

**Parish  
News**

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

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**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS**

**Church and Community together**  
**December/January**

**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 26

Magazine copy see page 28

### 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 476259	
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



We have all had a difficult time over the last year or so, particularly last Christmas when we were unable to be together. Hopefully this Christmas will be a lot better.

You will see two pet stories this month, we thought they were too good to miss. We now have a queue of pet stories, February will feature a plethora of puppies.

Now is the busiest time for us as we get to action to mobilise our advertisers for next year. Our advertising this year was lower than previous years as there were many advertisers who had been badly affected by the pandemic. Hopefully they will return next year next year.

We will report on the amount that went to the churches in our February issue.

A continuous plea, if anyone is interested in taking over the editor-ship, please let me know

Wishing you all a great Christmas and a happy new year

With love to you all.

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## Letter from the Reverend Beverley Vincent

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Christmas is looming, I wonder how you feel about this season? We can find ourselves getting into a panic about shopping, cooking, decorations, what presents to buy, entertaining etc, etc. I've been reflecting on how it could be different this year in light of the messages we received from the COP 26 Conference.

I am feeling much more motivated to do what I can to be more radical this Christmas. To reduce my carbon footprint, to reduce food waste, to not only recycle but to not need to recycle at all. I am always dismayed by the shocking overcommercialisation of Christmas and the subsequent impact on our environment to say nothing of our finances.

Bah humbug you might think (and you could be right), but Christmas is about celebrating the birth of Jesus, the most extravagant and radically generous gift from God. If we think about the life and ministry of Jesus, we see his radical inclusivity and love for those in need and those who were rejected by society.

As we celebrate his birth let's find new ways to show our love to friends and family without damaging our environment, if we all make some small changes we can collectively make a big difference to preserving our beautiful world.

Maybe our New Year resolutions could be focussed on how we can all live more sustainably. A New Year always brings lots of possibilities and of course we sometimes look back over the year just past. When I think back to last January we were in another lockdown and the Covid vaccine had just been rolled out, a gift that has helped us to control the virus and help us to resume some sort of normality.

January was also the month I was appointed as your Vicar, the service for the licensing had to take place on Zoom and wasn't the joyful celebration in church we had hoped for. Therefore, on 30th January we will be having a celebratory service at St Mary's, Gestingthorpe at 10:30am. Bishop Roger Morris will be leading the service, do come along if you can.

Barry and I have been made so welcome during this past year and I feel blessed to be with you, it has been a privilege getting to know many of you, and I look forward to 2022 with much hope in my heart for our four parishes.

I wish you all a blessed Christmas and hope and peace for the New Year.

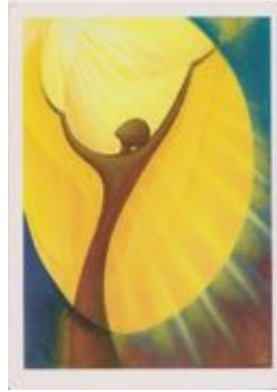
*Rev'd Beverley*



## Advent 2021

# Songs of the Nativity

A three week course taking time to reflect on God's purposes in sending Jesus, based on Mary's song, Zechariah's prophecy, and the song of the angels



Wednesdays 8, 15 and 22 December  
at 7.45pm via Zoom

Contact Revd Katie de Bourcier for information or to sign up: [halsteadrector@gmail.com](mailto:halsteadrector@gmail.com)

Contact Revd Katie de Bourcier for information or to sign up: [halsteadrector@gmail.com](mailto:halsteadrector@gmail.com)

## Midweek Service.

# HOLY



# COMMUNION

Would you like to worship midweek? We now have a monthly service of Holy Communion using the traditional language of the Book of Common Prayer at St Mary's Church, Gestingthorpe.

A beautiful intimate service with tea and coffee after, everyone most welcome. Next service will be Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January at 10am.

Unlike a conventional bus, you need to first register as a customer and you need to book your seat on a journey at least two hours in advance of travel.

Flat fare £3 single, £5 return between any two stages. Concessionary bus passes are accepted after 0900 Monday to Friday and all day on Saturdays.

To get more information call Essex DaRT on 01621 874410 or email [info@essexandsuffolkdart.co.uk](mailto:info@essexandsuffolkdart.co.uk).

The latest timetables for the DaRT service at [www.essex.gov.uk/dart](http://www.essex.gov.uk/dart) is incorrect.

## SUDBURY - BULMER - GESTINGTHORPE - WICKHAM ST. PAUL - PEBMARSH - GREAT AND LITTLE MAPLESTEAD - HALSTEAD

<b>F315</b>							<b>From 01/03/2018</b>
Sudbury, Bus Station	<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, Kings Head	<b>09:03</b>	<b>11:03</b>	<b>13:03</b>	<b>15:33</b>	<b>17:33</b>	<b>09:18</b>	Timings in BOLD are fixed timing points
Bulmer Tye, Park Lane	<b>09:07</b>	<b>11:07</b>	<b>13:07</b>	<b>15:37</b>	<b>17:37</b>	<b>19:22</b>	
Bulmer, Cross Roads	09:11	11:11	13:11	15:41	17:41	19:26	All timings in Italics need to be pre-booked
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	09:32	11:32	13:32	16:02	18:02	19:47	Timings other than those in bold type will vary up to 10 minutes either side of stated time, dependent on the number of passengers booked on the service.
Pebmarsh, War Memorial	09:33	11:33	13:33	16:03	18:03	19:48	
Little Maplestead, Corner	09:39	11:39	13:39	16:09	18:09	19:54	
Great Maplestead, Church	09:45	11:45	13:45	16:15	18:15	20:00	
Little Maplestead, Pump	09:51	11:51	13:51	16:21	18:21	20:06	
Halstead, High Street	09:56	11:56	13:56	16:26	18:26	20:11	latest arrival time
Halstead, High Street	09:37	11:37	13:37	16:07	18:07	19:43	earliest arrival time

<b>F315</b>							<b>From 01/03/2018</b>
Halstead, High Street	<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	<b>07:35</b>	<b>10:05</b>	<b>12:05</b>	<b>14:05</b>	<b>16:35</b>	<b>18:35</b>	Timings in BOLD are fixed timing points
Great Maplestead, Church	07:41	10:11	12:11	14:11	16:41	18:41	All timings in Italics need to be pre-booked
Little Maplestead, Cock	07:49	10:17	12:17	14:17	16:47	18:47	
Pebmarsh, War Memorial	07:54	10:23	12:23	14:23	16:53	18:53	
Pebmarsh, Bus Shelter	07:55	10:24	12:24	14:24	16:54	18:54	
Wickham St Paul, The Victory	08:04	10:33	12:33	14:33	17:03	19:03	Timings other than those in bold type will vary up to 10 minutes either side of stated time, dependent on the number of passengers booked on the service.
Gestingthorpe, Foundry Corner	08:10	10:39	12:39	14:39	17:09	19:09	
Bulmer, Cross Roads	08:15	10:45	12:45	14:45	17:15	19:15	
Bulmer Tye, Park Lane	08:19	10:49	12:49	14:49	17:19	19:19	
Ballingdon, Kings Head	08:23	10:53	12:53	14:53	17:23	19:23	
Sudbury, Bus Station	08:07	10:37	12:37	14:37	17:07	19:07	earliest arrival time
Sudbury, Bus Station	08:30	10:56	12:56	14:56	17:28	19:28	latest arrival time

Merry Christmas



## Stories from Pets Corner

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Hello, I am Maud. I am a six-month old, long-haired standard dachshund. I have two canine sisters who are both older than me. One of them is a cantankerous terrier and the other has long ears. I also have quite long ears and there are two advantages to this: firstly, I can dangle them in my food to save some for later and secondly, when I run very fast they spin round my head and I can pretend I'm a helicopter. I enjoy cleaning my sister's long ears of all the food left in them too.

I love nipping my humans' heels and fingers. My humans are making a concerted effort to train me. I love dog training, even though I don't listen. I run over when they whistle – unless there is something better to do – but I just do it for the treats. I love playing with my toys, especially ninja monkey and sidekick elephant. I have a big garden where I can dig holes wherever I want, and I particularly enjoy trying to find moles in their holes. I find gardening a good way of exercising my humans – I dig the holes and then they fill them in again.

I am very good at barking. Whenever a dog and its walker goes past I bark at them. The humans in this house don't appreciate me defending my territory and tell me off. I don't listen to them – I've heard it called selective hearing?

The smaller humans play with me nearly all the time. When they are not available to play I love chewing and eating door mats, plants, chair legs and cupboards and other things, even though I get told off. I am excellent at getting in the way of things, and into the dishwasher.

I love visiting new places and seeing new dogs, even if they're scary. When I get back from walks I either have water or flop down in my comfy bed. Because I'm so long I take up more than my fair share of our bed. My favourite hobbies are chasing my sisters and warming myself up by the Aga having my belly rubbed.

[Dictated to, and written by, my smaller humans – Wilf (11) and Dougie (8) – as I am yet to master typing, although I'm very interested in i-Pads and games controllers if they're left on the floor..]



## Little Maplestead

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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

### A big thank you

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Found this beautiful painted tile outside the church. Thank you to whoever took the trouble to leave this for us to enjoy!

### Christmas at Little Maplestead Church

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#### **Candlelit Carol Service - 7.30pm Tuesday 21 December**

Arrive any time after 7pm for your mulled wine and mince pies. The Church looks stunning by candle light, nearly 100 will be lit at the start of the service, and the tree lights and the little lights in the lovely floral displays all add to the magic.



Every year the Carol Service marks the beginning of our Christmas season, and more and more people come to enjoy the service. Don't miss it!



#### **Christmas Eve Crib Service - 4pm Friday 24th December**

The Crib Service on Christmas Eve is always a really lovely service. In 2019 the congregation began to arrive at 3.20pm to make sure they got a good seat! By 4pm the church was full to overflowing with families, ages ranging from babies to the over 90's - a service to suit all all.



## More Little Maplestead

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### More Christmas at Little Maplestead church

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The Nativity figures are chosen by the children as they arrive and through the service all the figures arrive at the stable in Bethlehem to the accompaniment of carols.

Children begin their Christmas countdown to the arrival of Father Christmas, with the story of the first Christmas as part of their special memories.

#### **Christmas Day Service Saturday 25th December at 10.30am**

The service on Christmas Morning is always extra special. Lots of families attend and there is gentle rivalry over choosing which carols to sing, with readings from the Christmas story in between. The carols are followed by a short Holy Communion service.

### New Year

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Perhaps one of your New Year Resolutions will be to try something that helps you cope with the stresses of modern life. Church is a wonderful place to do that! Our church is open every day for private prayer or quiet time, and the services are advertised at the back of this magazine. We would love to see you at our next Sunday service.

### Thank You

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Thanks must go to all the people who look after the Church through the year. We have a small team who tend the churchyard, another who provide wonderful flower arrangements, a team who always provide refreshments for fundraisers, those who come and clean the church and buy supplies and the members of the PCC who work to fundraise, look after the finances and enable the smooth running of the Church.

Thanks to Margaret, who plays for us so beautifully and a very special thanks to Beverley, who works so hard at her ministry in all the Parishes.

Jane Piper



## Nature Notes

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Autumn is the time for mushrooms and most people, me included, know very little about them. Most know that field mushrooms can be eaten, but strictly to avoid all other kinds. I found a pair of very large white ones at the end of October and, after checking a guide, decided they might be Parasol mushrooms, *Lepiota procera*. The size was right, about 10 inches across, and the guide declared them to be edible and delicious. But my courage failed me, and I decided caution was the best policy. I regret not enjoying them for supper.



A beautiful spider crossing the road one day turned out to be a Four-spot Orb-weaver, *Araneus quadratus* (I moved it to safety). This is quite common in gardens. They build their typical circular webs strung between low vegetation and catch small insects that jump or fly into them. They can change colour to match their surroundings but always feature four white spots on the abdomen. They range from Britain right across Europe and Asia, as far as the Kamchatka peninsula and Japan.

The mild weather in late October had skylarks thinking it was spring and several were heard singing. There have been a few dragonflies seen as well, even into November. Of the 30-odd species of dragonfly (not including the daintier damselflies) occurring in Britain, only two are listed as flying into late October. So, my guess for the ones seen is either Migrant Hawker or Common Darter. Another late autumn spectacle was a sheltered wall of ivy in flower in warm sunshine. The 'flowers' of ivy don't look like flowers at all. They occur in clumps, called umbels, but are a magnet for insects and the covered wall had butterflies, hoverflies, bees, day-flying moths and several different species of fly, all feasting.

A visit to Preston's Lake in Pebmarsh at dusk on November 12th produced few birds but delivered in a most unexpected way. My companion and I watched a medium-sized bat flying low over the water and either feeding off the surface or drinking while in flight. I suspect the former, as it continued like this for several minutes. I consulted a lady who knows her



bats and she confirmed that it would almost certainly have been a Daubenton's bat. While Pipistrelle bats are common in gardens in our area, this was a first for both of us, and a real thrill.

Patch Patroller

## **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

### **Coffee at at St Giles**

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Wednesday Coffee Mornings have started in the Tower Room at St. Giles. We'll be serving from 10.30am until noon – outdoors if it's warm enough, in the church if not. Also twice a month after the St. Giles services on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. Please come along and join us if you can.

### **More Great Maplestead**

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#### **The Maplesteads WI**

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President Carol Brownlie welcomed our members and our WI Advisor guest, Jan Curtis, to the meeting on Thursday November 4th 2021.

After usual WI business Carol spoke about the forthcoming events, which we are all looking forward to.

The first is the village quiz on Saturday 13th November, where our table of lovely ladies will do their very best to answer the tough questions as well as the not so tough questions!

The next event is on Friday 26th November, when we will visit Mersea Island for the "Twelve Days of Christmas Fair". Luckily the tides are with us that day, so there won't be a problem getting stranded! Afterwards we all thought it was a great idea to go to The Peldon Rose for a well-deserved lunch.

The Castle Group Christmas Carol Service this year is being hosted by Sible Hedingham WI at St Peter's Church Sible Hedingham at 2.00pm on Monday 6th December, where our lovely lady Jill Newton will give a reading.

Our Christmas Lunch this year is at The Moot House at Castle Hedingham on Friday 10th December at 12.30 for 1.00pm. Thanks must go to Diane Smith for organising this.

Carol then spoke about the knitted squares that she had challenged us to make earlier in the year. Diane Smith had done a sterling job sewing the squares together. Carol said that Alison Farrugia, President of Halstead Rotary Club, had taken several blankets to a function and had sold two of them for £20.00, the proceeds to go to The Post Polio Syndrome charity. Thanks must also go to Pam Hunter for organising friends to knit an abundance of squares.

## More Great Maplestead

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### More of the Maplesteads WI

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Our next meeting is on Thursday 2nd December and will be our Christmas party. The speaker will be Dorothy O'Grady who will be showing us how to wrap Christmas presents. Carol then challenged us all to make a Christmas Party Hat for which there will be a prize for the winning hat. Shower caps will be provided for anyone who didn't bring a homemade party hat as a "bit of fun".

The first meeting in the New Year will be on Thursday 6th January 2022 and will be a Social Evening where we can all chat and share stories of our Christmas celebrations.

For further information please contact Carol Brownlie on 01787 461 527

Anne Fletcher

### Great Maplestead Advent Windows



*To lighten the dark winter nights, parishioners are, once again, invited to create an advent window/festive garden display.*

If you would like to create a display, please notify the Parish Clerk which date you would like to reveal your design, from 2<sup>nd</sup>- 24<sup>th</sup> 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 **1<sup>st</sup> December** on the triangle outside St Giles School in Church St. **Light up time 6pm.** This is a community tree so do feel free to add your own decoration to those provided by the village elves.

**Clerk contact details: Ann Crisp 01787 460216 or email at [anncrisppc@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk](mailto:anncrisppc@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk)**

### Great Maplestead's Churchyard Clear-Up

---

It was a wet Saturday morning in October when the Taskforce assembled to conduct a big clear-up of St Giles' churchyard.

Twenty-eight people came along, armed with power tools, wheelbarrows and plenty of grit and gusto, ready to do battle with the undergrowth.



## More Great Maplestead

### More Great Maplestead's Churchyard Clean-up

A mighty fire was soon burning, despite the damp atmosphere, as the brambles, and ivy, hedgerows and holly were gradually cut back and brought under control.



A marvellous range of cakes, with coffee and tea were provided as welcome refreshments for the hard-working crew. And the sun finally shone on a newly tidy churchyard as we retreated to our homes for much needed rest and showers.



A BIG THANKS to everyone involved, on a day that saw our village community coming together and working at its best.





**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**



# ***Christmas VILLAGE***



# ***WALK***

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> December**

**Meet at 11.00am in the Village Hall Car Park**

**Half-way refreshments provided**

**Finish at the Village Hall for drinks and nibbles**



**Adults: £2.50 each; Children under 15/dogs: free**

**Proceeds to the Playing Field Development Project – please pay before the start of the walk**

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

## More Great Maplestead

# GREAT MAPLESTEAD QUIZ NIGHT



Thanks to all the quizzers who came along and made this event such an enjoyable and successful occasion

Your enthusiastic participation and generosity resulted in **£518** being raised for the **Playing Field Development Project**

Every little bit helps...

*The Quiz Inquisitors*

## Maplesteads' WEA

# WEA

Victorian Britain experienced a most significant social, economic and political upheaval, transforming important ideas, beliefs and assumptions, challenging a cherished but anachronistic worldview and finding new answers to pressing issues of the day.

To find what effect these changes had on Victorian religion, social conscience, science and society, free trade and feminism, come along to **Great Maplestead Village Hall** on **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January** at **6.45pm\*** and try our taster-session for a **7-week course** that we're confident you will find both interesting and informative...

\*Subsequent sessions start at **7.00pm**.

Please contact Jean Bowers before attending the first session  
Tel: 01787 460 181 : E-mail: [jean.bowers@wea.ac.uk](mailto:jean.bowers@wea.ac.uk)



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

## Gardening Corner

As we approach the festive season, the beginning of the month is a good time to gather branches with berries from shrubs and trees in your garden before the birds eat them!

If you have access to Pyracantha (Finethorn), Orange Glow is an attractive variety. Also try Callicarpa (Beauty Bush) which has mauve berries or one of the many Ilex (holly) species. Not only will these attract wild birds to your garden but, in addition, there will be abundant material for Christmas wreaths and table decorations. The above are just a small selection of suitable plants available from most local garden centres.

Now is also the time to reduce bush type roses by a third; this helps prevent 'wind rock' during bad weather.

My recommended plant of the month is Daphne Odora. This compact shrub provides superb perfume in the garden at this dull time of year and is ideal for a smaller plot.

Winter digging can be carried out over the next two months as the weeds have ceased growing for a while. Remember to turn the soil over and bury small weeds so they rot down before you work the soil in spring. If you prefer not to dig, then add a good layer of compost – home-made or spent from containers – covering the ground to suppress any small annual weeds. The mulch will then rot down over the winter ready to provide a tilth to work in the spring. Keep warm outside

The Arborist.

rightmove

Zoopla

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## A Lucky Dog's First UK Christmas...

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Hello, my name is Winnie and I am the luckiest Poodle alive!

My start in life wasn't great but my family in Great Maplestead rescued me and I am now living a good life.

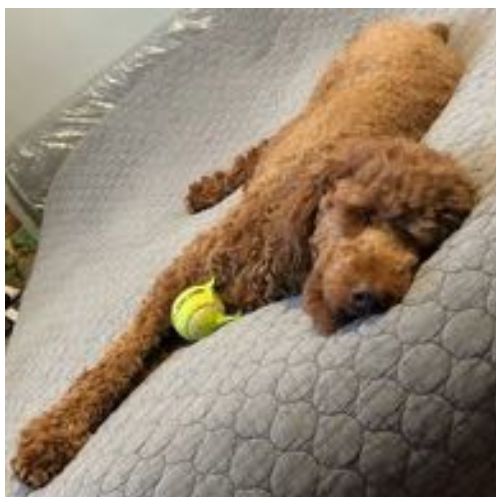
I was born in China, not far from Beijing. I wasn't loved by anyone and only had my other doggie pals for company. We were homeless and one day we found ourselves at a meat market, where we were going to be sold for food!

We were really scared but the Great Bulls of China dog rescue charity swooped in and saved us before we were too hurt! They looked after us in their rescue centre, raised money to cover our vet's bills and kept our bellies full.

Me and my best friends, Lily and Grace, had very bad skin infections along with other complications, so our vet's bills were very expensive. We needed lots of care and attention to help us get better; luckily, in August 2020 we had lots of supporters around the world rooting for us and sending donations for our care.

On 1st March 2021 my family discovered me on the Great Bulls of China website. They fell in love with me instantly and immediately started fundraising to fly me here. Due to COVID-19, the cost of flights from China to the UK had more than doubled to around £4000. My family realised they would have to work hard to raise this amount and organised raffles, games, on-line fundraisers and even trained for a half-marathon to raise money.

It was a long 207-day wait but my pals in the UK and other friendly people on-line eventually raised the money for my flight. On 24th September 2021 my 5000+ mile journey ended when my family picked me up from the charity.



I settled in at home straight away and now have four siblings, Miley, Pufferson, Bella and Sukie. I enjoy lots of yummy food, treats, outings and long walks! I love running free around the fields and lying on my mum's bed in the evening.

In closing, I would encourage you to donate to Great Bulls of China, even if it's just a few pounds. Many of my friends are still stuck in China and I would love for them to have the great life that I am now lucky enough to enjoy.



# 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.

### Gestingthorpe 'Gathering' coffee mornings 10am to 12 noon

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Our coffee mornings that are held on alternate Fridays are continuing to be a 'hit' with all ages. It is lovely to see villagers and their family and friends pop in for a chat over a hot drink and some 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.

The next few coffee mornings will be held on the Fridays of 3rd and Friday 17th of December. We will take a short break and the coffee mornings will resume on Friday 7th January 2022 with the following one being on 21st January.

We send Christmas best wishes to everyone.

**St. Mary's, Gestingthorpe**  
**invites you to our special**  
**ALL AGE FAMILY**  
**service on:**



Sunday 19 December at 10am

**Come and join Carrie & Nic leading an  
informal Service suitable for all ages  
& with after Service refreshments provided.**



# More Gestingthorpe

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## Carol Service

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**After missing last year's Carol Service, come and SING YOUR HEART OUT at St Mary's Gestingthorpe on Wednesday 15 December, 6.30 for 7pm.**

**Mulled wine, mince pies, handbells and a candle-lit service of traditional readings and carols: a perfect start to the Christmas season.**

### **Gestingthorpe Village Hall Quiz**

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Friday 19th November saw the Gestingthorpe Village Hall evening quiz. With tables placed further apart than previous quizzes we had room for 54 players in teams of 6. We were, by mid-October, fully booked.

Eight rounds of questions on a wide variety of subjects plus two marathon rounds kept the contestants busy. A free cup of tea or coffee at the half-way stage helped keep the momentum going.

Everyone in the village hall could hear the huge reduction in the amount of background noise and that was down to the benefit of special sound reduction panels fitted during the horrid COVID-19 lockdown period. Our question master was pleased to note how much easier it was to call out the questions!

Our question markers and scorers were kept busy all evening recording the position at the end of each round of this good hard fought quiz. We wondered if we would need to use marathon rounds to help decide the top three teams but, no, we didn't. At the end of the evening the podium places were:

1st : Try Hard

2nd : Hogwarts Wizards

3rd : Tequila Mockingbird

Their team members each won a prize as did the, not that far behind, final placed team 'Long Dong Silver'. We couldn't leave out giving some prizes for the marathon winners who had also won the top spot in the quiz.

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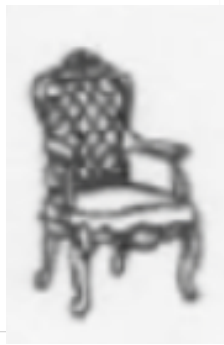
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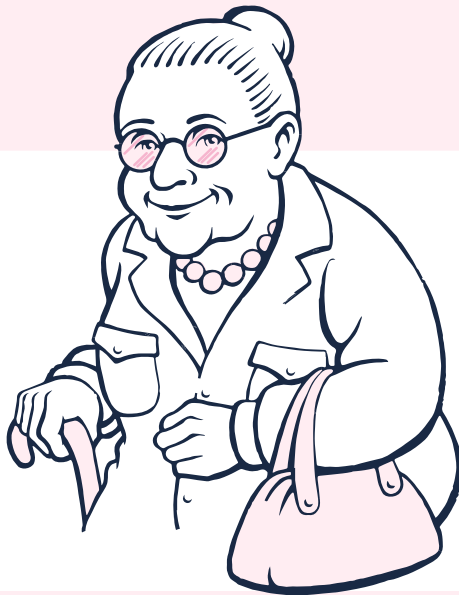
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07804 474494 (Pebmarsh)

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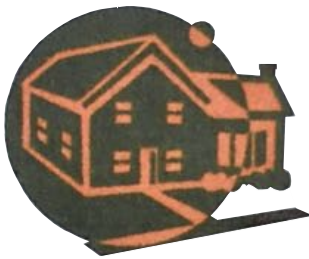
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## More Gestingthorpe

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### More Gestingthorpe Village Hall Quiz

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A good number of raffle prizes were donated such as wine, scented items, books, chocolates plus some pottery and metal items made in our village. Thank you to everyone who donated the prizes.

The village hall was buzzing and as one contestant told us by E-mail '...It really was a super evening, with superb—thought provoking—questions and a really lovely atmosphere in the village Hall...'

Thank you to everyone who supported the 2021 quiz. Here's to the quiz in 2022 and don't forget; 'Book early to avoid disappointment'.



### Cooking & Baking

At the refreshment break during the recent St Giles' Churchyard clear-up, this Blueberry Gingerbread cake received much praise...

#### **Kath's Churchyard Clear-up Cake**

2 cups (300g) plain flour  
1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda  
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
2 teaspoons ground ginger  
1 cup (220g) caster sugar  
125g butter, melted  
2 tablespoons golden syrup  
1 egg, beaten lightly  
1 cup (250ml) buttermilk  
1 cup (150g) fresh blueberries

Pre-heat the oven to Moderate (180o/160o fan).

Grease a square pan 20cm x 20cm and 6cm deep and line the base with baking paper.

Kath Emmerson – Great Maplestead

Sift the flour, soda, cinnamon and ginger into a large bowl. Add the caster sugar then whisk in the butter, syrup, egg and buttermilk until well combined.

Fold in half the blueberries. Spread the mixture into the prepared pan and sprinkle with the remaining blueberries.

Bake in the oven for about 30 minutes, or until cooked when tested.

Cool in pan and cut into squares.

Note: Suitable for freezing – not suitable for microwaving.



# FIRE CHOIR

MOLLYS WOOD

TUESDAY 21ST DECEMBER

7:30PM TO 9:30PM

£5  
(suggested  
donation)

Join us for christmas  
carols and songs

Refreshments provided  
Bring your own mug!

Everyone  
is welcome!

All proceeds towards helping maintain Mollys Wood  
Enquiries: Sue @ 07957732406

## Keeping Safe Online (Part 2)

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Continuing our series of articles designed to help you manage your online activity safely and minimise your digital footprint:

5. **Enter the minimum amount of authentic information** into online registration forms. There is no need to enter genuine information in every field if there's no legal reason to do so.

6. **Protect your phone number** – payments can be charged to your mobile phone, so treat your phone number like a bank card PIN; only disclose it online if you really need to.

7. **Check the privacy settings on your devices regularly and change them from their default settings.**

Your information is a revenue source for many social media sites.

Privacy settings for such sites are often changed, exposing your personal information during upgrades or when new features are added.

Visit the privacy settings pages to check what your external profile looks like and find out what photos you are tagged in. Always re-check the configuration settings on your devices after every operating system upgrade. Review what personal information (e.g. location, contacts) certain apps have access to when they are installed or upgraded.

8. **Keep your passwords safe** – you must always remember to:

- Keep them out of sight
- Change them regularly
- Not let anyone else use them

Also, make your e-mail passwords more complex than the ones you use for website logins or social media accounts. The e-mail address you supply to a website for an account reset is the front door to your digital life.

Make your e-mail address password as strong as possible; this improves the security of any accounts hosted on other websites you use, such as online shopping or banking sites. And **don't use the same password** for everything – otherwise, if one of your accounts is compromised there's a good chance the others could be.

9. **Compartmentalise your (digital) life – consolidate on your phone.**

Use different e-mail addresses for different activities – for example, use one for online banking and another for online shopping. This allows you to delete any e-mail address that becomes problematic without it impacting on other parts of your online life.

The good news is that most smartphones let you consolidate and view multiple e-mail addresses on one device, avoiding the need to log into different e-mail accounts.

**More in February...**

## Reading Corner

I thought I would borrow a format from Radio 4, and choose one I've been 'given' and one that I would pass on. But I have also included one that I often recommend.

### The one I was given

#### **Notes from a Small Island- Bill Bryson**

I could have chosen any of Bill Bryson's books as they were a staple in my family. Someone always received one as a Christmas present and then they did the rounds of the extended family before returning to the original owner, usually just in time for next Christmas!

Notes from a Small Island is a perfect introduction to Bill Bryson, part travel guide, part memoir and part novel. It is a look at Britain from the outside, (Bryson is American), but with the affection of someone who has chosen to live here and who married a British wife. Like all of his other books, Bill Bryson imbues a factual book with fun and humour and makes you laugh whilst simultaneously thinking "Well I never knew that" or "Really? I'll look that up".

### The one I recommend most often.

#### **The Time Traveler's Wife - Audrey Niffenegger**

I often recommend this, as well as the same author's 'Her Fearful Symmetry', purely because it was so different to anything I had read at that time. I understand that it has since been made into a film, and, though I have never seen it, I would hazard that the book is better. I don't really see how the nuance and the sense of disjointment could adequately translate to the silver screen. The plot hangs on one character having a genetic disorder that causes him to suddenly move from one time period to another, whilst his wife is left on a linear timeline. There is a wonderfully light touch on the balance of power in a relationship and how knowledge can tie you as easily as it frees you. I read it when it first came out (2003) and I confess I haven't re-read it, but it sticks in my mind as one of my favourites.

### The one I would pass on

#### **Birdsong - Sebastian Faulks**

This book had an amazing effect on me. I struggled with the early chapters and would have given up if I didn't have that 'readers' thing of \*never\* not finishing! I am so glad I persevered though, and I really feel as though this book should be required reading in schools. Following the story of one Officer, from pre-war France, through his wartime experiences and then on to his granddaughter in the 1970's. It is profoundly moving and vividly demonstrates the abject horror of the First World War and the futility of war in all of its guises. It also shows the strength of the human character and how much people can put up with when they absolutely have to. Not an easy read, but one I think shows just what a debt we owe to The Lost Generation.

## **Pebmarsh**

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### **Support in Pebmarsh**

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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 the village Volunteer for your area of the village.

### **Ladies' Club**

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Ladies' Club carries on the long and popular tradition of meeting on the second Tuesday of the month at the village hall in Pebmarsh. This friendly and welcoming club would love to see some new faces – so please come along, have a cuppa and cake (you can even bring your knitting!). For more details please contact Pauline Andow on Pauline\_andow@hotmail.co.uk

### **Card Club**

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Those with creative interest or who are considering trying a new and rewarding hobby are encouraged to attend the Card Club. This long running club is seeking new members and there are currently spaces for four new folk - no experience necessary - all equipment is provided. For more details contact Pauline Andow on Pauline\_andow@hotmail.co.uk

### **Pebmarsh Youth Club**

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The PYC would like to thank Pebmarsh Community Events for the generous donation we have recently received. We have been informed that the money donated, was raised at the very well supported Pebmarsh village fete, which ran in August this year.

Youth Club will be using the money to purchase new in and outdoor games and equipment and we have also managed to book a little surprise entertainment for our children.

During November, we welcomed back Sue, a familiar face, a friend and former Youth Club leader. Sue assisted our young people to choose and create festive gifts which the children can take home once completed.

Upcoming dates for your diary:

2nd December 2021- Surprise entertainment- don't miss out!

16th December 2021- Film and Pizza night

13th January 2022- Games night

27th January 2022- to be confirmed

As always, please encourage your young people, age 8-13 years, to come along and join in the fun. Mandy and Carol. Contact Carol Parker on 01787 269996 taximother@googlemail.com



*CHRISTMAS  
CAROL  
CONCERT  
WITH THE  
LONG MELFORD  
SILVER BAND*

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH  
PEBMARSH  
SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2021  
4PM



## More Pebmarsh

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### Friends of Pebmarsh Church - St John the Baptist

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The Friends of Pebmarsh Church trustees would like to wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

Thank you for your support throughout 2021, it is very much appreciated.

We are pleased to report that working alongside the Pebmarsh Parochial Church Council (PPCC) a grant of £5,000 has just been awarded by The Friends of Essex Churches towards the cost of repairs to the North Chancel roof. This work we hope to see completed by January '22.

The grant is the largest single grant ever made by the Essex Friends and is in part a reflection of the success of our own Friends group in raising the majority of the balance of the works.

We look forward to supporting the preservation of our village church as a place of worship and a village asset for everyone and for future generations.

If you would like to help or donate please contact us at [Team@FriendsofPebmarshChurch.uk](mailto:Team@FriendsofPebmarshChurch.uk) or look at our Web Site [www.FriendsofPebmarshChurch.net](http://www.FriendsofPebmarshChurch.net)



### King's Head, Pebmarsh

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Pebmarsh Community Pub Christmas Party - Friday 10 December

Together with our tenants Ryan, Cathy and Abigail, the PCPL Management Committee would like to invite you to join us at the King's Head for a celebration party, with dancing to live music from excellent local band "Blueprint". This is a free community event, no ticket needed, with music from 8pm. We hope to see you there.

Christmas Opening Hours

If you are planning your activities over the Christmas period, below are the pub opening times for your information. Christmas falls on a Saturday this year - meaning that we have two Bank Holidays. The pub will be fully open for both of these.

- Christmas Day - open 11.30 - 3pm (drinks only)
- Boxing Day - closed
- Bank Holiday Monday 27 & Tuesday 28 - open 12pm - 11pm, full service
- New Year's Eve - open as normal until 4pm. Re-opens in the evening for a special New Year's Eve dinner and live jazz - booking essential

## **More Pebmarsh**

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### **More Kings Head**

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- Saturday 1 January - open 12pm - 5pm , additional brunch options available until 4pm
- Bank Holiday Monday 3 January - open 12pm - 8pm

For full details of opening times and food service hours throughout the Christmas and New Year period, see [www.kingsheadpebmarsh.co.uk](http://www.kingsheadpebmarsh.co.uk) or follow the pub on Facebook @kingsheadpebmarsh The pub email is [hello@kingsheadpebmarsh.com](mailto:hello@kingsheadpebmarsh.com) or you can ring 01787 267942.

Would you like to be a shareholder in Pebmarsh Community Pub Ltd?

The King's Head building is owned by Pebmarsh Community Pub Limited, a Community Benefit Society run by a Committee of elected volunteers. There are currently over 430 Shareholders who are mainly from the local community. Each share purchased contributes to the development of the pub as a community asset. We are hoping that future development of the pub building will include the provision of accessible entrances and an accessible toilet, baby changing facilities, an additional female toilet and an extension to the kitchen. We would also like to refurbish the barn to provide a high quality space for functions and community events. Single shares cost £50 and annual interest is paid. For further information about Pebmarsh Community Pub Limited and a copy of the share prospectus see our website [www.pcp.pebmarsh.com](http://www.pcp.pebmarsh.com) or email [pcpshareholder@gmail.com](mailto:pcpshareholder@gmail.com)

### **THE NOTT FAMILY TRUST**

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The Nott Family Trust trustees would like to wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

Thank you for your support throughout 2021 it is very much appreciated. Your support has enabled The Nott Family Trust to donate laptops to our village school so that the pupils could continue to learn at home during school shutdowns in this year of pandemic. The laptops will provide valuable support for years to come for pupils in their studies.

Perry Crimmins

The Nott Family Trust

### **St John the Baptist Church, Pebmarsh**

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As I start to write this I'm reflecting on last week's Remembrance services, at the village War memorial with members of the community and all the children and teachers of our school, and our church service held on Sunday with the four churches of our Benefice.

## More Pebmarsh

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### More St John the Baptist Church, Pebmarsh

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Martin Elms played the Last Post and Reveille at both services, wreaths were laid by Pebmarsh Parish Council, The Friends of Pebmarsh Church and Pebmarsh Community Pub Committee at the War Memorial, and the children read the roll of honour and laid crosses.

On Remembrance Sunday wreaths were laid from all four churches and the names read by the Churchwarden from each. We were also treated to an interesting insight into the men from our villages who gave their lives for us all in the first world war by Ashley Cooper. Thank you Ashley. Many people appreciated the church display that was created with poppies made by the School Children and members of the village, and I would like to thank them all.

Our next focus is Christmas and our annual Christmas Carol Concert with the Long Melford Silver Band on the 12th of December at 4pm. We will be serving mulled wine and mince pies afterwards. The children from the school and village will be making decorations for the tree with theme of 'angels of hope' this year and I will be leaving wooden templates to decorate in the church for anyone who want to join in.

We hope you will put the dates in your diaries for our services for Christmas and keep supporting us as we need everyone's help to keep our Church open. We are very grateful to the Friends of Pebmarsh Church who continue to work hard finding grants and raising money to repair and maintain the church building.

However, we still have to raise enough money to meet our weekly running costs, this is a constant challenge. We want to be there for the community now and in the future. The church maintains a special place in our community. We want to welcome visitors and the many walkers and cyclists that visit our church every week who are so pleased to find it open, a place of worship with a rich history.

I would like to thank those who support us by volunteering on our committees, delivering magazines, arranging flowers, ring the bells and reading in services and those of you who already give financially. Also for the Friends for the huge financial support they give for the building, recently securing a grant from The Essex Churches Trust for £5,000.00 for the North chancel roof for our next phase of work.

Don't forget our services

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE 12TH DECEMBER 4PM

CHRISTMAS EVE CAROLS AND HOLY COMMUNION 24TH DECEMBER  
10.30PM

Sarah Burgess and Jim Crayston

Churchwardens

A Christmas Evening\*  
at \*

The Courtyard

\*SAVE THE DATE!

11/12/21 4-7pm

The Foragers presents  
German market food,  
mulled wine  
and spiced cider

Santa on his sleigh  
with gifts for good  
children! \*

\* Lots more  
TBC \*

Various local craft stalls  
including Big Bear Ciders  
and the English Spirit  
Distillery.

\*  
Raffle with great prizes

Traditional carol singing



Pebmarsh Events working with The Courtyard



## More Pebmarsh

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### WANTED – ANDROID PHONES + CHARGERS

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Do you have any older android mobile phones sitting around collecting dust?

These can be recycled and put to good use as they are desperately needed by refugees living in Essex.

Please contact Colm McDonald via 07966426096 or drop in to 3 Levitts Corner, Pebmarsh or via email [cm@refugeeactioncolchester.org.uk](mailto:cm@refugeeactioncolchester.org.uk)

Refugee Action Colchester is a voluntary organisation working with refugees, asylum seekers and people with no recourse to public funds.

We offer non-judgemental assistance to individuals and families in need.

We support newcomers in navigating the challenges of a new town, foreign language, job market and cultural norms.

Without our help, many would be unable to survive.

Our goal is to encourage successful integration into our community through empowerment, education and employment.

Please see their website for more info: [www.refugeeactioncolchester.org.uk](http://www.refugeeactioncolchester.org.uk)



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Middleton P.C.C. present to you a

# CHRISTMAS MARKET

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



**SATURDAY 4TH DECEMBER**  
**1.00PM – 4.00PM**



Christmas Handicrafts,  
Cakes and Preserves, Raffle, Gift Bag Tombola, & 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!



## Hedingham Heritage Society

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Thank you to all those who have re-joined the Society or have become new members since we restarted our activities this summer. It has been reassuring and uplifting to return to our inside meetings, our outside walks and conservation activities, and to enjoy and learn about our local environment, its past, present and future.

Unfortunately we still don't think it wise to have our annual Christmas Social in the village hall, with food and entertainment, so for 2021 it has been cancelled. We only hope that in 2022 it can take place again.

However, we are still going on our traditional Christmas Walk, with some seasonal sustenance. This is another chance to experience our wonderful Hedinghams' winter environment and countryside. Details of this walk and our January and February '22 meetings are listed below.

Please note change of walk date from the one in our programme.

Wednesday 29 December – A Christmas Walk between Castle and Sible, following the River Colne, its two local mills, Purls Hill and the surrounding countryside.

Christmas tea, coffee and cake at Violet the Vintage Caravan in Sible Hedingham on the way back; walk is about 3-4 miles.

Meet 10.30am Castle Hedingham Memorial Hall – please let us know if you're coming.

Thursday 6 January – AGM followed by 'Textiles in East Anglia', an illustrated talk by John Miners, Textile Consultant and Chair of Halstead History Society.

7.30pm Castle Hedingham Memorial Hall

Members free, non-members £5

Thursday 3 February – Bugs and Insects of Essex; friend or foe? a talk by Chris Gibson, lecturer, author and winner of the David Bellamy 'Naturalist of Distinction' award.

7.30pm Castle Hedingham Memorial Hall. Members free, non-members £5

Come along and join for our new programme of events, talks and walks for 2022

Membership £12.00 per person.

For further details, contact:

Rob Worley                    01787 460 664

Trudi Cullum    01787 462 889

Peter Bayes                01787 469 953

E-mail: [hedinghamheritage@gmail.com](mailto:hedinghamheritage@gmail.com)

or visit: [www.hedinghamheritage.org](http://www.hedinghamheritage.org)



## Local information

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**Solar Society** will make every effort to restart their meetings when it is appropriate.

Programme to be announced.

In the meantime , take care everybody.

Further info from Miles Scrivens 01787-469766 or Wanda Sellar 01787 463449.

**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 Agents;** 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.

### 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).



## Local and National Authority Representatives

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### Essex County Council

Councillor Peter Schwier - [cllr.peter.schwier@essex.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.peter.schwier@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>

## Village Emergency Telephone Service (VETS)

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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**

**Pebmarsh 01787 852300**

## Neighbourhood Watch representatives

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

## The Churchwardens serving our Benefice are

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Great Maplestead	Gill Peskett	01787 462786	<a href="mailto:gillpeskett43@gmail.com">gillpeskett43@gmail.com</a>
	Jill Newton	01787 463893	<a href="mailto:gilliannewton4@gmail.com">gilliannewton4@gmail.com</a>
Little Maplestead			
Gestingthorpe	Alice Nolda	01787 469688	-
	Peter Nice	01787 460126	<a href="mailto:peter.427nice@btinternet.com">peter.427nice@btinternet.com</a>
Pebmarsh	Jim Crayston	07957870340	<a href="mailto:jim@craystonfarms.co.uk">jim@craystonfarms.co.uk</a>
	Sarah Burgess	01787 269092	<a href="mailto:sarahburgess@btinternet.com">sarahburgess@btinternet.com</a>



## Winter shopping list

Many people within the Braintree are still affected by the pandemic. By donating an item from the list below you will be helping us to maintain our stock levels

- Toilet Rolls
- Rice Pudding
- Tinned Fish
- Sponge Puddings
- Cereal Bars
- Chocolate Bars
- Long Life Juice (1l variant please)
- Long Life Milk
- Can Openers
- Sugar (500g variant please)

We currently have very good stocks of pasta, pasta sauce, tinned tomatoes, and tinned vegetables.

We follow the Food Standards Agency standards. We can only accept donations of unopened and undamaged goods well within their "use by" date. Items that do not meet these requirements cannot be used and your donation may be wasted.

Although Christmas food is a 'treat' we need to keep our stocks up of our 'shopping list' items to be able to provide basic meals which is why we are not asking for specific Christmas items.

## Thank you for your continued support

[www.braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk)  
[info@braintreearea.org.uk](mailto:info@braintreearea.org.uk)  
01376 330694

Registered charity number 1148782



## Church Services in December 2021 and January 2022

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5 December	9:30	Gestingthorpe – Morning Prayer
	9:30	Great Maplestead - Holy Communion
	11:00	Little Maplestead – Holy Communion
12 December	10:00	Great Maplestead - Family Service
	11:00	Gestingthorpe - Holy Communion
	4:pm	Pebmarsh Silver Band Carol Concert
15 December	7:30	Gestingthorpe Carol Service
19 December	10:00	Little Maplestead Benefice - Holy Communion
	10:00	Gestingthorpe - All Age Family Service
20 December	19:30	Great Maplestead- Carol Service
21 December	19:30	Little Maplestead – Candle lit Carol Service
Christmas Eve	4pm	Little Maplestead - Crib Service
	10:30	Pebmarsh – Christmas Holy Communion
Christmas Day	10:00	Great Maplestead – 9 Lessons and Carols
	10:00	Little Maplestead – Holy Communion with Carols
2 January	10:30	Halstead Area Service St Andrew’s, Halstead.
9 January	9:30	Pebmarsh - Holy Communion
	11:00	Great Maplestead - Family Service
	11:00	Gestingthorpe - Holy Communion
16 January	10.00	Great Maplestead Benefice Holy Communion
19 January	10.00	Gestingthorpe Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
23 January	9:30	Great Maplestead -Holy Communion
	9:30	Little Maplestead - Morning Worship
	10:00	Gestingthorpe - Family Worship
	11am	Pebmarsh - Morning Worship
	4pm	Gestingthorpe - Compline
30 January	10:30	Halstead Area Service – Gestingthorpe

Anniversary celebration for Rev’d Beverley Led by Bishop Roger.  
All welcome

Our churches remain open for private prayer on set days, please contact your churchwarden for times of opening.

**The Reverend Beverley Vincent**

The Rectory, Church Street, Great Maplestead, CO9 2RG  
Tel 01787 460273 or 07944 200132. Khvicar@gmail.com

## Coming up and save the date

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Coffee in St Giles Wednesday Mornings  
Pebmarsh Youth Club 2 and 16 December, 13 and 27 January  
Maplesteads WI 2 December and 6 January  
Middleton Christmas Market 4 December  
Kings Head Christmas Party 10 December  
A Christmas Evening at the Courtyard 11, 12 and 21 December  
Fire Choir Molly's Wood 21 December  
Hedingham Heritage Society Christmas Walk 29 December  
Hedingham Heritage Society Meetings 6 January and 3 February  
Gestingthorpe Coffee Mornings on 3 and 17 December and 7 and 21  
January  
Great Maplestead Christmas Village Walk 27 December  
Maplestead's WEA 10 January  
Pebmarsh Ladies Club and Card Club have recommenced

The copy deadline for the February magazine is **Friday 21 January 2022**

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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Gt Maplestead	Ann Harris	01787 462818	ann66harris@gmail.com
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This magazine is now available electronically on the parish council web sites  
and the Parish News website

## 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)