

**Parish  
News**

# **Great and Little Maplestead Pebmarsh and Gestingthorpe**

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**Church and Community together**  
**December 2020 - January 2021**

**Free**

## Village contacts and information

Reverend Beverley Vincent and the churchwardens see page 20.

Village Emergency Telephone Service and Neighbourhood Watch representatives see page 19

Magazine copy see page 20

### 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		<a href="https://www.mollyswood.org/contact">https://www.mollyswood.org/contact</a>

## Letter from the editor



Well, what a bumper issue, 32 pages. It is super that so many groups and individuals have submitted interesting copy for the magazine.

The good news is that the Reverend Beverley has been appointed team vicar for our four parishes. We welcome her. Sadly, we are losing Karen De Pietro our headteacher at the St John the Baptist Primary School. We wish her all the best in her retirement.

Our parishes have found many ways of being active whilst in lockdown. Particularly impressive is Pebmarsh and all their art works. It is heartening to see.

The Hedingham Medical Centre has sent a letter to you all that they have asked us to publish

Christmas will be quieter this year, with singing frowned on. So it is good to see that a drive in carol service has been arranged at Chelmsford City Racecourse and, as usual our back page has the times, dates and locations of our services over Christmas and the New year.

This is the final issue of 2020. It has been an interesting year. Very heartening to see the support that the four villages have offered. Our next issue is not until February 2021. Whilst that might look as if we now have some time off, it is our busiest time as we have to attract all the advertisers for next year, sort out payments, arrange copy etc etc. Wish us luck.

We wish you all a Happy Christmas and positive new year.

With love to you all.

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## Letter from the Reverend Beverley Vincent

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It is with great joy that I am able to announce that I have been appointed as Team Vicar with responsibility for the 'Knights Hospitallers' parishes of Great and Little Maplestead, Gestingthorpe and Pebmarsh. My husband Barry and I will be moving to the Rectory at Great Maplestead in due course.

We are really excited to be part of your communities and look forward to getting to know you better as restrictions ease. The joy I feel at this prospect is tempered though by the impending constraints on our seasonal festivities.

I know that preparing for Advent and Christmas this year is going to be a challenge. Advent is traditionally a period of waiting in anticipation of the coming of the Messiah, and Christmas is a time of joy and celebration as our hope is realised in the birth of Jesus Christ.

This year in particular we have grown used to waiting, waiting to come out of lockdown, waiting to see loved ones, waiting to give someone a hug, waiting for an end to the pandemic. Waiting can be difficult, frustrating and at times depressing, but Christmas is coming and with it our sign of hope, Christ the light that shines in our darkness.

This year has also been one of hardships and uncertainties. For some, fear lurks around every corner and there is the threat that Christmas may be cancelled. Christmas will almost certainly be different this year, but the love and hope, the light and joy that Jesus brought to the manger on that very first Christmas is still God's gift to us, and that can never be cancelled even in very uncertain times.

I wish you all a safe and blessed Advent, a Happy Christmas and a hope filled 2021.

Rev'd Beverley



### Parish News Website

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The Parish News website is a gateway to our four villages and their churches. The website address is:

[www.knights-hospitallers.org.uk](http://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 Coronavirus outbreak.

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**

<b>Halstead, High Street</b>	<b>07:30</b>	<b>10:00</b>	<b>12:00</b>	<b>14:00</b>	<b>16:30</b>	<b>18:30</b>
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
<b>Sudbury, Bus Station</b>	<b>08:07</b>	<b>10:37</b>	<b>12:37</b>	<b>14:37</b>	<b>17:07</b>	<b>18:50</b>
<b>Sudbury, Bus Station</b>	<b>08:26</b>	<b>10:56</b>	<b>12:56</b>	<b>14:56</b>	<b>17:26</b>	<b>19:07</b>

### **SUDBURY - BULMER - GESTINGTHORPE - WICKHAM ST. PAUL'S - PEBMARSH - GREAT MAPLESTEAD -**

### **Mondays to Saturdays**

<b>Sudbury, Bus Station</b>		<b>09:00</b>	<b>11:00</b>	<b>13:00</b>	<b>15:30</b>	<b>17:30</b>	<b>19:15</b>
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
<b>Halstead, High Street</b>		<b>09:37</b>	<b>11:37</b>	<b>13:37</b>	<b>16:07</b>	<b>18:07</b>	<b>19:35</b>
<b>Halstead, High Street</b>		<b>09:56</b>	<b>11:56</b>	<b>13:56</b>	<b>16:26</b>	<b>18:26</b>	<b>19:52</b>





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'Christmas Jingling without the Mingling!'  
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NANCY MAY

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For further details please contact  
Philip Wilson [Philip@fcn.org.uk](mailto:Philip@fcn.org.uk) or  
Revd Canon Janet Nicholls [jnicholls@chelmsford.anglican.org](mailto:jnicholls@chelmsford.anglican.org)



Dear Patients,

As this year draws to an end and 2021 approaches the team here at the Hedingham Medical Centre have been reflecting on the most challenging year many of us have worked through during our NHS careers.



For the first time ever we have had to close our surgeries doors in order to keep our patients safe, Covid 19 has highlighted that our lovely old buildings are not pandemic friendly , we simply cannot implement a safe in and out flow to allow us to freely open our doors. We have had to adapt to how we provide our services to you our patients and you have had to adapt with us, we are fully aware it has not always been easy. We aim to open our doors as soon as is safe to do so.

Our team of dedicated Doctors and Nurses have continued to see patients even though the doors are closed. The telephone call back system means that we are having more patient contacts than the pre-Covid days. Our dispensers have continued to provide prescriptions even if through a window or front door. Our receptionists continually answer the telephone to make appointments and deal with queries and are facing rapidly rising demand coupled with patient frustration.

We have heard your frustrations regarding the telephone system and as I write our phone system is being updated to enable us to improve patient experience. We apologise if you are having to wait outside for prescriptions, we can only serve one patient at a time, safely. We appreciate the way our neighbours have borne this disruption with good grace and thank them for their understanding. Patients can use the NHS App to access our services electronically.

This year really has been a year like no other and despite the challenges and frustrations the team have continued to provide the best service that we can.

We have been humbled by the kindness of patients, we would like to thank those of you that have sewn scrubs or face masks or made visors, Thank you to the patient that had hand sanitizer delivered to us.

Thank you to those of you that have popped along with treats such as scones or ice creams, biscuits or chocolates; they always raise a smile and are always appreciated.

Finally, thank you for your kind words, some days we have really needed to hear "well done" we simply cannot put into words how much it means.

We would like to wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and we hope that 2021 will allow a return to a more familiar practice for all of us.

You can stay informed by visiting our website [www.hedmed.co.uk](http://www.hedmed.co.uk) or following us on facebook.

Stay safe and well. Best Wishes, The Hedingham Medical Centre.

## Local Companies supporting us

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**Courtyard Stores** in Pebmarsh are open and delivering and allowing for collection. The butcher sets up in the courtyard on a regular basis. For further information look at [www.facebook.com/courtyardstores](http://www.facebook.com/courtyardstores) or ring 01787 389222. It is open from 7am to 7pm and can be found at The Courtyard, Pebmarsh CO9 2NU.

**The Forager's Retreat** in Pebmarsh is providing freshly prepared takeaway meals, look at their website [www.theforagersretreat.co.uk](http://www.theforagersretreat.co.uk) or ring 01787 389123. Their food can be accessed through the Courtyard Stores

**The Pheasant** in Gestingthorpe is also providing freshly prepared meals, phone 01787 465010 to find out when and how.

**The Mobile Lunch Company** is delivering freshly prepared meals. Visit [www.themobilelunchcompany.co.uk](http://www.themobilelunchcompany.co.uk) 01787 476264

**The Kings Head** in Pebmarsh have reopened.

## Lockdown Stories

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### Molly's Wood

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These lovely Rudolf sweet packs have been put together by Sue...on sale £3 each or 2 for £5...contains choc Raisons, buttons maltesers and jelly beans...no nuts! In aid of Mollys wood.

Anyone interested let me know! [v.gibbons@hotmail.com](mailto:v.gibbons@hotmail.com)

Christmas starts now! 🎅 🧑🏻🎄 🤩 🤩 🤩





# Pebmarsh

## Support in Pebmarsh

Over 50 Pebmarsh residents have volunteered, and the volunteers are helping with tasks such as shopping and collecting prescriptions, as well as generally keeping an eye on the people in their area.

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.

### St John the Baptist Primary School & Pebmarsh in Bloom



Children from St John the Baptist primary school have drawn and painted flower-inspired pictures to support Pebmarsh In Bloom. The Parish Council would like the pictures to decorate the village bus stop at Clay Hills, Pebmarsh so please do go and check them out. Jo Clayman



## More Pebmarsh

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### Pebmarsh Village Hall

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The volunteers that constitute the Pebmarsh Village Hall Management Committee wish to thank all our wonderful patrons that hired, used, visited and supported Pebmarsh Village Hall throughout 2020, one of the most challenging years in our history.

At the time of writing your village hall is currently closed as it complies with the government COVID 19 regulations in place covering village halls, as relayed to us from both A.C.R.E. and R.C.C.E. which are the organisations helping us through this unique period. The closure of the village hall has given us the opportunity to undertake a deep clean of the facilities to ensure we are ready to open when the restrictions are relaxed.

A big thank you also to Jenny Bishop and Jan Bond of the Parish News team and Paul Clarke Printing Ltd for making our Parish News magazine possible, also to all those volunteers that deliver your free copies, month in and month out come rain or shine, your stars shine bright and are much appreciated.

We wish all a healthy and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone.

Stay safe. Jonathan, Alastair, Tricia, Kathy and Perry

Pebmarsh Village Hall Management Committee

### **News from St John the Baptist Primary School, Pebmarsh**

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It is wonderful to have the school open again after such a long, worrying and unprecedented time. It was lovely to see all the children and parents after only conversing by telephone or email! School staff worked extremely hard during the summer to prepare the school and classrooms for the return of the children following the Government guidelines. The children have all settled back into working hard and have adapted to all the new rules and routines extremely well. We chose our curriculum Big Question –'What Colour is...?' to enable children to work on emotions and feelings, resilience, adaptation and also just to allow them to express themselves artistically and through literacy.

**Harvest Festival** - A very different Harvest Festival was celebrated by the children this year, but we still tried to stick to our Pebmarsh traditions. Using 'Google Meet' each class 'bubble' participated in the service with poems, pictures and prayers. Food donations were collected in hampers, which were donated to the local FoodBank. Although we are not permitted to sing in school presently, we still managed to end our service with our traditional Harvest song 'Big Red Combine Harvester'! The whole school performed the actions to the recorded song!

## More Pebmarsh

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### News from St John the Baptist Primary School, Pebmarsh

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**Remembrance** - Despite not being able to attend the village Remembrance Day Service at the War Memorial on November 11th as usual, (due to Lockdown 2,) the whole school came together for the first time since school reopened, to remember those who have fought for our country. Socially distanced, the class bubbles met on the school playground to celebrate in their own way, as we listened to the bugle playing 'The Last Post' at the village ceremony. Each class paid their own tribute by reading poems and prayers and laying painted stones on our large paper poppy. The names of the fallen were read out as pupils laid crosses dedicated to each one, and the pupils laid their own poppies on the centre piece. The two-minute silence then ended with the children listening to our own 'Last Post' recording. It was a beautiful ceremony!

**September 2021 Admissions Open** - If you are thinking of applying for a place at St John the Baptist CEVA Primary School, please look at our school website <https://stjohnthebaptist.pebmarsh.com/> or make arrangements to visit see what we have to offer by making a personal appointment at the school office on 01787 269300. You can apply online for a primary (Reception) place between 9th November 2020 until the 15th January 2021. Please pass these details to anyone you know with pre-school children!

Unfortunately, this is my last article for the Parish Magazine, as I will sadly be saying 'Goodbye' to this amazing village school due to my imminent retirement. However, I am sure the new headteacher will continue to take the school from strength to strength. Karen De Pietro Headteacher

### School Governor Vacancies at Pebmarsh – You can help!

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After many years of a strong and supportive Governor team, we find that four vacancies have come up due to 10 year tenures coming to an end. We are keen to have new members on board from the local Community to help support the school.

Governors act as a constructive friend to the school, bringing their perspective and experience to strategic decisions the school has to make. The most important thing a governor can bring is a passion to support the school, but additional skills in IT/website skills, Human Resources and Safe Guarding experience, Headship or teaching experience (retired or active) are also particularly useful and relevant.

The school works closely with the Community, bringing so many families together and puts on a well-attended village Fete every year. With approximately 80 pupils, Pebmarsh primary now supports not only Pebmarsh, Alphamstone, and Lamarsh.....

## More Pebmarsh

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### School Governor Vacancies at Pebmarsh – You can help!

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but now has a large number of children from as far afield as Halstead, Great Cornard and other surrounding towns and villages. Governors generally meet 7 times a year in the evening and do a couple of school monitoring visits during the school day.

If you are interested in nominating yourself for a Governor role or would like to understand more, please contact the school office on 01787 269300.

### Armistice Day

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On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month Pebmarsh paid its respects with a service at the Pebmarsh war memorial. Wreaths were laid by Jonathan Nott and vice chair of Pebmarsh Parish Council Jacqueline Tufnell.

There was a good attendance which was lovely to see. Also it was possible to meet and welcome our new vicar, the Revd Beverley, who will be a great asset to both the church community and Pebmarsh as a whole.





## More Pebmarsh

### Halloween in Pebmarsh

Despite the children not being able to go Trick or Treating this year, Halloween was celebrated in style in Pebmarsh with various gardens and in one case a car being decorated.



### Pebmarsh Pebble Painting

Some more beautifully decorated stones were placed around the village footpaths during November, commemorating Remembrance Day. Some found their way to the War Memorial in time for the service on 11th November. Once again thank you to whoever is painting these, you are very talented and brighten the day for many people finding these on their walks around the village.





# **Gestingthorpe**

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## **Support in Gestingthorpe**

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Please if you are self isolating, or scared, or lonely or need any help please contact Carrie on 07872 170277 or Helen on 07793 402297 if you live in the Church Street, Sudbury Road and Nether Hill area and Nic 07908445239, Penny 07840 367172 or Kate 07771 535523 for the Audley End, Moat Street and outlying areas. The village is there to help you.

## **What the village got up to in November**

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Throughout November during the second national lockdown, both Kate Abbott Pilates and Nic Smith Fun Fit Fab exercise classes have been taking place over the internet for those who wish to maintain their cardiovascular and flexibility fitness. With restrictions on social gatherings and activities - residents have had to rise to the challenge of finding alternatives via connectivity to the internet. Now that our village is nearing the completion of a hyperfast fibre optic network with properties starting to be connected to the infrastructure laid during the first lockdown earlier this year, the ability to connect with friends and family outside the village and within, should be a lot easier.

## **Gestingthorpe Parish Council**

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The Gestingthorpe Parish Council had their first successful zoom meeting during November with 11 participants logged in at one point - the Village Hall Committee hope to repeat a similar online meeting in the New Year following the deferral of their planned AGM which was conducted via email. Have no fear that the facilities and unseen smooth running of the village is taking place during these restricted times and we look forward to welcoming you all again to events in the future when the situation allows.

## **Gestingthorpe History Group**

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December 4th 1895 - "Moses Carder a labourer of Gestingthorpe was charged with being drunk and disorderly in North Street, Sudbury on Sunday night, P.C.Mansfield said he saw defendant hopelessly drunk and he took him to the police station as he was a stranger to him, defendant asked me if I would let him go and he would never go near a beer-house again. 2s 6d with 6s costs".

## **Gestingthorpe Village Hall Committee**

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The Annual General Meeting was held, as a virtual meeting, by E-mail on 12th November 2020. This unusual approach of an AGM by E-mail was necessary because of the COVID-19 restrictions that did not allow a gathering of any number of people inside the village hall. We had originally planned to hold the meeting by using an online video link.

# More Gestingthorpe

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## More Gestingthorpe Village Hall Committee

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Unfortunately, an earlier use of the system proved unsatisfactory so E-mail for the AGM was decided upon.

Nine Committee members attended by E-mail and there was one apology. Four villagers had asked to be provided with the meeting details and Agenda.

E-mail was used to present and vote on the Minutes from the 2019 meeting, the 31st march 2020 Accounts and to circulate the Reports by the Chairman, the Treasurer and the Secretary.

Myra Quick stood down from the role of Secretary and Terry Flower stood down from the role as the Representative Member for Gestingthorpe Parish Council. The village hall committee is grateful to both of them for their valued help and support both on the committee and in the ongoing running and improvement of our village hall.

Voting by E-mail took place at the AGM for those who would be Committee members for the period from 12th November to the 2021 AGM that is to be held in June 2021.

The roles of Committee members are decided upon at the committee meeting that immediately followed the AGM. Each Representative member under the Trust Deed is automatically a village hall committee member. The votes for the Elected roles were cast (also by E-mail).

We welcome Claire Craig to the committee. Claire is the Representative Member for the Parish Council.

The village hall committee members for 2020 / 2021 are:

### **Elected members:**

Chairman : Chris Harman

Vice Chairman : Roger Goldsmith

Secretary : Steph Prior

(also a Representative member)

Treasurer : Penny Bagby

Bookings Secretary : Steve Bagby

Members: Geoff Quick and Myra Quick

### **Representative members:**

Parish Council : Claire Craig

Parochial Church Council : Peter Nice

Cricket Club : Steph Prior

(also the Secretary)

G-thorpe History Group : Andy Craig

Football Club : Vacant post



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**Builder in a Bottle Overlays (BIAB)**

**Nail Art**

Stablefield House, Gestingthorpe Instagram: @blushandrosebeauty Email: blushandroseb@gmail.com  
Call: 07766243245

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 GESTINGTHORPE

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 @KATEABBOTTPILATES

MAT PILATES

REFORMER  
PILATES





## More Gestingthorpe



### **GESTINGTHORPE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION**

**BOOK VOUCHERS FOR YOUR CHILDREN- NOW EXTENDED!**

Books can give joy, hope and knowledge this winter!

The Foundation is offering a £30 voucher to all households in the ancient parish of Gestingthorpe who have children of either Primary or Secondary School age.

To get a voucher please contact Jane with the names and ages of your children

[jane@crumpton-taylor.com](mailto:jane@crumpton-taylor.com) or 01787460277 or 07491690510

## More remembrance rocks



# More Gestingthorpe

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## Remembrance Sunday 8th November 2020

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Gestingthorpe, Essex.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.

'For the Fallen' written by Robert Laurence Binyon (1869 – 1943)



## More Gestingthorpe

### Works to retaining wall on Sudbury Road, Gestingthorpe

We would like to make you aware preparations are being made to replace the retaining wall which runs along Belchamp Brook on Sudbury Road, Gestingthorpe.

The existing watercourse will be moved further away from the road and the failing concrete retaining wall is to be replaced with an engineered embankment to support the carriageway. This will allow the road to be widened and kerbed, especially on the bend at Hill Farm.

The works are proposed to begin in January 2021 and are programmed to last for 6 weeks. There will be a full road closure during the works, however there will be occasions when two way traffic signals can be utilised and these will allow single file traffic past the works i.e. at weekends. It is felt that a road closure would be safer for the workforce and passing traffic.

W: [www.essex.gov.uk/highways](http://www.essex.gov.uk/highways)



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Find us on Facebook @affinitypasolutions

Pebmarsh | Essex  
01787 701237



# Little Maplestead

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## Support in Little Maplestead

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The Little Maplestead support group are feeling very lonely and left out, as we are currently doing very little to help anyone in the village.

This is hopefully a good thing because very few people need support, or it could be a bad thing because people who need support are not requesting it.

Please contact Bill Piper on 01787473933.

Jane Stone on 01787472525

Gemma Frost on 07826523187

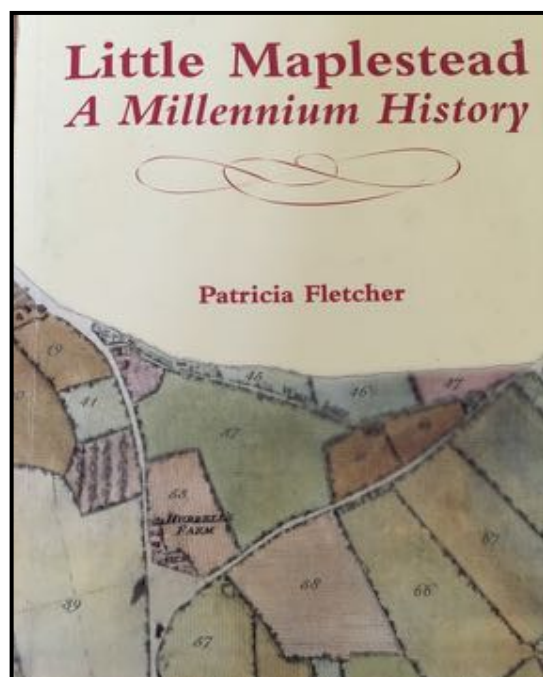
We can collect drugs, search the internet if you do not have a computer, or just be a friendly voice on the other end of the phone.

If you are aware of anyone in the village who you are concerned about, or you feel may need support please contact one of us.

Stay Safe and we wish everyone a Very Happy Christmas and Happy New Year

## Little Maplestead - A Millenium History

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This most fascinating book tells the history of the village, from the very earliest settlement in the eleventh century, right up to the millennium. Every house in the village is mentioned and you can discover some very interesting facts about each one. I have some books available for purchase.

The money raised will go towards church funds.

The cover price was £6.99, but they can now be bought for a small donation. We have arrangements in place to keep your purchase covid safe, such as contactless or cash in an envelope. If you would like one copy or several copies, please contact me, details below.

We really need the support of the village as church funds are really low as we have been unable to fund-raise since March, and collections from services have been decimated too.

If you would like to purchase copies for yourself or for a truly unique Christmas presents,

please contact Jane on 01787 473933.

## More Little Maplestead

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### Little Maplestead Parish Council

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We have missed meetings, and held meetings outdoors so far this year, all because of the Covid 19 virus.

We are hoping to have a meeting on the 16 December, but this will depend on the restrictions that are in force at that time.

In the meantime if anyone has any issues or points they want to raise please contact Ann Harris. She can be contacted on [littlemaplesteadparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:littlemaplesteadparishclerk@gmail.com)

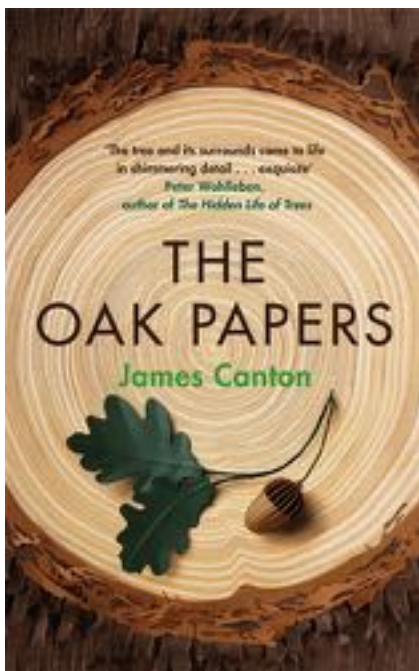
Thanking you.

The Parish Council wishes everyone a very Happy and Safe Christmas, and here's hoping that 2021 will be a better year for us all.

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### Local Author James Canton

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The Oak Papers is a book which is very much centred on our local parish and a tale of oaks in the area especially The Honeywood Oak at Marks Hall Estate. There's a nice piece here from BBC PM programme, if you have a few moments: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p08lrs10>

James Canton spent two years sitting with and studying the ancient Honeywood Oak. A colossus of a tree, it would have been a sapling when the Magna Carta was signed. Inevitably he needs to slow down in order to appreciate it fully, to tune in to its slower time frame, to connect with the ecosystem that lives around it, inside it and beneath it.

This leads him to investigate our long-standing dependency on the mighty oak, and how this has developed and morphed into myth and legend. We no longer build our houses and boats from them, use them to fuel our fires; physically, we don't need them in the same way now. Or do we?

Blending personal experience with cultural legacy, The Oak Papers is a meditative and healing book about the lessons we can learn from the natural world, if only we slow down enough to listen.

James would be delighted to sign or write a dedication in any copies of the book – perhaps a Christmas gift? –



# Great Maplestead

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## Great Maplestead Volunteer Network

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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](mailto:jacqui.mee62@gmail.com)

### MAPLESTEAD ADVENT DECORATIONS



**The Maplestead Advent Calendar still has some dates to fill, so please consider helping to complete the calendar by displaying a festive window or garden display. Drop me an email or phone me to select one of the remaining dates. Let's light up the Maplesteads this Christmas!**

**Ann Crisp 01787 460216**

**Email: [anncriab@areatmaplesteadbc.co.uk](mailto:anncriab@areatmaplesteadbc.co.uk)**

### **A Great Maplestead Lockdown Remembrance Sunday'**

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The Covid pandemic has put a damper on nearly all social events this year, a year when the first lockdown prevented the commemoration of 75 years since the end of the European conflict of World War 2 and the second lockdown partially stifling attempts to commemorate this year's Remembrance Sunday.

To use the pandemic as an excuse not to acknowledge these events seemed lame. My son James and I believed we could produce something safely, within current Covid regulations, and create a video memory that would be respectful of the act of remembrance, and at the same time incorporate scenes of our rural heritage that would enhance the reflective nature of the occasion.

We had serious time constraints as lockdown regulations limited our filming options, I created a series of storyboards to open the film that I hoped would reinforce the quintessential Englishness of our local countryside, and to trip the emotions, support it with appropriate English music. I chose the opening of the third movement of Vaughan Williams Fifth Symphony, and I think it works very well.

## More Great Maplestead

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### More a Great Maplestead Lockdown Remembrance Sunday'

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Recruiting the stars of the show was pretty easy. Gill Peskett and Jill Newton, our overworked church wardens were very keen to recognise the occasion and take part in the film. James filmed their sequence in one take, the day before lockdown. The outside shots were filmed on the Saturday before Remembrance Sunday. Luckily the weather was perfect. The plan was to gently open the film with tranquil rural scenes, building to the relative hubbub of the act of remembrance, and then after the act, to subdue the mood for a moment of quiet reflection. Further music would have overpowered this solemn moment, so James disappeared into a wood to record a passage of birdsong which he dubbed over the final scenes. This creating a sense of peace, to bring the work to a tranquil conclusion.

He used a two-camera set up, a DJi Osmo Pocket 2 and a DJi Mavic Mini Drone. These are really easy to use systems, with the Pocket 2 capable of recording in 4kHD and Mavic Mini Drone in 2.1k to provide excellent quality images. The editing was done by James on his phone, as he didn't have a great laptop set up. He uses the "Inshot" app costing £2.99 per month, which provides easily applied filtering and editing options, to give the video Grade A Blockbuster colouring and look. I hope you agree he has done an outstanding job.

Because the drone is no bigger than a medium sized table mat, it was quite difficult to spot at its maximum legal height of 120 metres. At one point as the drone disappeared behind some trees, the only thing that reassured us it hadn't come to a sticky end was hearing what sounded like a swarm of bees emanating from the undergrowth.

The disadvantage of filming rural scenes in November is the lack of greenery. We were lucky when shooting the first video in the spring, as the countryside was bursting into life, but there is a predominance of brown in autumn. Having said that, James worked hard to improve the colour in a number of sequences.

Hopefully we will be back to some sort of normality when these national events come around again and, rather than filming, we are all able to take part in commemorating and celebrating. I would like to thank Gill and Jill for their outstanding performances, but most of all, James, without whom none of this would have been possible. The two YouTube links are below.

<https://youtu.be/T6fK00Dp9DI> - Great Maplestead Lockdown Remembrance Sunday

<https://youtu.be/rg7NfMS8fGY> - VE75 Great Maplestead Commemoration 8 May '20

By Martin Elms

# *Christmas* (socially-distanced)



## *VILLAGE WALK*



### **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December**

**Meet at 11.00am in Great Maplestead Village Hall Car Park**  
**Half-way refreshments provided**  
**Drinks and nibbles served at the finish**

To participate, please e-mail: [steve198harris@gmail.com](mailto:steve198harris@gmail.com) with contact phone numbers

**Adults: £2.50 each; Children/dogs: free**

**All proceeds to the Village Hall – please pay before the start of the walk**

**Participants should be prepared to respect whatever Government guidelines on social distancing are in force at the time.**

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

**Gill Peskett and Jill Newton**



**Churchwardens at St. Giles, Great Maplestead**

**wish all their friends in the 4 parishes**

**a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.**

**Instead of sending cards**

**we will be making donations to charity**

## More Great Maplestead

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### Remembering Remembrance ...

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Surprisingly, I remember my very first bugling engagement for Remembrance Sunday. It was to acknowledge 50 years since the start of World War One in 1914. I was sitting in the boarding house at school, when a voice bellowed my name – “Elms” – it was my housemaster – “ Sir” I replied ... “ What are you doing?” he demanded – “ Just reading Sir” ...

“I have a job for you – The vicar at Hartlip Church has phoned (Hartlip is a small village about ten miles from Rochester) – Their bugler has called off sick and they need an urgent replacement for today’s Remembrance Service ... Its full battle dress (I was principal bugler in the school Cadet Force) ... You have an hour and a half – Oh, and take Scott with you (Scott was also a bugler – of sorts)”

“Sir?” – I enquired nervously – “What boy?”- my housemaster replied ... “I don’t have any money Sir” – “Well, how much do you need?” he growled ... “I’m not sure Sir, but 15 shillings should cover it” ... “15 shillings, 15 shillings, Elms? - You are going to Hartlip Church, not the Menin Gate – Oh well, I suppose you must have it – now get moving!!” – “Yes Sir – Thank you Sir” ...

Scott and I quickly got into battle dress, grabbed the bugles (and they were bugles, not trumpets) and rushed to the station, stopping just once to spend half a crown of our extorted cash on ten Piccadilly tipped and a box of matches ... The rail tickets – two half returns to Newington station, priced at one shilling and threepence per ticket, leaving ten bob for three pints of brown and mild each on our return and maybe even a bag of crisps...

Once we arrived at Newington station, we had a two mile slog to Hartlip Church and something less than half an hour in which to do it ... Eventually, we staggered through the lych gate to see the vicar in full regalia waiting nervously at the church entrance for our arrival ... He looked very relieved at the sight of the ‘Kings Finest’ ... The quality of our performance was to say the least disappointing, in fact it was worse than that, it was catastrophic ... I still don’t understand why my housemaster insisted on Scott coming with me, perhaps he thought I needed the company ... I hit most of the right notes in the Last Post, but Scott didn’t hit any, and by the time we got to Reveille, Scott, so discouraged by what had gone before, just mimed, so all the mistakes that were made, were mine ... We didn’t stay for the rest of the service, we scurried back to the railway station to endure our humiliation, alone ...

A couple of days after the debacle, both Scott and I were summoned to the housemaster’s study, for what we thought was a dressing down, but astonishingly, it was to be congratulated ... The school had received a letter from the vicar thanking the school for providing two outstanding musicians.

## More Great Maplestead

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### Remembering Remembrance ...

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(Yes – us), and could he book the same two boys for next year ... Well, Scott and I not only did the next year, we did the next four years, until we left to make our own way in the world ... Oh, one thing did change, however ... Our housemaster reduced our travel expenses to five shillings ... He had done his homework, but he still left us enough for ten Piccadilly tipped and a box of matches ... I think, his way of giving us an appreciative pat on the back ...

The rest is history ... I moved with my family to Great Maplestead in 1992, and was asked by Ken Belben, our vicar at the time, if I could play on Remembrance Sunday – I did, and I have played every year since – 28 years ...

Martin Elms



### Hearing Help Essex – lockdown November 2020.

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We are open and can see you safely

To help reach as many people that may be in need of our services as possible we are asking if you have an elderly relative or neighbour with NHS hearing aids, please check in with them to see if they need any help with their hearing aids. If they are clinically vulnerable or unable to come to see us in person, it is possible for someone else to bring their hearing aids to the appointment on their behalf. If you are housebound, shielding, or immobile, please ask about our doorstep service.

If your hearing aids are due maintenance, if the tubing is brittle, cracked, blocked, or damaged - book now

We are running clinics at St Michael's Hospital, Braintree (Mid-Essex Patients). Please note you must book at appointment to be able to attend.

If you would like to make an appointment please contact the team at Hearing Help Essex:

Tel: 01245 496347

Email: [info@hearinghelpessex.org.uk](mailto:info@hearinghelpessex.org.uk)

Text: 07950 406173



## Grants available from the WRVS Benevolent Trust

The Trust offers grants for past or present volunteers or staff of Royal Voluntary Service, WRVS or WVS to help during a time of urgent need or crisis, when they find themselves in difficult circumstances which impact badly on their quality of life, health or wellbeing. The Trust considers applications for grants to help them through this difficult time. The Trust does not provide cash grants.

Past grants have provided:

- Cookers
- Washing machines
- Beds
- Stairlifts
- Carpets and flooring
- Boiler repairs or replacement
- Roof repairs
- Spectacles
- Lifeline pendant systems
- Mobility aids

To apply for a grant, you will need to be a past or present volunteer or staff member of Royal Voluntary Service, WRVS or WVS with at least one year's service, and have a fairly limited income.

- Complete an application form (or get someone to do it for you)
- Application forms are available on our website [www.wrvsbt.org.uk](http://www.wrvsbt.org.uk)
- Submit it to the Trust either by email or post (the address is on the form)
- The Trustees meet three times a year, but applications are considered in between meetings so there is no delay in responding to applicants

Tens of thousands of people have volunteered or worked for us over the years, maybe you, maybe your grandparent, parent, aunt, uncle, friend or neighbour. The Trust is here to help eligible applicants. Please help us to spread the word about our grants.



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[www.randrgardenmachinery.co.uk](http://www.randrgardenmachinery.co.uk)

**01787 375194**

## Local information

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Solar Society will not be starting again this year: 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](http://libraries.essex.gov.uk).

Four Parishes Book Group: Alison Cantor. 01787 462537 or [acantor@linus.plus.com](mailto:acantor@linus.plus.com)

Sudbury Area Cancer Support Group: Ruth Worsley on [ruth-SACSG@outlook.com](mailto:ruth-SACSG@outlook.com)

The U3A Halstead: [u3asites.org.uk/halstead/welcome](http://u3asites.org.uk/halstead/welcome)

The U3A Sudbury: [u3asites.org.uk/sudbury/home](http://u3asites.org.uk/sudbury/home)

U3A Braintree: [u3asites.org.uk/braintree/events](http://u3asites.org.uk/braintree/events)

Halstead & District Photographic Society: [www.halsteadphoto.org.uk](http://www.halsteadphoto.org.uk)

Gestingthorpe History Society: [www.gestingthorpehg.co.uk](http://www.gestingthorpehg.co.uk)

Community-based support for an ageing population: [www.communityagentsessex.org.uk](http://www.communityagentsessex.org.uk).

The Empire Theatre Halstead: [www.empire-theatre.co.uk](http://www.empire-theatre.co.uk)

Halstead and District Local History Society: [www.halsteadhistory.org.uk](http://www.halsteadhistory.org.uk).

The Hedingham Singers: Bob Lilley on 07790 573435 or [www.thehedinghamsingers.com/](http://www.thehedinghamsingers.com/).

Sudbury Newstalk: [www.sudburynewstalk.co.uk](http://www.sudburynewstalk.co.uk) or 01787 468535.

### Braintree Area Food Bank

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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

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#### 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 Corona virus many of their usual donation points are not available. Call 01376 330694 or at the Coop in Halstead.

## Local and National Authority Representatives

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### Essex County Council

Councillor David Finch - [cllr.david.finch@essex.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.david.finch@essex.gov.uk)

### Braintree District Council

#### Great and Little Maplestead

Councillor Peter Schwier - [cllr.pschwier@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.pschwier@braintree.gov.uk)

#### Gestingthorpe

Councillor Wendy Scattergood - [cllr.wscattergood@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.wscattergood@braintree.gov.uk)

#### Pebmarsh

Councillor George Courtauld - [cllr.gcourtauld@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.gcourtauld@braintree.gov.uk)

Councillor Gabrielle Spray - [cllr.gspray@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.gspray@braintree.gov.uk)

### Westminster

James Cleverly MP - [james.cleverly.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:james.cleverly.mp@parliament.uk)

## Parish Council Websites

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Gestingthorpe	<a href="http://www.gestingthorpepc.co.uk">www.gestingthorpepc.co.uk</a>
Great Maplestead	<a href="http://www.greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk">www.greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk</a>
Little Maplestead	<a href="http://www.littlemaplesteadpc.co.uk">www.littlemaplesteadpc.co.uk</a>
Pebmarsh	<a href="http://www.parishcouncil.pebmarsh.com">www.parishcouncil.pebmarsh.com</a>

## Hedingham Medical Centre

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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](http://www.hedmed.co.uk).

## Village Emergency Telephone Service (VETS)

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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:

<b>Little Maplestead</b>	<b>01787 852252</b>
<b>Gestingthorpe</b>	<b>01787 852850</b>
<b>Pebmarsh</b>	<b>01787 852300</b>

## Neighbourhood Watch representatives

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

## Church Services for November

Sunday 6 December	10.00 4pm	Little Maplestead Holy Communion Gestingthorpe Compline
Sunday 13 December	10.00 11:00	Pebmarsh Holy Communion Great Maplestead Morning Worship
Sunday 20 December	9.30	Gestingthorpe Holy Communion
Friday 25 December	10.00 9.30	Great Maplestead Holy Communion Gestingthorpe Morning Prayer
Sunday 27 December	10am	Zoom Service
Sunday 3 January	10.00 4pm	Little Maplestead Holy Communion Gestingthorpe Compline
Sunday 10 January	10.00 11.00	Pebmarsh Morning Prayer Great Maplestead Morning Worship
Sunday 17 January	9.30	Gestingthorpe Morning Prayer (BCP)
Sunday 24 January	10.00	Great Maplestead Holy Communion

Please note services might be subject to change depending on the latest Covid restrictions.

## 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

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The copy deadline for the October magazine is **Friday 20 November 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

This magazine is now available electronically on the parish council web sites  
and the Parish News website at [www.knights-hospitallers.org.uk](http://www.knights-hospitallers.org.uk)