in Colne Engaine at the Five Bells public house. Look at our web site www.halsteadphoto.org.uk for more information.

Gestingthorpe History Society

Information about Gestingthorpe History Society can be found here: www.gestingthorpehg.co.uk

Community-based support for an ageing population

Community Agents Essex provide a free, confidential service to support peoples needs. CAE can be contacted by ringing 08009 775858 or 01376 574341 or www.communityagentsessex.org.uk.

The Kings Head Pebmarsh

You can follow the latest news from the King's Head on Facebook @kingsheadpebmarsh or Twitter @pebmarshpub

Sudbury Newstalk

Do you have a relative, a friend, a neighbour or a colleague who is registered blind or visually impaired ? The volunteer team at Sudbury Newstalk records a fortnightly local Newspaper digest, and a bi-monthly Magazine, which are distributed free to listeners throughout the area. www.sudburynewstalk.co.uk or 01787 468535.



More Pebmarsh

RACE NIGHT

Pebmarsh Village Hall

Doors open 7pm, First Race 7.30pm



To raise funds for
Pebmarsh In Bloom

Tickets available from Reception at Pebmarsh Primary School (limited tickets)

Licensed Bar

Strictly Over 18's only

Tickets £10

Includes first drink & hot food

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01787 460980

Great Maplestead

Charity Lent Lunch



Great Maplestead Village Hall

Saturday 28th March

12 noon to 2pm

£5 entry

Ploughmans Lunch & Soup



Raising funds for the Essex Air Ambulance

Easter Lilies

for

St Giles' Church, Great Maplestead

Would anyone who would like to make a donation towards the cost of the Church's Easter lilies please contact

Liz Newton (01787 461 308)



The Maplesteads WI

President Carol Brownlie welcomed everyone, including our speaker Reverend Janet Nicholls, to our meeting on Thursday February 6th 2020. Secretary Anne Fletcher read the minutes of the previous meeting which were signed as correct and birthday flowers were presented.

Carol then introduced Reverend Janet Nicholls. Janet spoke about growing up on the family farm in Essex surrounded by her family. It was during Janet's career in education that she felt the calling to the church and after training she became the Rural Advisor and Chaplain to the Diocese of Chelmsford. Janet spoke about the changing dynamics in the agricultural industry, once it employed many people to farm the land but due to advances in technology in farm machinery it can now be a lonely existence for farmers. Janet spends a lot of her time in pastoral care in the farming community and can often be seen at agricultural shows around the country. After a short question and answer session Diane Smith gave a warm vote of thanks and Carol invited Janet to join us for refreshments.

Local Information

Solar Society, March and April 2020

On Monday 2 March we will have a talk on Agatha Christie's 'Botanic Poisons: Poisonous plants in the writer's detective novels'. This will be given by Dr Kathryn Harkup.

And on Monday 6 April Stephen Spencer will talk on "the Legacy of Chernobyl - The aftermath"

2.30pm for about 1½ hours with free light refreshments at The Memorial Hall, Church Lane, Castle Hedingham. Entrance: £4.00 All welcome. No membership fee. More details from: Miles Scrivens 01787 469766 or Wanda Sellar 01787 463459

Local Women's Running Group

We now have a small group of women who meet most Sunday mornings to run between 4 and 5km. It's a manageable pace so do come along even if you haven't run in a while. Contact - laurabloom@btinternet.com or on 07801 749802

Local Libraries

Halstead library is open 9-5pm Monday, 9-6pm Tuesday, closed Wednesday, 9-6pm Thursday and 9-5pm Friday and Saturday. Sible Hedingham Library is open 9-1pm Monday, 1-5pm Tuesday, closed Wednesday, 1-5pm Thursday, closed Friday and 9-1pm Saturday. Further information is available on <http://libraries.essex.gov.uk>.

Four Parishes Book Group

Why not join us to enjoy reading a wide range of books and then discussing them with a friendly light-hearted group. We meet monthly on a Thursday evening at members' homes and have wine, tea or coffee.

Recent books read include "A Prayer for Owen Meany" by John Irving, "Nora Webster" by Com Toibin, "Force of Nature" by Jane Harper, "Lullaby" by Leila Slimani and "The Convenience Store Woman" by Sayaka Murata. There is no pressure to finish the book if you don't like it and all opinions are valued. Books are chosen by suggestion or recommendation from members and are all borrowed from the library.

For information, Alison Cantor. 01787 462537 or acantor@linus.plus.com

Sudbury Area Cancer Support Group

4th Thursday, 7-9pm, The Christopher Centre, 10 Gainsborough Street, Sudbury, CO10 2EU. 2nd Friday, Cafe Club, 12-2pm, The Loft, 3 Gaol Lane, Sudbury CO10 1JL. For more information, contact Ruth Worsley on ruth-SACSG@outlook.com

More Gestingthorpe

Gestingthorpe Educational Foundation

GESTINGTHORPE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

**The next meeting of the Trustees will be held on
Thursday 26th March 2020**

Please send your grant applications in writing by **23rd March 2020** (including receipts for any payments made) to the Secretary, **Peter Collett, Orchard House, Audley End, Gestingthorpe, Essex CO9 3AU.**
peter@thecollettfamily.co.uk

Consideration will be given to applications for anything which the Trustees regard as educational. Applicants must be residents of the ancient parish of Gestingthorpe, preference will be given to those under the age of 25.

The Empire Theatre, Halstead Dementia Friendly Choir

'Where words fail, music speaks'

Inspired by the BBC's Dementia Choir with Vicky McClure, The Empire Theatre is pleased to announce the **NEW 2020 Halstead dementia friendly choir project** in partnership with **Colne View, Care UK.**

We would like to invite you to take part in this very special opportunity to explore the power of how music can benefit those living with dementia.

**The
workshops
are FREE
to all
participants**



Colne View care home
Halstead
care UK

Empire Theatre
HALSTEAD
Live & Kicking

More Great Maplestead

More the Maplesteads WI

Val Castro won the raffle prize that Janice Chaplin had kindly donated and Sandra Birch won flower of the month with a pretty Daphnia.

Next month's meeting will be on Thursday 5 March 2020 and the speaker will be Jade Hamnet with her talk on "The Joy of Kiln Fused Glass". For further information please contact Carol Brownlie on 01787 461527

Anne Fletcher

JUMBLE SALE!

Saturday 14th March at 3.00pm

Great Maplestead Village Hall

Admission 30p Raffle & Refreshments

All types of clothing, fabrics and small pieces of furniture (e.g. tables/chairs) welcome
[but **no** beds, wardrobes or settees please]

**Contributions gratefully received by: Diane Smith (473 300),
Doreen Faulks (460 727) or Liz Newton (461 308)**



The Village Hall will also be open for deliveries on:

Friday 13th March : 9.00am-4.00pm

Saturday 14th March : 9.00am-noon

All proceeds in aid of the Village Hall

<https://greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk/parish-information/events/>

Hold The Dates

Easter Church Flower Workshop in St Giles' Church –
2pm onwards Saturday 11th April

Easter Walk from Great Maplestead Village Hall –
11.00am Monday 13th April

Great Maplestead Lets Party Like its 1945
Friday and Saturday 8-9 May 2020

More Great Maplestead

THE ART OF WELLBEING

Great Maplestead Village Hall

Friday, 20th March –
7.00-9.30 p.m.

FREE ENTRY Hot drinks, light bites and Prosecco available



Enjoy an evening of art, craft and pampering. We'll have experts from the worlds of flower arranging, chocolate making, stained glass, embroidered pictures, ceramics and beauty products. Treat yourself to a pamper manicure, some reflexology and gain some advice from a sports and remedial massage therapist.

A fun and relaxed evening awaits and a chance to find that special gift for Mother's Day or Easter.



Great Maplestead - Let's Party Like its 1945!

Friday 8th May 2020

Come and join the celebrations, co-ordinating with national events, at Great Maplestead Village Hall:



12Noon: the opening of the Beer Festival

2.00pm: an Afternoon Tea Party

6.00pm: the party really begins as we get "In the Mood" with the fabulous swinging, vocal harmony trio FOX, Wiggle & Sass – 40's dress actively encouraged!

Food included and a pay bar will be in operation.

**Tickets for the Evening: £17.50pp from
Ann Crisp 01787 460216 or Julie Ingram 01787 463637**

Saturday 9th May 2020

1.00pm – 11.00pm: Great Maplestead Beer Festival at the Village Hall

Featuring a great selection of local beers, ciders, wine, Prosecco and gin.

Food available to purchase

Morris Dancing in the afternoon

Musical entertainment from Ricardo in the evening



Supported by The Great Maplestead Beer Festival Committee

More Gestingthorpe

More Gestingthorpe 'Gathering' Coffee / Tea Mornings

If you haven't already been to one of our coffee mornings please come along soon; we would love to see you.

The Coffee morning dates for March will be 13th and 27th. There will then be a 3 week gap with the only one to be held in April being on 17th.

We hope to see you there.

Gestingthorpe Neighbourhood Watch

In the last few months there seems to have been a significant number of reports of vehicle thefts, attempted vehicle thefts as well as burglaries and attempted burglaries in and around the North Essex area and surrounding villages. These may or may not be linked, nevertheless, we should all be extra vigilant and report anything suspicious.



If you are going on holiday, I recommend not to advertise or post photos on Facebook. Whilst away please ensure that you have secured your property as best as you can and have security lights switch on to deter any would be intruders.

As winter is slowly coming to an end and our thoughts turn to getting out in the garden, try not to leave any tools out on show or unattended for any would be opportunist thieves. Lock all your tools away after use. If you have high value tools, may be an idea to buy a security UV pen to mark your tools. These can be purchased very cheaply.

When I receive information from the NHW committee or an individual about any crimes or suspicions behaviour, I immediately notify residents via this email account: Gestingthorpe194@gmail.com..

This email account has been set up for any NHW matters only and is sent privately to members, no one else can see your email address.

If you would like emails to be sent to you, please let me know

I also post on the village Facebook pages any concerns or incidents that occur in our village and surrounding villages.

If you need any additional NHW window or wheelie bin stickers, please contact me.

Useful Numbers: Police non-emergency 101

Crime stoppers (can remain anonymous 0800 555 111

Helen Skerratt 01787 237 297

More Gestingthorpe

More Gestingthorpe Parish Council

A time is allocated for Parishioners to address the Council. Its May meeting is an AGM at which officers are elected. A planning subcommittee operates as needed. District Councillors and the County Councillor attend most of these meetings, to report on their councils and to hear local opinion.

Tuesday Talk in the Village Hall

17th March at 7.30pm (£5 per ticket to include a glass of wine)

We welcome back Paula Short to give us a thoroughly interesting talk on Barbe-Nicole Clicquot - the name behind the famous champagne.

A woman born outside of her time since she not only ran a business but developed a new way of producing champagne, surviving the French Revolution and early widowhood and continuous wars in Europe which saw her running the blockades in order to get the wine into other countries.

To book your place call Chris Harman on 01787 462763 helping to raise funds for the Village Hall acoustics upgrade.

'Call My Wine Bluff'

Gestingthorpe Village Hall on Saturday the 25th April at 7.00pm

Come and enjoy a wine tasting with a difference - 3 'experts' will tell you about the wines you are sampling, but only one is telling the truth! In this lighthearted evening you will get to sample various wines from different grapes and regions, pit your wits against each other to see if your palette is better than the rest.

There will be delicious nibbles to accompany the wine along with a raffle - all to help raise funds for the Village Hall acoustics upgrade.

£15 per ticket it is sure to be a fun filled evening for all those over 18!

Tickets can be obtained from Penny - 07840 367182, Steph 01787 462351 or Myra on 01787 469246.

Gestingthorpe 'Gathering' Coffee / Tea Mornings

As it was Valentine's Day the ladies who attended our coffee morning on Friday 14th February each went home with a single red rose.

Our coffee mornings are held between 10 am and 12 noon on alternate Fridays in the village hall are continuing to be a hit with those of all ages.

Friends and neighbours in the village come along to enjoy chatting over a mug of tea or coffee and some delicious home baked cakes.

Little Maplestead

Important Reminder!



The Mothering Sunday Service at Little Maplestead on March 22nd will be Gay and Nick's last service for us. It will be followed by a glass of wine and cake with coffee too. We can say farewell and a heartfelt "Thank You" to them both.



Church Windows

The masonry around another of the church windows has been repaired with the help of the Friends of The Round Church and the stained glass is currently being repaired before it will be re-installed in the next week or two.

Parish Room

Now that we have planning approval, detailed plans are being prepared and structural engineers are being employed to prepare the roof and foundation specifications. It is hoped that their reports will be available shortly and for the detailed plans to be completed a week or two later. The next stages will be to request local building firms to provide quotes which will allow the PCC to formally apply to the church authorities for a faculty. Once the faculty has been approved, the final stage will be to apply and secure an appropriate level of grant funding.

Again, if you would like to get involved please send an email to the PCC at roundchurchroom@btinternet.com with how you would like to help. Several parishioners have already said they would like to contribute in some way, this needn't be financial, although all donations would be very gratefully received.

If you do want to make a donation, or make a promise to pay later on, again please get in contact with members of the PCC using the above email address. If you would like to know that your donation was used for a specific purpose e.g. you want your contribution to go towards paint, windows etc, let us know and we will make every effort to accommodate your wishes.

The details of the planning application and the approval, can be viewed on Braintree's Planning Portal; the application references are 19/00867/FUL & 19/00868/LBC.

Detailed plans have also been sent to Building Control at Braintree District Council.

The PCC would like to thank everyone for their support.

More Little Maplestead

Owl box

The owl box has now been installed in the large oak to the left of the church entrance. Many thanks to Wayne from Keystone for making and installing the owl box; Keystone recently carried out the repairs to the church roof. We are checking on the owl box regularly and once it is occupied, it is planned to arrange our own spring watch evening in the church to view live pictures of the owls.

Little Maplestead could miss out on new lightning fast full-fibre broadband network

Little Maplestead is on the cusp of securing UK-leading full-fibre broadband of up to 1,000 megabits per second (mbps) - 20 times faster than the UK average.

Thousands of residents and business owners in over 130 villages in Colchester, Braintree and Chelmsford have already given the green light to have the future-ready network built.

County Broadband is now urging the remaining dozen villages, which includes Little Maplestead, in the rollout's first phase to rally together and press ahead with the proposals.

Construction will begin when just 30% of residents and businesses sign up. Schools and community halls will also receive a free connection and service.



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Gestingthorpe

Fun, Fit, Fab with Nic

Village Hall on a Monday or Wednesday

Nic Smith in the village has started Fun, Fit, Fab exercise classes in the Village Hall on a Monday and Wednesday for those who want to wiggle, giggle and improve fitness and wellbeing.

Mondays classes are 6.30pm - 7.15pm for a lighter session seated or standing. 7.30pm - 8.15pm for those who want a harder workout.

Wednesdays sessions are 9.30am - 10.15am for the harder workout and 10.30am - 11.15am for the lighter workout.

All sessions are £5 and you would need to bring your own exercise mat. Nic can be contacted on nicsmithpe@gmail.com or phoned on 07908 446249 to check availability.

Legs Tums & Bums with Lorraine

Village Hall on a Thursday at 7pm

A fun & friendly class, easy to follow and great for strengthening and toning. Lorraine uses resistance bands and light hand weights for an extra challenge (optional).

Come and join us

You can book at <https://bookwhen.com/lorrainesutton>

Lorraine also offers a Pilates class at 8pm on a Thursday (spaces are limited so please get in touch with Lorraine on the link above to book).

Gestingthorpe History Group

We have been working hard over the winter to add additional content to our website www.gestingthorpehg.co.uk and continue to add stories, videos and images to it weekly - if you haven't yet paid it a visit, there is now a blog where the latest snippets of history can be read. We are always interested in gathering items including photos or documents relating to life in Gestingthorpe so we can build up our archive to last long into the future.

Gestingthorpe Parish Council

Have you visited our new site www.gestingthorpepc.co.uk - it has details of your local councillors, contact details and notices for important things happening in the village that you can have your say in.

The Parish Council meets four times a year. Residents are welcome to attend the meetings.