

Great and Little Maplestead Pebmarsh and Gestingthorpe



**Church and Community together
May 2020**

Free

Village contacts and information

Reverend Beverley Vincent and the churchwardens see page 28.

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

Message from the Church of England

"Some Studies suggest that Coronavirus COVID-19 can live on paper and cardboard surfaces for up to 24 hours, and so any paper delivery represents a transmission risk. Local hand-deliveries also mean a volunteer will touch gates and postboxes and may come into close proximity with those who may be shielding. For these reasons, parishes are encouraged to look to digital communication, and telephone calls to keep in touch. The Government has designated postal workers and delivery professionals as key-workers, so any vital printed communication should be sent through the post."

On the basis of this advice our curate took advice from our Dean. As a result of this the Dean, our Curate, our editor and the majority of our steering committee have decided not to print and deliver this month. We will be issuing it digitally through the village email lists. For those of you who are supporting vulnerable neighbours who do not have access to emails, please feel free to print them a copy, whilst being mindful of the possibility of passing on the virus via the printed copy.

Chelmsford Cathedral is streaming a daily Morning and evening Prayer. at www.chelmsfordcathedral.org. Our Team vicar Rev'd Mark Payne is also streaming services on The Three Colnes Churches Facebook page.

Letter from Gay and Nick

When our leaving date was set, over two years ago, no one could have foreseen the changed world in which we would be living in at this time. Even a week before our planned final service we were still planning for a low-key farewell, as all that had happened was that the Church of England had suggested not having refreshments in churches. The fact that we were unable to say good bye in a formal manner falls into insignificance when compared to the many thousands of people in the UK and the wider world who have been unable to say goodbye to their loved ones.

We would like to thank the parishes for the gifts we received not only the gifts from the congregations but also thank those individuals who have sent gifts and messages of goodwill.

Ministers come and go, the church is the congregations and communities and we have seen that that the congregations and communities of the four parishes have remained strong and whatever emerges at the end of this dark time we are sure you will continue to do so. At all times our friendships and prayers for the villages will remain.

Gay & Nick

Letter from the editor



We had a difficult decision this month with many different views with regard as to whether we should print and distribute. As you can see from the previous article we have decided to issue it digitally. Hopefully we will return to our print issue next month.

We are getting more used to isolating, I am really enjoying sewing (my wardrobe is increasing) and the garden is getting more attention than it has ever had. The plan being to be self sufficient in vegetables for part of the year. Our pilates instructor is running on-line lessons and we are playing a lot of online bridge.

It would be great if you would let me know what you are up to so we can include it in next month's magazine.

Our food is still being delivered (thank you Sainsbury's) and our fab neighbours are collecting our meds. Our fab neighbours have also provided the cover photo, the view from the front of our houses towards Great Maplestead, thank you Beverley.

I wish everyone well and hope that you stay well and can find meaningful, interesting and enjoyable things to do during this time.

With love to you all.

Jenny



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Letter from the the Gestingthorpe Church-wardens

By the time this edition of the parish magazine is published the end of some at least of the lockdown restrictions may be in sight. It has been, and continues to be, a strange time for almost everybody and very difficult for some. So it may be appropriate to recall, and perhaps to take inspiration from the example of, someone who is commemorated inside Gestingthorpe church.

Not on this occasion the famous Captain Oates, but a less well-known polar explorer, Augustine Courtauld. A wooden plaque towards the back of the church records the ringing of a special peal of bells in 1931 to give thanks for his "safe return from the polar regions."

In the winter of 1930-31 Augustine Courtauld had been snow-bound alone at a pioneer weather station (a tent!) high on the Greenland icecap. He was there on his own in winter blizzards for six weeks before being rescued. Towards the end he had run out of food and fuel but his faith in God never wavered. In his diary he wrote "I trust in God absolutely, I am sure He does not mean me to die alone here."

Later, after he had been rescued, he said "By the time I was snowed in, I had no doubts on the matter, which was a great comfort to my mind. I will not attempt any explanation of this, but leave it as a fact which was very clear to me during that time, that while powerless to help myself, some outer force was in action on my side, and that I was not fated to leave my bones on the Greenland icecap."

He was rescued on 5 May 1931, 89 years ago, at the second attempt to find him. The search party, after casting about without luck for some time, finally spotted the ragged remains of a flag and four inches of ventilator pipe protruding from the drifted snow.

We know only too well that many personal stories end in tragedy but sometimes there are seemingly miraculous deliveries.

There is no need to say more but to send all readers the wish of the times: Stay Safe and Take Care.



Rev'd Mark Payne from Earls Colne is doing an excellent job of streaming worship, he is providing morning prayer everyday at 9am. It is available on Facebook at this link:

www.facebook.com/pg/3Colnes.HalsteadAreaTeam/posts/?ref=page_internal.

The F315 Local Bus Service

Bold Roman indicates fixed time. Shading indicates bus only calls if pre-booked on 01621 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
Ballingdon, opp Strawberry Stores		09:03	11:03	13:03	15:33	17:33
Bulmer Tye, Park Lane		09:07	11:07	13:07	15:37	17:37
Bulmer, Cross Roads		09:11	11:11	13:11	15:41	17:41
Gestingthorpe, Foundry Corner		09:17	11:17	13:17	15:47	17:47
Wickham St Paul, The Victory		09:23	11:23	13:23	15:53	17:53
Pebmarsh, Bus Shelter		09:30	11:30	13:30	16:00	18:00
Pebmarsh, War Memorial		09:31	11:31	13:31	16:01	18:01
Little Maplestead, Cock Road		09:25	11:25	13:25	15:55	17:55
Great Maplestead, School		09:28	11:28	13:28	15:58	17:58
Little Maplestead, Pump		09:32	11:32	13:32	16:02	18:02
Halstead, High Street		09:37	11:37	13:37	16:07	18:07
Halstead, High Street		09:56	11:56	13:56	16:26	18:26

HOW TO HELP DURING THIS CRISIS

If you can help your neighbours and friends when they are not able to go out – exchange telephone numbers and email addresses now. Most of our villages have set up support networks for those self-isolating and the vulnerable groups so please contact your nearest.

If you can help deliver supplies to those self-isolating at home then please let them know and consider volunteering for your local support group. Below you will find a leaflet / card you can print and fill out then post through your neighbour's door offering your assistance as and when they may need it.

Please let people know if you want to help. Please don't wait to be asked.

Events are moving very fast, so as all come to terms as to how best to handle the situation inline with their own circumstances, please keep yourselves up to date through the radio, television, internet, family and friends for the latest news and advice.

For further information you may find these websites helpful:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england>

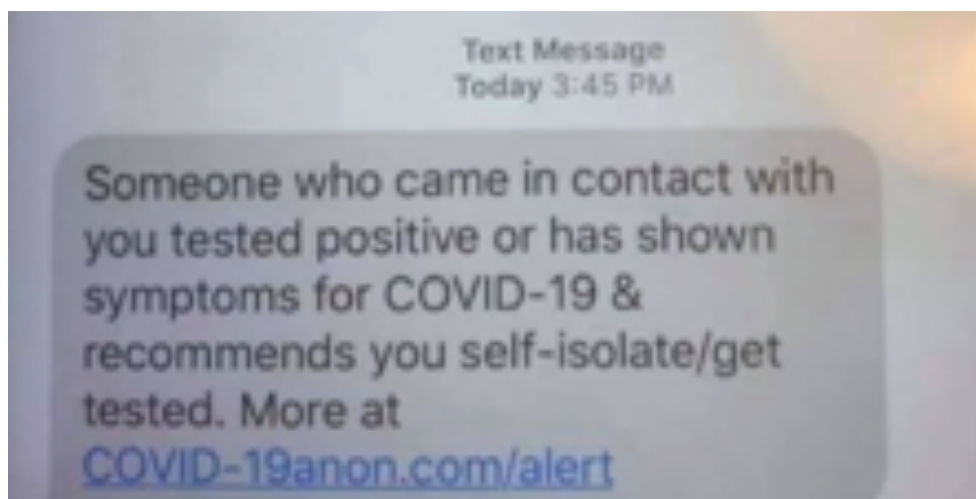
Parish News Website

The benefice website has now been donated to Parish News to become a gateway to our four villages and their churches. The website address is:

www.knights-hospitallers.org.uk

It provides you with links to the websites of our churches, our villages and local information as well as the latest copy of Parish News, including all our advertisers. When services and events restart it will be updated monthly with the latest information. It also contains links to the Government and NHS websites with information on the Corona virus outbreak.

Please be aware of the COVID-19 scams out there. If you receive a text or email like this, delete it.



Gestingthorpe

The Gestingthorpe leaflet, shown below, has been delivered to all the residents of Gestingthorpe. Please if you are self isolating, or scared, or lonely or need any help please contact Carrie, Helen, Nic Penny or Kate. The village is there to help you.

Coronavirus - WE ARE HERE TO HELP in GESTINGTHORPE

To get through COVID-19 we'll need to pull together.

We're a group of volunteers living in and around **Gestingthorpe** who want to ensure that everyone in our neighbourhood is healthy, safe and looked after.

Please let us know if you need any help - maybe you want help picking up pre-paid prescriptions and shopping, or you just need a chat. We won't have physical contact with you - we'll knock your door, put items on the doorstep, keep our distance, and make sure you get them. **If you need medical help, you should still call your doctor or the NHS (111 for non-emergencies, 999 for medical emergencies)**, for anything else we might be able to help.

You can get in touch by leaving us a message or sending an email.

Church Street, Sudbury Rd, Nether Hill area:

Carrie	07872 170277	carrielouiseprior@hotmail.co.uk
Helen	07793 402297	Helen.skerratt@gmail.com

Audley End, Moat Street, and outlying areas:

Nic	07908 445239	nicsmithpe@gmail.com
Penny	07840 367172	pbagby1@gmail.com
Kate	07771 535523	katejabbott@gmail.com

We'll check messages throughout the day and get back to you as soon as possible but please remember we are volunteers and have our own families and commitments.

BECOME ONE OF OUR HELPERS

Please call one of the numbers above to offer your help!

Gestingthorpe Parish Council

Annual General Meeting

The Gestingthorpe Village Hall AGM that was to be held on Thursday 18th June has been postponed.

Chris Harman – Hon. Chairman 01787 462763

More Gestingthorpe

In light of the social distancing rules and the stay at home advice given by the government there is little in the way of updates to do with events or classes taking place in Gestingthorpe - we have not been resting on a laurels though.



Billy Moulton-Day of 'Rusty Creations' has been hiding heart-shaped horseshoes for local walkers to discover and claim on the footpaths in all 4 corners of the parish, something that gives the children and adults on their 1 hours exercise per day some enjoyment whilst searching for them.



One generous resident left a surplus quantity of seed potatoes at their gate for residents to help themselves - if they all produce a healthy crop we should be self-sufficient in spuds for the rest of 2020!

More Gestingthorpe

The History Group has added some primary school lessons from the 1930's on its website blog for those parents teaching little ones at home.

Gestingthorpe Pottery has handed out tubs of local clay to be made into something that will then be fired in their kiln and returned to the creator in the future.

Virtual Pilates and Fitness classes via YouTube by Kate Abbot and Nic Smith have been proving essential viewing to those wishing to exercise at home.

Clap for the NHS continues to bring together the residents of Gestingthorpe with drums, pans, smoke flares or hands - being an elongated village along single roads means we have to make a little more noise than some in order for some neighbours to hear us.



Stay Home - Stay Safe - Keep Well.

Little Maplestead

The Little Maplestead leaflet, shown below, has been delivered to all the residents of Little Maplestead. Please if you are self isolating, or scared, or lonely or need any help please contact Bill, Jane or Gemma. The village is there to help you.



The Little Maplestead support system has assisted quite a few Parishioners in obtaining prescriptions and shopping, and also other tasks. We are quite happy to help more, so please do not be shy and phone one of us if you require assistance.

As the lock down goes on, we see more and more people walking around the village, and the number of neatly mown lawns and clean cars is staggering!!

In little Maplestead we are able to contact a high percentage of Parishioners through the Neighbourhood watch email list. So Please if you are not already on this list if you email littlemaplesteadnw@gmail.com you can be added.

We are proposing to pull together a 'skills matrix' which hopefully will be a list of people who have a skill and may be able to assist others as the lock down goes on.

More Little Maplestead

This could be anything from just a friendly voice on the other end of a phone if you feel you need to talk, or an emergency electrician if you fuse your lights.

We shall be working on this shortly.

Hopefully everyone is keeping safe and well.

View from Jane, a village helper

Little Maplestead is such a quiet and peaceful village and as we go into the second month of a lockdown I can't help but feel so lucky to be living here. We have been blessed with lovely weather and it's hard to imagine what this experience would have been like if we were going into winter with the extra health problems on top too. More people have started walking and cycling more than they ever have done and we have met new people on our walks, at a safe distance, which has been great. Some of us have put teddies or rainbows in our windows for the children to look for as they are out walking. The birdsong and the clear quiet skies is also an added bonus. Many of us are lucky to have access to the internet where you can find countless things to fill your time. I made myself a promise to call a different person each day who I know lives alone, to have a chat. I have also been videoing bedtime stories and the Adventures of Teddy for our grandchildren, so if you see me filming teddy at the post box or doing other random things, you will know I haven't gone mad - not yet anyway!

It's not so easy if you don't have internet access or you are self-isolating and our small group has been very active in this area helping with all sorts of things. If you have a neighbour who you know cannot access internet and email please make sure they have our details if they need anything. Our contacts are in this issue. Maplestead Mates is a great way to find things out so neighbours can help each other with access to this information. As the Craft and Plant Fair would have been this month we are very sad to be missing that up at the Church. I do have a few extra tomato plants which had already been planted so if you want any feel free to get in touch.

We will all have good and bad days and it's very important to be kind to one another and the British are pretty good at pulling together when it really matters. I can't wait to give the grandchildren a cuddle when this is over! Stay safe and healthy everyone. Jane – part of The Little Maplestead Support Group.



Teddies in the windows

More Little Maplestead



Thanks to our deliverers and collectors

Parish Giving Scheme – Urgent Appeal

Firstly a huge thankyou to everyone who has already signed up to the parish giving scheme.

As you may be aware the church has had to close for the foreseeable future due to the current restrictions.

Consequently, there are no services, weddings and fund raising events have been cancelled. We are reducing all non-essential expenditure where ever possible, but we are still looking at a shortfall of approximately £4,500 this year. Unless we're able address this shortfall, we will have to use funds from other years, that have been set aside for maintaining the church.

As you might have seen in previous issues of the Parish Magazine, we launched the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS). It is a national scheme that is being rolled out across the Diocese of Chelmsford, it is a modern tax efficient way to support our local church; for every £1 donated, if you are a tax payer, HMRC will pay 25p to the church. The Parish doesn't pay any admin fees for scheme, so 100% of your donations will go directly to the Round Church.

Donations can be made on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis by setting up a Standing Order using a PGS gift form.

More Little Maplestead

More Parish Giving Scheme

Even though the donations are made to the central PGS account, donations are restricted to the parish chosen by the donor and cannot be used elsewhere. Summary of how it works:

1. A Standing Order is set up for an amount chosen by the donor
2. The donation will be paid to the PGS scheme account on the 1st of the month
3. It's then credited to the parish's account by 10th of the month.
4. Gift Aid will be credited directly to the parish's account, once PGS has received it from HMRC; normally just a few days after the donation is paid to the parish.

The church fund raising events are always very well supported and as these have had to be cancelled, it would be very much appreciated if you could make a regular donation to support the church instead. It's really easy to set up and can be stopped and restarted just as easily if your circumstances change.

Everything you need is in the parish giving scheme packs which have been distributed to most households by now; if you haven't received a pack yet, or have any questions regarding the scheme, please contact Kevin Caddy, who is the local scheme administrator, by sending an email to: RoundChurchPGS@btinternet.com

We appreciate we now live in uncertain times, but a gift to the church, large or small, will be greatly appreciated and will make a huge difference; for example, if 10 households gave £10 a month (approximately the cost of a coffee each week), over the year it is the equivalent of the funds raised at the Craft Fair or the Summer Fete.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Parish Room

We now have the required number of quotes from local building companies and are in the process of applying for a faculty.

We are also engaging consultant archaeologists to prepare an archaeological monitoring plan, which is a condition of the planning application.

County Broadband fibre update

We have an opportunity to seriously improve our broadband speed but only when 30% of residents and businesses sign up. If you have any queries you will find the staff at County Broadband extremely knowledgeable and helpful, they are on 01376 562002.

Pebmarsh

Pebmarsh Volunteer Service

In response to a call for volunteers over 50 Pebmarsh residents kindly offered to help. The village was therefore divided into areas and each area now has a Lead Volunteer who heads-up a small team of volunteers.

Volunteers are being kept busy with tasks such as shopping for the vulnerable and collecting prescriptions, as well as generally keeping an eye on the people in their area.

A yellow card has been put through every door with the contact details of the nearest Lead Volunteer. Don't hesitate to get in touch with Kate Carling (Phone: 267924) if you need anything and she'll put you in touch with your most local volunteer.

Friends of Pebmarsh Church

Over the past couple of months, whilst we all get to grips with the challenges of the COVID-19, the work of FOPC has continued online. Plans are now in place to update our website and release news articles to all, when appropriate, to celebrate how far we have come and the amazing achievements to date. Meantime please stay safe, stay in and save lives.

Website and Facebook

Stay in touch with village information on the Pebmarsh.com site and by signing up to the mailing list, and whilst you are at it take a look at the Pebmarsh Information Group on Facebook? There are posts to keep everyone informed of local businesses & other things aimed at keeping the community talking & interacting.

The King's Head Pebmarsh

Following the statements issued by the Government it is with great sadness that we have made the difficult decision to temporarily close The Kings Head which will also include our takeaway offering.

We wish everyone in our community good health and heartfelt thanks for your support. We look forward to when we can open our doors and welcome you back! Stay Safe! Debbie, Stuart & The Kings Head Team!

Pebmarsh Parish Council

Our community spirit shines bright as Pebmarsh adapts to the challenges of the COVID-19 challenges and your parish council would like to say a big thank you to all that are helping others in these challenging times. Special mention and heartfelt thanks go to Matt and his team at Courtyard Stores, Cross End for their unstinting hard work in keeping the village shop open, taking telephone orders and making free deliveries to the community.

More Pebmarsh

More Pebmarsh Parish Council

Special mention also to Carl and Beth and their team at The Foragers Retreat, Cross End for their equally amazing work in cooking, providing online ordering and more takeaway meals through the village shop.

Special mention to Kate and Jenny and their volunteers who have organised a volunteer force to support those self isolating, vulnerable groups and anyone who needs help in the village.

Your parish council continues to meet online as our work carries on, although only urgent work is being undertaken at this time.

Some more good news is that the refurbishment of the bus stop at Pebmarsh / Oak Road has been completed and special thanks to Cllr George Courtauld of BDC for providing the grant funding monies to make it possible at no cost to the village.

The bench at the village war memorial is in urgent need of repair, refurbishment and re-fixing and will be temporarily removed so that the work can be carried out at no cost to the village.

Pebmarsh now echoes on Thursday evenings to the sounds of clapping for all those that care for us, from the NHS to care workers to volunteers. Please join in if you can, show your support and thanks to our own amazing community heroes as well.

News from St John the Baptist Primary School

Historical Character Day

Staff and children enjoyed a history enrichment day dressing up as historical characters. From Julius Caesar to Emmeline Pankhurst, Cleopatra to Neil Armstrong, William Shakespeare to Mother Theresa, Leonardo Da Vinci to Florence Nightingale, nearly 3,000 years of history was represented. All the children were able to talk about their historical character confidently and knew exactly why they were a significant individual and how they changed history. Each pupil then placed themselves on a human historical timeline. During the afternoon, the whole school worked together producing collages of themselves. A fun and informative day was had by all and allowed the pupils to celebrate the lives of people from the past and learn what they had left behind, accessing the past in a novel 'hands on' way".

World Book Day

Despite not dressing up as book characters, the children were fully involved in World Book Day 2020. Book vouchers were issued in advance of the day and pupils enjoyed activities within their own classrooms and across the school.

More Pebmarsh

More News from St John the Baptist Primary School

School lunch that day had a World Book Day theme with Slithering Spaghetti, Malfoys Meatballs, Mrs Trunchbull Tomato Sauce and Slimy Green Peas. Dessert that day was delicious book themed cupcakes!

Upper Key Stage 2 pupils read their own version of 'Town Mouse and Country Mouse' to younger pupils before they brought their own version of a 'Percy Jackson' story to life with their script writing and drama. Lower Key Stage 2 brought their favourite stories to share and wrote their own book reviews. Key Stage 1 pupils worked in pairs to make dioramas—either a town scene or country scene in connection with their current story of 'Town Mouse and Country Mouse'.

School Closure

As from the afternoon of Friday 20th March our school closed for the majority of pupils due to the COVID-19 emergency. However, we remain open for pupils of Key Workers (NHS staff, police officers, delivery drivers etc) whenever necessary. Staff have provided teaching resources for each pupil for Home Learning and have been in contact with pupils and parents on a regular basis to offer support and guidance. Parents have set up a private Facebook page for Home/School ideas which has been a great success.

Karen De Pietro Headteacher

Open Farm Sunday

Open Farm Sunday has been postponed until the Autumn. This National initiative has been postponed from 7th June. Jim & Eileen Crayston will update us nearer the time if they decide to open Hunts Hall.



**Garden machinery
service & repairs**

R&R
GARDEN MACHINERY

Unit 1
Gainsborough Yard
Sandy Lane
Sudbury
Suffolk
CO10 7GY

simon@randrgardenmachinery.co.uk
www.randrgardenmachinery.co.uk

01787 375194

Great Maplestead

Great Maplestead has set up a Village Support Group for residents and has already hand-delivered the village personalised flyers to every household.

The Great Maplestead flyer is shown below. If you are self isolating, or scared, or lonely and need any help please contact Jacqui. The village is



HELLO! If you are self-isolating, we can help.

We are local residents in Great Maplestead

If you are self-isolating due to COVID-19 then we would be happy to assist with any of these tasks:

<input type="checkbox"/> Picking up shopping	<input type="checkbox"/> Posting Mail
<input type="checkbox"/> Collecting Prescriptions	<input type="checkbox"/> Dog Walking
<input type="checkbox"/> Friendly chat on the phone	<input type="checkbox"/> Urgent Supplies
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify).....	

Call or text your village representative and they will do their best to help you!

Your Village Representative is:
Jacqui Mee
01787 461 002 or 07773 627 897

Coronavirus is contagious. Please take every precaution to ensure you are spreading only kindness. Items will be left on your doorstep #ViralKindness

there to help you.

We find ourselves in strange and different times as a result of the Government 'lockdown' restrictions that are intended to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Being a very sociable village, Great Maplestead has been affected more than most by the cancellations and postponements that have had to be made to the full calendar of social events that it had planned for the spring and summer.

On the plus side however, the restrictions – which have been in place for a month now and look to be continuing for a while – have resulted in a re-channelling of the village's community spirit, resulting in a variety of actions that are helping to bring people together and cope with life during the current crisis:

- A network of volunteers who visit local shops to pick up bread, milk, newspapers and other supplies for people who are self-isolating or unable to otherwise get out.

More Great Maplestead

- Prescription runs to co-ordinate and pick up regular medication requirements.
- On-line ordering of groceries and other essential supplies, by those who are able to, for groups of villagers who either cannot get to the shops or who are technologically challenged.
- Linking residents by way of a couple of WhatsApp groups – one for running the support initiative outlined in last month's magazine and one for more general social interaction to keep everyone's spirits up.
- Occupational activities, such as flower-arranging, knitting, rock painting and, more recently, the production of PPE clothing and laundry bags.
- Getting together on Thursday evenings to salute the NHS in increasingly innovative ways...
- Initiatives to interest young children, such as the 'Teddies in Windows' and 'Rainbow Rocks' trails.
- Social media linked quiz competitions and virtual 'get-togethers' to keep people connected.
- Encouraging villagers to exercise more by providing on-line and printed versions of maps to increase the number of local walk options.

It is to be hoped that, once the restrictions are eased and eventually lifted, many of the above actions will continue, developing and strengthening community bonds across the parish.

Maplesteads WI

At the moment our WI meetings are postponed but President Carol Brownlie keeps in touch with the members by sending an email every week with a funny story or asks the ladies to write about the activities they are doing during the lock down. There are members making scrubs and wash bags for the NHS and others knitting hearts for hospitals. At Easter some members took on the task of creating either an Easter bonnet or Easter decoration.



More Great Maplestead

View from the Village Representative

The Great Maplestead Village support group has been set up to help support people who are self-isolating, or who are scared or lonely because of the coronavirus. The group started in mid-March with 20 volunteers, this number has now risen to 35! Volunteers are carrying out a host of tasks from shopping and picking up medication to phoning for a friendly chat to help alleviate loneliness.

The volunteers in our village are amazing and so willing to help. The amount of people putting themselves forward to help others is very humbling but typical of this village.

We have a couple of volunteers who organise a weekly bread order from Humes bakery and then delivers to the parishioners. Another volunteer incorporates her daily exercise by running to Sible or Castle Hedingham to pick up prescriptions for those who are self-isolating. One volunteer adds other peoples' shopping to their own internet shopping delivery.

Some volunteers are vulnerable themselves, so are self-isolating, however they still help, by phoning other people and offering a friendly voice and a chat. This is just a snapshot of the great support being provided.

We set up a WhatsApp Group to help communicate requests and issues raised by parishioners. This group proved so useful and popular that we have now set up another village wide WhatsApp Group, which helps keep everyone informed and provides a forum to share comedy and up-lifting material. Most importantly this is also used to share offers of help, like informing everyone when a shopping trip to Halstead or Sudbury is planned so that others' can tag shopping on, meaning only one person goes to the shop easing congestion at the supermarket and putting less people at risk.

The support group is just a natural extension of what already exists in our wonderful village. There has always been a real community spirit in Great Maplestead, but people seem to be going above and beyond during this difficult and challenging time.

Outside of the support group I am aware of a number of initiatives that people have also got involved with, from putting painted rainbows in their window to show support for the NHS, putting a Teddy in the window for children to spot and keep them interested while taking their daily exercise.

A lady is painting pebbles and placing them round village for all to spot whilst out on their walk.

There are a number of people also getting involved in making scrub hats and laundry bags and knitting hearts, all to support the NHS.

More Great Maplestead

More view from the Village Representative

The village looks forward to Thursday evenings at 8pm, when we all stand outside our front doors and come together as one, clapping and showing our appreciation to the NHS, carers and all the amazing key workers.

What started with just clapping has now expanded to beeping horns, shaking rattles, banging drums followed by us all singing a prearranged song. Many people are putting blue lights in the windows and gardens of their houses, again to show their heart felt support.

I have always said that I am truly privileged to live in such a wonderful village with such a great community. In these difficult times I realise even more the importance of its truly encompassing friendship and fighting spirit.



Teddies and rainbows in windows

More Great Maplestead



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 information

Solar Society: Miles Scrivens 01787 469766 or Wanda Sellar 01787 463459

Local Women's Running Group: laurabloom@btinternet.com or on 07801 749802

Local Libraries: Halstead and Sible Hedingham Libraries, libraries.essex.gov.uk.

Four Parishes Book Group: Alison Cantor. 01787 462537 or acantor@linus.plus.com

Sudbury Area Cancer Support Group: Ruth Worsley on ruth-SACSG@outlook.com

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: www.halsteadphoto.org.uk

Gestingthorpe History Society: www.gestingthorpehg.co.uk

Community-based support for an ageing population: www.communityagentsessex.org.uk.

The Empire Theatre Halstead: www.empire-theatre.co.uk

Halstead and District Local History Society: www.halsteadhistory.org.uk.

The Hedingham Singers: Bob Lilley on 07790 573435 or www.thehedinghamsingers.com/.

Sudbury Newstalk: www.sudburynewstalk.co.uk or 01787 468535.

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
- 1L long life milk
- Tea bags (40-80)
- Tinned tomatoes
- Small boxes non-biological washing powder/liquid
- Deodorant

DUE TO CORONAVIRUS MANY OF THEIR USUAL DONATION POINTS ARE NOT AVAILABLE. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION YOU CAN CALL 01376 330694 OR DONATE VIA THE COLLECTION BINS IN THE COOP IN HALSTEAD.

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	www.gestingthorpepc.co.uk
Great Maplestead	http://greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk
Little Maplestead	http://littlemaplesteadpc.co.uk
Pebmarsh	http://parishcouncil.pebmarsh.com

Heddingham Medical Centre

The Castle Heddingham surgery is triaging all patients so please phone 01787 461465. Do not go to the surgery. The surgery is open from 11.00 - 13.00 and 14.00 - 18.00 Monday to Friday to collect pre-ordered prescriptions. Their website is www.hedmed.co.uk.

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

Neighbourhood Watch representatives

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

The Churchwardens serving our Benefice are

Curate	The Rev'd Beverley Vincent	07944 200132	halsteadcurate@gmail.com
Great Maplestead	Gill Peskett Jill Newton	01787 462786 01787 463893	gillpeskett43@gmail.com gilliannewton4@gmail.com
Little Maplestead	Jane Piper Karen Sunnucks	01787 473933 01787 472145	jane-piper@hotmail.co.uk karen.sunnucks@btinternet.com
Gestingthorpe	Alice Nolda Peter Nice	01787 469688 01787 460126	- peter.427nice@btinternet.com
Pebmarsh	Jim Crayston	01787 222241	jim@craystonfarms.co.uk

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. They are currently cancelled.

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The copy deadline for the June magazine is **Friday 22 May 2020**

We need to know who, what, where and when

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

Copy

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Little Maplestead	Beverley Bratley	01787 473281	beverley.bratley@gmail.com
Pebmarsh	Jan Bond	01787269082	janbond381@btinternet.com

This magazine is now available electronically on the parish council web sites and the Parish News website at www.knights-hospitallers.org.uk



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