

**Parish
News**

Great and Little Maplestead Pebmarsh and Gestingthorpe



Church and Community together
December 2022 and January 2023

Free

Village contacts and information

Reverend Beverley Vincent can be found on page 28 and the churchwardens on page 26.

Village Emergency Telephone Service and Neighbourhood Watch representatives see page 30

Magazine copy see page 28

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Letter from the editor



Hello everyone and welcome to the December/January issue of Parish News. The good news is that Nic Coppen, supported by her friend Helen, of Gestingthorpe is taking over the editorship. She will start with our next issue which is in February.

I have really enjoyed editing the magazine and I hope that you have found it both useful and enjoyable. I also want to thank the large band of people who support the magazine, the fab individuals in your individual villages who are responsible for getting me copy, the people who provide gardening help and nature notes every month, the great people who distribute the magazine to you and the steering committee, but more than any one, Jane Stone, who has sorted the finances and held my back, and who has agreed to carry on helping Nic so there will be continuity.

I have promised Nic that I WILL NOT interfere.

I will continue to support the magazine as I'm taking over from Beverley (for whom much thanks) as the copy provider for Little Maplestead. So for all you folks in Little Maplestead, send me your interesting news.

The lovely cover photo was taken by Kathy Crimmins.

Have a lovely Christmas and a fab new year.

Contents

Page 2	Village contacts and information
Page 3	Letter from the Editor
Page 4	Letter from our Vicar
Page 5	Bus service
Page 6-7	Little Maplestead
Page 8	Nature Notes
Page 9-12	Great Maplestead
Page 13	Gardening Corner
Page 16-17	Gestingthorpe
Page 18	Pets Corner
Page 19-21	Pebmarsh
Page 22	Omelette popovers
Page 24	The Warm Haven @ St Giles Church
Page 24	Hedingham Heritage Society
Page 25	Local information
Page 26	Local and regional representation
Page 27	Church services
Page 28	Coming up, save the date and the Parish News website

Letter from the Reverend Beverley Vincent

Some of us will be welcoming the Christmas season and New Year with a familiar heavy heart. We have so many things to concern us currently and as we hear the Christmas tunes of supermarkets and see the twinkling lights everywhere and try to grasp the joy of Christmas, we might also be reflecting on the uncertainties that next year holds for us.

The political landscape has been chaotic this year which no doubt increases our anxiety about the future. Politics shapes the Christmas story as we know it. Luke's gospel tells us Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem because Quirinius, governor of Syria, was commanded by the Roman Emperor Augustus to conduct a census for the purpose of taxation. In the Gospel read at Christmas time we hear Jesus' credential as a descendant of King David, and the political exile of his ancestors to Babylon in the Old Testament. Then as the Christ child is born the wise men threaten the political order with the news of a newborn king, so that King Herod plans to kill the child. Mary and Joseph flee and live as refugees in neighboring Egypt. Meanwhile, fuelled by the desire to cling to political power, Herod orders all young children in and around Bethlehem to be killed.

The baby Jesus finds his life shaped by the political stage around him from before he leaves the womb. The politics of the world with its competing factions, impact his life from his birth until his final breath on the cross. The Christmas story is about God entering our world, it's about the hope we have that God in the person of Christ came to bring order out of chaos, and peace to all people on earth.

Politics shapes all of our lives. It has profound effects on all lives not just those who are very similar to us but also those who live in very different circumstances. The Bible is clear that our concern should never be just for our own standards of living but rather for those who are particularly vulnerable or in need. Perhaps our Christmas presents this year could simply be acts of kindness, after all these cost nothing and yet are often invaluable.

If you want to add that authentic dimension to Christmas this year, make sure you look out for those who are less fortunate or lonely, be kind, be generous with your time and maybe take a mince pie to those good people who'll spend the day volunteering and serving others in so many ways.

With best wishes for you and your loved ones this Christmas and New Year.

Rev'd Beverley



Little Maplestead

Little Maplestead Volunteer Network

We can collect drugs, search the internet if you do not have a computer, or just be a friendly voice on the other end of the phone. If you or others you know feel may need support please contact one of us. Please contact Bill Piper on 01787473933, Jane Stone on 01787472525, Gemma Frost on 07826523187

Little Maplestead Volunteer Emergency Telephone System (VETS)

As you know we have two defibrillators in the village.

One is close to the phone box in the centre of the village, and the other is on the wall outside Little India.

These can and should be used in an emergency.

We have a team of people in the village who have had basic training on how to operate the defibrillators, and also CPR.

We need more volunteers to bring our VETS team to full capacity. All you need is a land line phone, and the ability to move fast in the event of an emergency, assuming you are available to be called out.

All members of the team will be given basic training, and also a hold all containing some potentially useful equipment, like kneeling pads, torch etc

Please contact Bill Piper on 01787473933 if you would like to be a member of our team..... Just remember it could be a family member or friend who needs your assistance.

Could all the current VETS members please contact me to confirm that they are still available to be of assistance.

In the event of an emergency always dial 999 first, and then 01787 852252 this will trigger help from the VETS.

Crafty, knitty, sewy stuff

Is any one interested in meeting monthly to do crafts together? Knitting, sewing, paper work, polymer clay or anything else you can think of?

If so drop me an email at jennyarchitect@waitrose.com.

Jenny Bishop



Casual Vacancy

Little Maplestead Parish Council...

...needs a new Parish Councillor

We're looking to appoint someone who has good local knowledge of the Parish, an interest in the local environment, is keen to serve our community and can help make Little Maplestead a better place to live.

What do Councillors do?

- **Local Involvement**
Work as a team on behalf of **all** residents to consider, evaluate and undertake actions that will benefit the whole Parish.
- **Monitoring**
Ensure that grants are sought, awarded and best value services obtained for major projects.
- **Decision Making**
Decide how funding is best spent to improve facilities for residents, and respond to **all** planning applications affecting the Parish, in the common interest.
- **Governance**
Commit to the **Council's Code of Conduct** to undertake the role in an unbiased and lawful manner.

What could you do?

DON'T BE SHY! If you have the time, and can make the commitment, then this is a great opportunity to get involved in the Parish's future and become a part of its history.

To be a candidate you must:

- ✓ *be a British, Commonwealth or Irish citizen; and*
- ✓ *be aged 18 years or over.*

Also, you must fulfil at least one of these criteria:

- ✓ *have been on the electoral register for the Parish; or*
- ✓ *during the whole of the 12 months before your appointment, owned or occupied land or property in the Parish; or*
- ✓ *during that same 12-month period, have had your main place of work in the Parish; or*
- ✓ *during that same 12-month period, have lived in the Parish or within 3 miles of it*

If you are interested and would like more information, please e-mail Parish Clerk, Ann Harris: littlemaplesteadparishclerk@gmail.com

Closing date for applications is 31st December 2022

Nature Notes

The weather, the background to all the natural world, continues to surprise and even alarm us. From the 1st of July until the 18th of October my garden rain gauge recorded just 78 mm of precipitation; from 19th October until 19th November we had 140 mm. Essex is the driest county in England, with an average 500 mm of rain per annum. In the last month we have had more than a quarter of that but the 5 months' total since the beginning of July suggests we might be on course for a 'normal' year. It doesn't feel normal and our November temperatures were very mild indeed. Perhaps reflecting this mild weather was the sight of White Dead-nettle still flowering along roadsides this week and a whole field of rape still yellow.

More typical of the season were mixed flocks of tits moving through woodland canopies and the arrival of winter thrushes from the north. There was a small flock of redwings (right) overhead on the 16th November and then good views of about 20 fieldfares on the 18th, both arriving pretty much at the expected time. Both species are attractive and presage the colder months ahead. They feast on the abundant fruit of



hawthorns, cotoneaster and other berry-bearing plants. Birds like skylarks and yellowhammers are conspicuous by their song in summer but disappear in winter. They don't go anywhere, they just drop out of sight, However, on a mild day and with a little burst of sunshine, a skylark may be persuaded to issue a few notes, even while still on the ground. One such caught my ear a few days ago, but it is just luck if you spot a yellowhammer.



Ravens have been in our area for a couple of years now but remain elusive for such a large bird. I was delighted to spot a pair over Dynes Hall Road last week, my attention being drawn by their deep grok-grok call. They were pursued by a cohort of jackdaws that looked tiny by comparison but fearless, nonetheless. Ravens seem to be spreading over large parts of England that were formerly devoid of the species.

Historically of course they would have been widespread but were driven out by persecution in many areas. I saw a bird over a Surrey heath a couple of weeks ago; when I lived there in the eighties there were none. It's heartening to see birds returning to old haunts, indicating changing attitudes and greater awareness of the value of biodiversity.

Patch Patroller

Great Maplestead

Great Maplestead Volunteer Network

Just to let you know that the Great Maplestead Coronavirus Volunteer Support Network is still up and running.

If you would like any help please do not hesitate to contact me by phone on 01787 461002 or 07773 627897, or by e-mail at jacqui.mee62@gmail.com

Coffee at St Giles

Please join us for coffee on Wednesday mornings in the Deane Chapel at St Giles' – or outdoors in the churchyard, if it's warm enough. We serve from 10.30am until 12 noon. There is no charge – these are social get-togethers, not fundraisers.

Also, we now serve coffee after our regular services, so please join us if you can. More Great Maplestead

Great Maplestead Advent Display 2022



This December, parishioners are, once again, invited to create an advent window/festive garden display as part of the village's Christmas celebrations.

If you would like to register a display, please notify the Parish Clerk which date you would like to reveal your design, from 2nd- 24th December, together with your title/theme for your display (eg: Christmas carol/song/film).

A map of where each display is and daily photos will be circulated via village social media channels.

To start off the event, the village Christmas tree, kindly donated by Joe Newton, will be unveiled on **1st December** on the triangle outside St Giles School in Church St. **Light up time 6.00pm.** This is a community tree so do feel free to add your own decoration to those provided by the village elves.

Let's create another visual treat for us all to enjoy as part of the Christmas festivities!

**Clerk contact details: Ann Crisp 01787 460 216
or email: anncrisp@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk**

Community Playing Field Wins The Lottery



Great Maplestead Parish Council's ambitious £110k Community Playing Field Development Project has received a significant boost by being awarded a £75,000 grant from the National Lottery Community Fund.

More Great Maplestead

More Community Playing Field Wins The Lottery

The project is aimed at revitalising the village playing field, replacing the children's ageing play equipment and providing full access, for people of all abilities, to what is a valuable, and much loved, community amenity.



The thriving village school, which used the playing field as an outdoor learning space during the Covid epidemic and continues with lessons there today, stands to benefit from a new perimeter pathway that can also be used for the pupils' 'Mile-a-Day' challenge.



Since March 2021 an ongoing community fundraising programme has seen donations from individuals, institutions and businesses within in the village reach nearly £37k. Organised social fundraising events, such as a Village Fun(d) Day and Dog Show, quizzes and, in particular, an epic sponsored 1,000-mile bike ride from Land's End to John O'Groats by two residents, which in itself raised over £5k, have been enthusiastically and generously supported.

Work on improving the community playing field has already begun, with the construction of a Boules court, additional picnic benches and the installation of a new drainage system. The Lottery grant award will now allow work to start on the 'access-for-all' pathway and replacement of the children's play equipment.

Leader of the Development Project Team, Cllr. Simon Last, said: "Receiving this National Lottery Community Fund grant has been a wonderful reward for the tremendous efforts put in by everyone involved in the project. The improvements the grant will now enable us to make to the community playing field will a legacy of lasting benefit to residents and visitors to the village for many years to come".

Gill Peskett and Jill Newton

Churchwardens at St Giles, Great
Maplestead

wish all their friends in the four parishes a
very Happy Christmas and a peaceful new
year.

Instead of sending cards we will be
making donations to charity

More Great Maplestead

The Maple Leaves present...

*...information about our New Year activities
There will be no event in January, so our 2023
programme starts with a...*

Social Evening and Fun Quiz



Thursday 2nd February



Starts 7:00pm : Members, Guests & New Members welcome!

Some advance notice...

*Our Guest Speaker on Thursday 2nd March will be
Mary Waterfall talking about her life in the jewellery trade*

*If you're interested in joining The Maple Leaves (the Maplesteads' Independent Ladies Social and Dining Club)
contact Angela Davis (01787 236 007) or simply come along to these events - we look forward to welcoming you!*

Maplesteads' WEA



Many European artists, from the Old Masters to John Constable, Angelica Kauffman, Barbara Hepworth and Graham Sutherland, did preparatory sketches for their art on location.

To find out more about **The Role of On-Location Drawing in Art**, study these and other artists' working methods, examine the value of drawing on location and compare the results with purely studio-based work in an informal, friendly atmosphere, enrol for our **7-week course** online at www.wea.org.uk or by phone on **0300 303 3464 (quoting C2229191)**.

This course starts on **Monday 23rd January**
at **7.00pm** in **Great Maplestead Village Hall**.

We're confident you will find it both enlightening and informative...

Please contact the **Maplesteads' WEA Secretary, Jean Bowers** prior to the first session for any further information:

Tel: **01787 460 181** or E-mail: jean.bowers@wea.ac.uk

More details at <https://greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk/community-village-life/wea/>



Christmas VILLAGE



WALK



Tuesday 27th December

**Starting at 11.00am from the Village Hall.
Finishing at the Village Hall for drinks and nibbles.**

Adults: £2.50 each; Children & Dogs: free

(Please pay at the beginning of the walk)

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Partners: Thomas & Jonathan Self

Gardening Corner

I can hardly believe this is the last 'Gardening Corner' of the year – where have the last twelve months gone?

At this time of year, when colour is not so prevalent in our gardens, ornamental grasses make quite a bold statement. We are experiencing a prolonged wet spell; I would therefore recommend planting in the spring when the soil warms up and we have longer days. Once established, grasses give height and movement to the back of a border – or indeed on their own. Look out for Golden Oat Grass [*Stipa gigantea*], Silver Grass [*Miscanthus sinensis*] and Tall Moor Grass [*Molinia caerulea*] – they all grow to between 1.8 and 2 metres.



My recommended plant of the month has to be an ornamental Holly! *Ilex* [*Argentea Marginata*], the Silver margined holly or *Ilex* [*Golden King*], a lovely shrub with a deep yellow margin to the leaves. If you do plant an ornamental Holly beware – they can grow to 20ft tall or more.

Garlic can be planted any time this month: the old saying goes 'plant on the shortest day and harvest on the longest'. Broad beans can also be sown outside; plant at least 2 inches deep and keep a look-out for mice, especially if you prefer to plant the seed in pots in the greenhouse. This warning also applies to Sweet Pea seed.

Continue to rake up leaves, composting what you can. If you have a shallow pond it is a good idea to place a net over the top to catch any leaves. The net will also discourage visiting herons who will have an eye on any garden pond as their food becomes shorter in the wild; they seem to find gold fish very tasty...

If you have a greenhouse, cold conservatory or zip-up plant protector, ventilate it for 2 to 3 hours on a warm day; this will help keep mould and disease at bay.

A regular winter job is to check the drainage of pots with bulbs, shrubs and small trees planted in them – if the drainage holes become blocked, the pots can become waterlogged. Also, if you can stand your pots on feet or bricks, this helps maintain free drainage and air circulation.

Seasons greeting to you all.

The Arborist





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Gestingthorpe

Gestingthorpe 'Gathering' Coffee Mornings.

Our coffee mornings continue to be a great place for villagers and friends to have a fortnightly 'catch up' over a coffee and cake. Please come along and join us; you will be made very welcome. If you are in Gestingthorpe and you don't want to walk along the roads on a wet and windy day please give Chris or Rose a call on 01787 462763 who would be happy to give you a lift to the village hall.

Our coffee mornings during December will be held on the Fridays of 2nd and 16th and the first ones in 2023 will be on the Fridays of 6th and 20th January.

Funds raised at our coffee mornings go towards the upkeep and running of our village hall.

It is great to see so many regulars and some new faces at our 'gatherings' and to hear the buzz and laughter between everyone enjoying a chat with their friends over a hot or cold drink and delicious home baked cakes.

If you haven't yet been to a coffee morning; please come along. We would love to see you and guarantee a warm welcome.

Candlelit Carol Service

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE
CANDLE-LIT CAROL SERVICE
AT GESTINGTHORPE CHURCH
WEDNESDAY 14 DECEMBER, 6.30
FOR 7PM.
WITH MULLED WINE & MINCE PIES
HANDBELL RINGERS & TOWER
BELLS.
AND THE EXALTATION! CHOIR



Save the Date

Saturday Coffee Morning & Book Sale

Gestingthorpe Village Hall

28 January 2023

10am – 2pm

Celebrating Village Halls Week 2023

More Gestingthorpe

Gestingthorpe Christmas Party



CHRISTMAS PARTY

GESTINGTHORPE VILLAGE HALL

FRIDAY 16 DECEMBER FROM 7PM

Tickets £5 Cash Bar

Email: Gestingthorpevillagehall@gmail.com

Children's Christmas Party

Saturday 10 December

11.30 – 2.00

Gestingthorpe Village Hall

Free to all village children.

Please bring a wrapped present to be given to
your child

To book your tickets email:

Gestingthorpevillagehall@gmail.com

Darcy the Dachshund



Darcy the miniature smooth haired dachshund lives with her family and her big sister Bella in Little Maplestead. She arrived in April this year and settled in quite quickly with Bella to show her the ropes. It is funny how quickly you forget what hard work a puppy is. As with all dachshunds, they train you and not the other way around. She is a really engaging character and seems to find fans wherever she goes.

She has had her moments as a puppy. We were eating lunch one day and the telephone in the kitchen kept beeping intermittently. We were puzzled as to why the phones were playing up, and it wasn't till I saw a busy wagging tail in the corner of the room near the phone socket that I worked out what the problem was. Himself was not best pleased, but he managed to solder the wires and we did not have to buy a new set of phones. Jumpers have been chewed, chocolate stolen, toys disemboweled, Bellas new leather collar inadvertently shortened and sadly she seems to enjoy pruning roses....

Before she arrived, my husband said that I could have any dog I wanted, but he hated dachshunds. Fast forward 8 months and she absolutely adores him, follows him wherever he goes and has to have a little treat from his meals – I think the two things are possibly connected!

Daxies are "marmite" dogs, you either love them or hate them, but now we could not imagine life without her (or her big sister Bella.)

Pebmarsh

Support in Pebmarsh

Pebmarsh Volunteers continue to be here for you during the pandemic. If you need anything, such as if you're isolating/quarantining and need help to collect prescriptions or with shopping, get in touch with Kate Carling (Phone: 267 924) and she will put you in touch with your village Volunteer.

Pebmarsh Village Hall and the Nott Family Trust

The trustees of Pebmarsh Village Hall and the Nott Family Trust wish all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The Nott Family trust thank to all in Pebmarsh and further afield for their continued support enabling us to continue our charitable work within the parish of Pebmarsh.

Like the willow trees that The Nott Family Trust have planted in Pebmarsh, their contribution to the parish grows and goes from strength to strength. (See the front cover photo)

The trustees of Pebmarsh Village Hall give many thanks to all their regular hirers, occasional hirers, visitors and groups in Pebmarsh and further afield for their continued support and custom. It is much appreciated.

They would also like to take the opportunity to introduce to all and welcome Kelly Thompson to the Village Hall committee who will be taking control of our village hall bookings from December 7th 2022.

They both also thank Jenny Bishop, the outgoing editor of the Parish News, for all her hard work and support over the years. Without Jenny's excellent, unstinting community efforts and vision it would be so much more difficult for us to reach everyone.

Special thanks also to Luke Brown, the Pebmarsh contact for the Parish News and all the volunteers that deliver the magazine throughout Pebmarsh every month. Without you all the news would not get through.

To find out more about the Nott Family Trust charitable work please contact them for a chat.

To find out more about Pebmarsh Village Hall please contact them for a chat and/or by email at pebmarshvillagehall@gmail.com

Perry

The Nott Family Trust and Pebmarsh Village Hall

The King's Head Pebmarsh

Ryan and Cathy are planning a number of community events at the King's Head over the next few months, which we hope will be of interest:

More Pebmarsh

More the King's Head Pebmarsh

- Quiz Night: Thursday 1 December
- World Cup Football, screening all the Lion's matches, quarter, semis and finals
- Christmas Stalls, 3 December
- Christmas Carols, with Long Melford Brass Band, 16 December
- New Year's Eve, 31 December - food served 12-6pm

Party with "Into the Sun" from 8pm, tickets £15, includes buffet

If you are planning ahead the opening times at the King's Head will be:

- Sunday 25 December - drinks & nibbles 12-3pm
 - Monday 26 December - drinks 12-5pm, food served 12-3pm
 - Tuesday 27 December - drinks 12-7pm, food served 12-5pm
- As always you can find out about events at the pub via www.kingsheadpebmarsh.co.uk or by following the pub on Facebook @kingsheadpebmarsh or Instagram @kingshead_Pebmarsh

Ryan, Cathy and their team look forward to welcoming you!

St John the Baptist Church Pebmarsh

Thank you to all who attended the village Remembrance service at the war memorial and to the school for kindly inviting us to refreshments in the school hall afterwards. Much warmer than returning to the church and so nice to chat to the children. We also attended the church memorial service at Gestingthorpe this year as part of our group of churches shared services.

Now Remembrance Sunday has passed it's all system go for Christmas with the advent wreath to be in place by the end of November as we see the start of Advent. The Christmas tree will be put in the church by the 5th of December and decorations ready for the carol concert will be in place by the 10th. Lots of lights and fresh greenery which make a festive feeling to the event.

The school children will be providing the tree decorations and we will have a small tree which the youth club will be making the decorations for in the next couple of weeks. I'm looking forward to seeing what they bring to the church.

We hold the Carol concert each year with the Long Melford Silver Band playing. It is our main fund raising event during the year and only happens due to the generosity of Bob Lane who books and pays for them to come. We have a collection which goes to the Church – so tickets are not required. Come and help make Christmas special for everyone and see the children's hard work.

More Pebmarsh

More St John the Baptist Church Pebmarsh

We have lots of Christmas cards to sell at £7.50 for 10 so please contact myself on 01787269092 sarahburgess@btinternet.com or John Flack on 07768605590 team@friendsofpebmarshchurch.uk. We do have some available at the church and you can put the money in the box by the door or pick up one of our giving cards with our bank details and reference it: "Christmas cards".

We have good news for the new year as we have managed to secure a grant to help pay for the church wall repair next to the Manor House. This is thanks to Enovert who have granted us £12,000.00 which is going to be put together with the money raised by the Friends of Pebmarsh Church. Thank you to Perry Crimmins for helping put all the paperwork together. Work will start initially in January and then progress once the frosts have passed.

Sarah Burgess

Pebmarsh Church Warden



St John the Baptist Church Pebmarsh

CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT

Sunday 11th December 2022

4pm



With The Long Melford Silver Band
In aid of Pebmarsh church

Omelette Popovers

This recipe is one of the many low-cost, easy to make meals that have been suggested by Great Maplestead's Community Cost of Living Liaison Group: copies can be picked up from the Warm Haven in St Giles' Church.

The recipe offers an alternative way of making omelettes that look very appealing and taste delicious.

Ingredients

Spray oil (to grease)
1 small onion
140g Cheddar cheese
150g frozen peas
6 large eggs
2x15ml fresh chopped chives
 or 1x5ml dried chives
 or 1x5ml other herbs
Ground black pepper (optional)
1x15ml water

Equipment

Measuring spoons
12-hole muffin tin
Sharp knife
Chopping board
Grater
Medium mixing bowl
Small bowl or large jug
Ladle or large spoon
Mixing spoon
Palette knife or spatula

Instructions

Preheat the oven to 180°C/160°C fan or gas mark 4.

Spray the holes of the muffin tin with the spray oil.

Peel and finely chop the onion and divide equally between the holes

Put in the oven for 5 minutes.

Weigh and grate the Cheddar cheese. Put the peas into a medium bowl and add the grated cheese.

Wash and chop the herbs and add to the cheese mixture.

Break the eggs into a small bowl and add them to the cheese and peas mix.

Add some black pepper to the mixture (to taste) and add the water.

Mix with a fork until the peas have separated from each other and the eggs are well mixed.

Carefully remove the muffin tin from the oven.

Using a ladle, divide the mixture between the 12 holes and with a spoon stir each one to mix in the onion. Return to the oven for 15 minutes or until golden brown on the top.

Allow to cool for 5 minutes then remove the popovers with a spatula.

Notes:

Chopped peppers, mushrooms and red onion make a delicious alternative to the peas – but soften them in a frying pan first!

The popovers are great served with a side salad and some slices of bread.

They will keep for 48 hours in an airtight container in the fridge. Alternatively, freeze them between sheets of baking paper and then transfer them to a plastic bag or container. They can be stored in the freezer for up to a month.



Middleton P.C.C. present to you a

CHRISTMAS MARKET

Middleton Church (CO10 7LN). Everyone Welcome.
Admission Free!

SATURDAY 3RD DECEMBER
1.00PM – 4.00PM

Christmas Handicrafts,
Cakes and Preserves, Raffle, Gift Bag Tombola and Lots More.

The Raffle will include a Luxury Hamper plus
many other fantastic prizes.

Seasonal refreshments served all afternoon,
so come and sample our festive fare!



The Warm Haven @ St Giles Church.

In response to the cost of living crisis St Giles Church are pleased to be able to provide a warm space in the church. The 'Warm Haven' is at the back of St Giles church, and is set up for our use during the Winter months, it has comfortable chairs, throws and tea/coffee making facilities are also available. There are a host of information leaflets, recipes, a small library and activities to help pass the time, as well as accessible wifi. The room will be open Monday-Saturday during daylight hours.

It's a great space to sit quietly, to work or to meet with others to pass what can be a lonely time in winter months. Everyone is most welcome to make use of this facility.

Thanks to Great Maplestead Parish Council and members of the 'Community Cost of Living Crisis Group' for their support. They will drop in from time to time should you be looking for specific information/help or wish to share any ideas/suggestions for us all. Alternatively you can email them at gmcostoflivingcrisis@gmail.com

Information leaflets may also be downloaded via the Parish Council website at <https://greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk/community-cost-of-living...> Rev'd Beverley

.Hedingham Heritage Society

****Saturday 3 December: Our Christmas Social**** with Tracey's superb food, and musical entertainment from Gareth Buckland and friends.

Tickets still available - contact any of the numbers below.

All welcome – £22.50 per head.

7.00pm for 7.30pm – Castle Hedingham Memorial Hall

Wednesday 28 December: A Christmas Walk in the Hedinghams – a mystery walk of 3-4 miles through the winter countryside.

Meet 10.30am – Castle Hedingham Memorial Hall

Thursday 5th January 2023: AGM – followed by 'Heroes and Villains' – Ashley Cooper presents Part 3 of a pictorial history of the Essex-Suffolk border.

7.30pm – Castle Hedingham Memorial Hall

Our new programme for 2023 will be available at this meeting. Come and join the Society for the year – £15.00 membership for monthly events.

All walks and talks – Members free; non-members £5

Rob Worley 01787460664: Trudi Cullum 01787462889

Peter Bayes 01787469953

hedinghamheritage@gmail.com

Or reach us at:

www.hedinghamheritage.org

Local information

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 acantor56@outlook.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 Agents; 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.

Clare Bridge Club: <https://www.bridgewebs.com/clare/>

Hedingham Medical Centre



The Castle Hedingham 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.

From Saturday 1 October 2022, out-of-hours appointments will be available from 6.30pm to 8pm on weekdays, and from 9am to 5pm on Saturdays.

An out-of-hours appointment might not be at your regular GP surgery. When you book an appointment, you will be told where the appointment will be.

Local and National Authority Representatives

Essex County Council

Councillor Peter Schwier - cllr.peter.schwier@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

www.greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk

Little Maplestead

www.littlemaplesteadpc.co.uk

Pebmarsh

www.parishcouncil.pebmarsh.com

Village Emergency Telephone Service (VETS)

VETS 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

Neighbourhood Watch representatives

Gestingthorpe

Helen Skerratt

01787 237297

Great Maplestead

Ian Johnson

01787 461109

Little Mapestead

Bill Piper

01787 473933

The Churchwardens serving our Benefice are

Great Maplestead

Gill Peskett

01787 462786

gillpeskett43@gmail.com

Jill Newton

01787 463893

gilliannewton4@gmail.com

Little Maplestead

Gestingthorpe

Alice Nolda

01787 469688

-

Peter Nice

01787 460126

peter.427nice@btinternet.com

Pebmarsh

Jim Crayston

07957870340

jim@craystonfarms.co.uk

Sarah Burgess

01787 269092

sarahburgess@btinternet.com

Church Services in December 2022 and January 2023

Sunday 4 December	9:30 Holy Communion Great Maplestead 9:30 Morning Prayer Gestingthorpe 11am Holy Communion Little Maplestead
Sunday 11 December	10:30 Café Church Great Maplestead 11:00 Holy Communion Gestingthorpe 4pm Carol Concert with Silver Band Pebmarsh
Wednesday 14 December	7:00pm Carol Service Gestingthorpe
Sunday 18 December	10:00 Holy Communion Great Maplestead
Monday 19 December	7:30pm Carol Service Great Maplestead
Tuesday 20 December	7pm Carol Service Little Maplestead
Saturday 24 December	4pm Crib Service Little Maplestead 10pm Holy Communion Pebmarsh
Sunday 25 December	9:30 Holy Communion Gestingthorpe 10:00 Christmas Worship Great Maplestead 10:30 Christmas Worship Little Maplestead
Sunday 4 January	10:30 Halstead Area Team Service Gestingthorpe
Sunday 8 January	9:30 Holy Communion Pebmarsh 10:30 Café Church Great Maplestead 11:00 Holy Communion Gestingthorpe
Sunday 15 January	10:00 Benefice Holy Communion Little Maplestead
Wednesday 18 January	10:00 Holy Communion Gestingthorpe
Sunday 22 January	9:30 Holy Communion Great Maplestead 9:30 Morning Prayer Little Maplestead 11:00 Morning Worship Pebmarsh 4pm Compline Gestingthorpe

Braintree Area Foodbank

Please do not forget the Braintree Area Foodbank over the Christmas and New Year period.

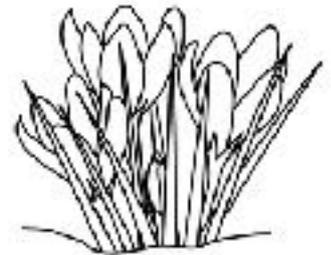


Coming up and save the date

Wednesday mornings Coffee at St Giles, Great Maplestead
Friday mornings fortnightly Gestingthorpe "Gathering" Coffee Mornings
1 December Kings Head Quiz Night Pebmarsh
3 December Christmas Market Middleton
2-24 December Advent Display Great Maplestead
3 December Christmas Stalls Kings Head Pebmarsh
10 December Children's Christmas Party Gestingthorpe
16 December Christmas Party Gestingthorpe
16 December Kings Head Christmas Carols Pebmarsh
27 December Great Maplestead Village Walk
31 December The Kings Head New Years Eve Pebmarsh
23 January Maplesteads' WEA Great Maplestead
28 January Saturday Morning Coffee and Book Sale Gestingthorpe
2 February Maple Leaves presents a Social Evening and Fun Quiz Great
Maplestead

The Reverend Beverley Vincent

khvicar@gmail.com 07944 200132
The Rectory 01787 460273
Church Street
Great Maplestead
Halstead
CO9 2RG



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The copy deadline for the February 2023 magazine is **Friday 20 January 2023**

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	07906 083999	pmeditor@icloud.com
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Little Maplestead	Beverley Bratley	01787 473281	beverley.bratley@gmail.com
Pebmarsh	Luke Brown	07919 375341	lhwbrown@hotmail.co.uk

Parish News Website

The magazine is available on the Parish News website, which is a gateway to our four villages and their churches. The website address is:

www.knights-hospitallers.org.uk