

## Services for February 2019

	Gestingthorpe	Great Maplestead	Little Maplestead	Pebmarsh
Sunday 3 February	9.30am Holy Communion	6.30pm Evensong (BCP)	11am Holy Communion	
Sunday 10 February	4pm Compline	9.30am Holy Communion		11am Holy Communion
Sunday 17 February	11am Morning Prayer (BCP)	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	
Sunday 24 February	8.15am Holy Communion (BCP)	11am Family Service	10am Morning Prayer	9.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 3 March	8.15am Holy Communion (BCP)			

### Dates for your diary

16 March	Gt. Maplestead – Lent Lunch
21 March	Gestingthorpe PCC
25 March	Pebmarsh PCC
27 March	Gt. Maplestead PCC
28 March	Lt. Maplestead PCC

### Parish Council Websites

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

### Church website

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

This magazine is available electronically on these web sites

# Parish News

## Great and Little Maplestead Pebmarsh and Gestingthorpe



**Church and Community together**  
February 2019

Free

## Village contacts and information

Neighbourhood watch representatives, see page 26,

Reverend Gay Ellis and the churchwardens see page 25.

Magazine copy and deliveries see page 27

### Parish Clerks

Gt Maplestead	Ann Crisp	01787 460216 anncrisp@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk
Lt Maplestead	Ann Harris	01787 462818 littlemaplesteadparishclerk@gmail.com
Gestingthorpe	Frances Wells	01787 379606 gestingthorpepc@gmail.com
Pebmarsh	Philippa Potter	07790 598363 pebmarshpc@hotmail.com

### The Maplesteads

WI	Carol Brownlie	01787 461527 carolbrownlie@gmail.com
WEA	Jill Newton	01787 463893 gilliannevton4@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 gillwebb008@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
	Susan Rawlinson	01255 815205

### 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 leslie@crumpton-taylor.entadsl.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	Wendy Jones	01787 469049 wendy.jones14@btopenworld.com
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>

## February dates for your diary

2 February	7pm	Maplesteads WI	Great Maplestead
4 February	2.30pm	Solar Society	Castle Hedingham
12 February	1pm	Ladies Club	Pebmarsh
17 February	11.30am	Snowdrop Open Day	Easton Lodge
20 February	-	Last day of Library consultation	Essex County Council
24 February	11.30am	Snowdrop Open Day	Easton Lodge
21 February	1pm	Card Making Club	Pebmarsh

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The copy deadline for the March magazine is **Friday 16 February 2019**

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	01787 469687	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	thebonds.copperfield@btinternet.com

## Neighbourhood Watch representatives

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

### Hire of Great Maplestead, Pebmarsh and Gestingthorpe Village Halls

Each of our village halls is available for hire for all types of functions. In Pebmarsh, tables and chairs can also be hired. For full details of the facilities available in each location, rates, and conditions of hire, booking forms etc. Please contact the relevant booking secretary

Great Maplestead	Liz Newton	01787 461308
Pebmarsh	Christine Nott	01787 269231
Gestingthorpe	Sharon Flannery	07873 238095

### The Churchwardens serving our Benefice are

Great Maplestead	Gill Peskett	01787 462786	gillpeskett43@gmail.com
	Jill Newton	01787 463893	jilliannewton4@gmail.com
Little Maplestead	Jane Piper	01787 473933	jane-piper@hotmail.co.uk
	Karen Sunnucks	01787 472145	karen.sunnucks@btinternet.com
Gestingthorpe	Alice Nolda	01787 469688	-
	Peter Nice	01787 460126	peter.427nice@btinternet.com
Pebmarsh	Belynda Fellows	01787 269986	belynda1@btinternet.com

### Would you like a lift to church?

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

### The Reverend Gay Ellis

	The Rectory, Church Street Great Maplestead CO9 2RG
Email	<a href="mailto:gayellis@aol.com">gayellis@aol.com</a>
Phone	01787 460273
Mobile	07749 838769
Website	<a href="http://www.knights-hospitallers.org.uk">www.knights-hospitallers.org.uk</a>
Twitter	@knightsparishes
Facebook	Knights Hospitallers Parishes Little Maplestead Church Gestingthorpe Church Pebmarsh Church

## Letter from the editor

Welcome to the new year. Although we do not have a January issue it is your editor's busiest time of year as I have to approach all our advertisers to ask if they want to advertise in the magazine this year, then arrange, size, copy and get payment then find replacements for those who do not wish to advertise this year. We are very lucky, most of our advertisers are happily carrying on and those that we have lost have been due retirement or relocation. However, it would be really helpful if you use any of our advertisers, if you would tell them that you found them in the Parish News.

I think the photo on the cover, taken by Peter Schwier is fab and sums up this time of year well. So get out there, photograph and send them to us to include on future covers.

I am a serious bibliophile and I have just discovered the St Helena Hospice Second-hand Bookshop at 12 The Centre, Halstead CO9 2AJ (just down the road beside the Nat West building, next to the launderers and dry cleaners). I had to get the car to be able to take the books home. Highly recommended.



Jenny

## Braintree Area Food Bank

### Warm Pack and Homeless Person's packs 2018

For the last couple of years we have put together packs for those who are either homeless or needing additional warmth during the winter months.

Are you able to help with providing any of the following items?

- Thermal scarves
- Thermal gloves
- Thermal socks
- Thermal beanie hats
- Small blankets
- Insulated mugs
- Small torches - head ones are ideal
- Emergency space blankets
- Tin openers
- Wipes
- Ready to eat / self-heating meals

Donations can be made via the libraries in Braintree, Witham, and Halstead.

On behalf of all our visitors we thank you for your generosity.

T: 01376330694

E: [info@braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk)

W: [www.braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food](http://www.braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food)

## Letter from the Rectory

Saint Paul's Church in Harlow, where both Gay & Nick worshiped before Gay's ordination, contains one of the most striking images of Christ that you can find. It is a large mosaic by the renowned artist John Piper. To the side of the mosaic on the choir gallery there are three crests, one of the Royal Crest, one of the crest of the Town Council but the third has the word "members one of another" and is the crest of Harlow Development Corporation which was the organisation set up to construct the new town. Although a secular organisation the Corporation chose as its motto a phrase from the bible. For "members one of another" is part of St Paul's description of what it means to be a member of the church.

Each year the Church of England issues statistics showing the membership of the church, but this term is wrong. The Church of England is one of the few organisations of which every person in a parish is a member of. If you live within a parish you have the right to be buried in the churchyard (presuming that it is not full), be married in your parish church and have your children baptised. You can also attend church for any public service, there is no need to sign up, or even contribute any money, aside from fees set nationally for weddings and funerals. You can also call on your local Vicar if needed.

Those church membership figures do not reflect this, they are based on the number of people attending church and the number on the church's Electoral Roll. This roll is just what it says: it gives you the right to take part in the way the church is run. Being on the roll gives you the right to attend the churches annual meeting and to stand for election as a member of the church council. You do not need to put your name on the roll for any other reason.

Every six years the church prepares a new roll, which means that everyone who wishes to be on the roll has to fill in a new form. Elsewhere in the magazine the dates of the revision are shown. Please do consider how you want to be a member of the church. Perhaps attend more services, make regular financial contribution to the running costs, even help out with jobs in the church. Or take your involvement a step further and think about joining the roll to vote in church elections and becoming a member of the Church Council.

Gay and Nick Ellis



### Fancy a cup of coffee and a chat?

Come to the Tower Room in  
St Giles Church, Great Maplestead  
Open every Wednesday Morning 10.30am to 12noon  
No charge, this is a social get together, not a fund raiser  
Everyone is welcome - for more details please ring  
Dorothy on 01787 829963 or Gill on 01787 462786



### Village Emergency Telephone Service (VETS)

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

The telephone numbers of the village VETS are:

**Little Maplestead 01787 852252**  
**Gestingthorpe 01787 852850**  
**Pebmarsh 01787 852300**



### Sudbury Area Cancer Support Group

4th Thursday, 7-9pm, The Christopher Centre, 10 Gainsborough Street, Sudbury, CO10 2EU.

2nd Friday, Cafe Club, 12-2pm, The Loft, 3 Gaol Lane, Sudbury CO10 1JL.

For more information, contact Ruth Worsley on [ruth-SACSG@outlook.com](mailto:ruth-SACSG@outlook.com).

## Cold Calling Intruder Alarm Companies

Considering an intruder alarm? Think twice before you consider taking an offer up from a cold calling intruder alarm company. Quite often they will use high pressure sales tactics, make you an offer that appears to be too good to be true, somewhere may be concealed charges. If you are told the alarm goes through direct to the police then "alarm bells" should ring, the police do not monitor intruder alarms, they go to a commercial central monitoring station who contact police on a confirmed activation and if a certain criteria is fulfilled and resources are available then police attend.

With any cold callers, stop, give yourself time to think about what is being offered, do a little research before coming to a decision, speak to friends or family, **don't be rushed**. Remember "if it appears too good to be true invariable it is" and "you get nothing for nothing". If you need something done or purchased speak to neighbours and friends and take on a trader by personal recommendation, or Trading Standards "Buy with Confidence" scheme [www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk](http://www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk) or call 0345 404 0506.

Gone are the days when an alarm was an indication you have something to steal, there are so many out there now, and it has been proven that having an intruder alarm is a strong deterrent to burglars. Self-install or installed system, wired or wireless, bells only or self-monitored or call centre monitored, there are pros, cons and financial implications to each. If you go with an installed system we recommend that you use NSI [www.nsi.co.uk](http://www.nsi.co.uk) or SSAIB [www.ssaib.co.uk](http://www.ssaib.co.uk) accredited companies (some are also "Buy with Confidence" vetted for extra peace of mind), and get at least three quotes to compare like for like.

If you have any further queries re alarms or any other security issue have a look at the Essex Police webpage [www.essex.police.uk/advice/home-security/](http://www.essex.police.uk/advice/home-security/).



### 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 John O'Reilly Cicconi - [cllr.jo'reilly-cicconi@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.jo'reilly-cicconi@braintree.gov.uk)

#### Gestingthorpe

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

#### Pebmarsh

Councillor Chris Siddall - [cllr.csiddall@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.csiddall@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)

### European

John Flack MEP - [john.flack@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:john.flack@europarl.europa.eu)

## Local Information

The bus service is available between 6am and 20pm Monday to Saturday. Unlike a conventional bus, the F315 bus service requires some passengers to pre-book their seat and register as a customer at least two hours in advance of travel using either [bookings@essexandsuffolkdart.co.uk](mailto:bookings@essexandsuffolkdart.co.uk) or 01621 874411. These are passengers who wish to join the bus at Great Maplestead Church, Pebmarsh War Memorial or Pebmarsh Bus Shelter. These stops are shown in italics on the timetable. All other stops will be served within a twenty minute window of the times shown below. (10 minutes either side). They do not require pre-booking. The flat fare is £2.50 single or £4.00 return. Bus passes can be used.

### F 315 Halstead - Sudbury flexible bus service Winter 2018/9 Earliest departure times

A call at Great Maplestead adds 6 or 7 minutes. A call at Pebmarsh adds about 12 minutes. Easy access.

Mondays to Saturdays							F315
Halstead, High Street	07:30	10:00	12:00	14:00	16:30	18:30	
Little Maplestead, Pump	07:34	10:04	12:04	14:04	16:34	18:34	Timings in BLUE are
Great Maplestead, School	07:38	10:08	12:08	14:08	16:38	18:38	fixed timing points
Little Maplestead, Cock Road	07:41	10:11	12:11	14:11	16:41	18:41	All highlighted timings
Pebmarsh, War Memorial	07:50	10:20	12:20	14:20	16:50	18:50	MUST be pre-booked
Pebmarsh, Bus Shelter	07:51	10:21	12:21	14:21	16:51	18:51	01621 874411
Wickham St Paul, The Victory	07:45	10:15	12:15	14:15	16:45	18:45	the earliest times
Gestingthorpe, Foundry Corner	07:49	10:19	12:19	14:19	16:49	18:49	dependent on the
Bulmer, Cross Roads	07:55	10:25	12:25	14:25	16:55	18:55	number of passengers
Bulmer Tye, Park Lane	07:59	10:29	12:29	14:29	16:59	18:44	booked onto the
Ballingdon, Strawberry Stores	08:02	10:32	12:32	14:32	17:02	18:48	service
Sudbury, Bus Station	08:07	10:37	12:37	14:37	17:07	18:50	earliest arrival time
Sudbury, Bus Station	08:26	10:56	12:56	14:56	17:26	19:07	latest arrival time

  

SUDBURY - BULMER - GESTINGTHORPE - WICKHAM ST. PAUL'S - PEBMARSH - GREAT MAPLESTEAD - LITTLE MAPLESTEAD - HALSTEAD							F315
Mondays to Saturdays							
Sudbury, Bus Station	09:00	11:00	13:00	15:30	17:30	19:15	
Ballingdon, opp Strawberry Stores	09:03	11:03	13:03	15:33	17:33	19:18	Timings in BLUE are
Bulmer Tye, Park Lane	09:07	11:07	13:07	15:37	17:37	19:22	fixed timing points
Bulmer, Cross Roads	09:11	11:11	13:11	15:41	17:41	19:26	All highlighted timings
Gestingthorpe, Foundry Corner	09:17	11:17	13:17	15:47	17:47	19:32	MUST be pre-booked
Wickham St Paul, The Victory	09:23	11:23	13:23	15:53	17:53	19:38	01621 874411
Pebmarsh, Bus Shelter	09:30	11:30	13:30	16:00	18:00	19:45	the earliest times
Pebmarsh, War Memorial	+12 min	09:31	11:31	13:31	16:01	18:01	dependent on the
Little Maplestead, Cock Road	09:25	11:25	13:25	15:55	17:55	19:27	number of passengers
Great Maplestead, School	+7min	09:28	11:28	13:28	15:58	17:58	booked onto the
Little Maplestead, Pump	09:32	11:32	13:32	16:02	18:02	19:30	service
Halstead, High Street	09:37	11:37	13:37	16:07	18:07	19:35	earliest arrival time
Halstead, High Street	09:56	11:56	13:56	16:26	18:26	19:52	latest arrival time

## Local Libraries

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



## More Local Information

### Solar Society - Your local adult daytime learning group.

On Monday February 4<sup>th</sup> the speaker will be Charles Beck and the topic will be 'Dennis Wheatley Rides Out'.

In March, on Monday 4<sup>th</sup>, we welcome back Simon Frampton who will give an illustrated talk on 'Julie Christie, her life in films.'

Both meetings start at 2.30pm and last about two hours with a short interval for free light refreshments.

The venue is The Memorial Hall, Church Lane, Castle Hedingham.

Entrance: £4.00. No membership fee.

More details from Miles Scrivens, 01787 469766 or Wanda Sellar 01787 463459

### Essex Libraries Consultation

The consultation into the future of Essex libraries launches on 29 November 2018 and lasts 12 weeks through to 20 February 2019.

Further information can be found here <https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/news/essex-libraries-draft-strategy-consultation/>

### Four Parishes Book Group

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

Recent books read include "Days without End" by Sebastian Barry, "Truly, Madly, Guilty" by Lianne Moriarty, "Washington Square" by Henry James and "The Dry" by Jane Harper. Books are chosen by suggestion or recommendation from members. All books are borrowed from the library so there is no cost to members.

For more information, contact Alison Cantor on 01787 462537 or 07713509445 or by email at [acantor@linus.plus.com](mailto:acantor@linus.plus.com)

### Ecclesiastical Insurance

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

Susan Peters wishes all her friends in the three Parishes a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

## Notice of Revision of Church Electoral Roll and Annual Meetings

In accordance with church legislation all four parishes are producing a new church electoral roll this year. This will take place from 12<sup>th</sup> February onwards. If you wish to vote for church representatives or stand for election yourself you must be on the Roll and submit a completed form. You can be on the roll if you live in the parish or regularly attend worship. Forms will be available in our churches from Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February along with details of how to return them.

Our annual meetings will be held in the week before Easter (w/c 15<sup>th</sup> April) and details of these will in the April edition of the Magazine

### Looking Forward:

Towards the end of Lent we will have our Palm Sunday Walk 14<sup>th</sup> April. We will start at Gt. Maplestead Church and walk to Lt. Maplestead Church. It would be really nice to have a donkey or pony to lead the way, do you know of anyone who might help us?

Looking ahead to the Spring as it will not be long now, we are hoping to have a Bluebell Service in Wiggery Wood on Ashley Coopers farm, we will let you know the date in next months magazine.

### More Great Maplestead

**JUMBLE SALE!**

*Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March at 3-00pm*

*Great Maplestead Village Hall*

**Admission 30p Raffle & Refreshments**

Clothing & fabrics urgently needed; small pieces of furniture (e.g. tables/chairs) very welcome [but **no** beds, wardrobes or settees please]

**Contributions gratefully received by: Diane Smith (473 300) or Doreen Faulks (460 727). Please call for Collection.**



**Hall open for deliveries:**  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March : 9.00am-4.00pm  
Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March : 9.00am-noon

*All proceeds in aid of the Village Hall*

## Great Maplestead

### The Maplesteads WI

President Carol Brownlie welcomed everyone to our meeting on Thursday January 3rd 2019. Secretary Janice Chaplin read the minutes of the previous meeting which were signed as correct and birthday flowers were presented.

Our Christmas Party held on 6 December was a fun evening of games, good food and excellent conversation and much enjoyed by all.

Carol started our meeting by asking members to write, anonymously, the things they enjoyed about our WI meetings and anything they would like to happen in future meetings. It was unanimous that everyone enjoyed our meetings and looked forward to outings to the theatre and other future venues to be decided upon. We then went on to vote for the resolution of our choice, from the ones proposed by the NFWI. We all thoroughly enjoyed the refreshments provided by our tea ladies of the evening Val Castro, Christine Dunne and Gill Sanderson. The flower of the month was won by Dorothy Whyte with a pretty white Daphnia.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 2 February 2019 and the speaker will be Peter Heskett with his talk on "Circumnavigation of the World". For further information please telephone Carol Brownlie on 01787 461527.

Anne Fletcher

### Date for your diary

Great Maplestead Village Hall

CHARITY LENT LUNCH

Saturday 16th March 2019

12 noon to 2pm

£5 entry, ploughmans & soup

raising funds for Essex Air

## Little Maplestead

### Christmas at Little Maplestead Church

#### Carol Service

The Carol Service was held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December, and mulled wine and mince pies were served as the congregation arrived. The Church looked stunning by candle light, nearly 100 were lit at the start of the service, and the tree lights and the little lights in the lovely floral displays all added to the magic.

The congregation heard a mixture of Bible and contemporary readings; these were interspersed with traditional carols. Thanks to the readers who all read so beautifully.

Every year the Carol Service marks the beginning of the Christmas season, and more and more people come to enjoy the service.

#### Christmas Eve Crib Service

The Crib Service at 4pm on Christmas Eve is always a really lovely service. This year 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 – truly a service to suit all ages.

The Nativity figures were chosen by the children as they arrived- this sometimes took quite a long time- and through the service all the figures arrived at Bethlehem to the accompaniment of carols.

Chocolates were given to the well behaved as they left to await the arrival of Father Christmas.

#### Christmas Day Service

The service on Christmas Morning is always special, and this year was no exception. Lots of families attended and there was gentle rivalry over choosing which carols to sing, with readings from the Christmas story in between. We left in the pale winter sunshine, thankful to be part of such a good community.

#### Thank You

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 Gay, who works so hard at her ministry in all the Parishes.

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## More Little Maplestead

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### New Year

Perhaps one of your New Year Resolutions was 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 next Sunday.

### Parish Room Update

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A lot of progress has been made since the last issue of the magazine:

- The Diocesan Advisory Committee have approved the proposal.
- St John's, the parent charity of St John Ambulance, who have a long historical connection with the church, have provided their whole-hearted support.
- A model of the proposed building, plan and background information has been displayed in the church and details have been included in the village noticeboards, on the Parish Council's website and on the Maplestead Mates page on Facebook
- In early December, members of the Parochial Church Council met with our Parish Councillors to present and discuss the proposal.
- On the 13<sup>th</sup> January a public meeting was held to present the proposal to the residents of the village and answer any questions.
- Members of the PCC will be meeting with Historic England in January.

We have also canvassed a significant number of residents of the village and although we haven't called on everyone, the overwhelming majority of people are in support. If you haven't been contacted, a member of the PCC will hopefully call on you in the near future. However, you can also register your support or opposition by sending an email to [roundchurchroom@btinternet.com](mailto:roundchurchroom@btinternet.com).

One of the aims of the project is to bring the community together and the PCC would like to thank everyone who has offered their help with securing funding, with its construction or who has put forward ideas for additional uses of the parish room, e.g. a book club.

A further update will be provided in the next issue of the magazine.

### Local Women's Running Group

Meet us Sunday mornings at 9am at the Little India Car park in Little Maplestead, to run between 4 and 5km. Please contact [laurabloom@btinternet.com](mailto:laurabloom@btinternet.com) or call/text Laura on 0780 174 9802 if you would like to come along and give it a try.

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## More Gestingthorpe

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### Gestingthorpe Community Speed Watch

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Due to the high incidence of vehicles speeding through the village and the considerable danger that this poses to the residents, the Parish Council are considering undertaking a Community Speed Watch. This would involve volunteers monitoring the speed of vehicles at various points in the village.

Therefore if anyone is interested in volunteering to assist with the Speed Watch could they please contact Peter Collett - [peter@thecollettfamily.co.uk](mailto:peter@thecollettfamily.co.uk) - 01787 469187. Training and equipment will be provided.

### Gestup Fest

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Saturday 14 September 2019. We hope to see you at our 2019 Festival on the playing field and ground that is the home of Gestingthorpe Cricket Club.

We are planning for a great afternoon and evening of family fun with interesting stalls and displays along with food, drink, and music.

Keep a look-out for more information and in the meantime make a note in your diary. We hope to see you there.

### Gardens of Easton Lodge

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The new year is now well underway for volunteers at the Gardens... with a range of restoration and improvement projects in hand. We are continuing to clear the far end of the walled kitchen garden, putting in more raised beds for vegetables. We would be pleased to hear from anyone with experience to share of establishing a camomile lawn!

We will be selling snowdrops in the green on our 17 and 24 February snowdrop Open Days. Our gates will be open from 11.30 -4.00 (last entry 3.00) and we will have hot drinks, soup and bacon rolls and of course home-made cakes. There will also be a plant stall.



## **Gestingthorpe**

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### **Gospellers at Gestingthorpe**

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Our traditional candle-lit Carol Service was held on 12 December and was enlivened by the presence of the Exaltation! Gospel Choir from Halstead, whose superb singing encouraged even the shyest members of the congregation (numbering nearly one hundred people) to join in. This was the best sound in recent memory. Wendy Jones was on the organ, helped by Charles Whilems for the last carol. The tree had been decorated by the young children from Blossom and Bloom nursery. As always the church had been beautifully decorated: a big thank you to all concerned. Mulled wine had been supplied and served before the service by David and Suzanne Nott, together with mince pies. Four school-age children were among the readers. Rev Gay Ellis led the service. This was a great village event for all generations and, for any resident who has not been to one of these very special candle-lit services, do come to next December's Carol Service: you will be very welcome indeed.

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### **Plough Sunday at Hill Farm**

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Every winter we celebrate the start of the agricultural year with a Plough Sunday service at Hill Farm, Gestingthorpe. This takes place partly inside and partly outside, weather permitting. This year the service took place on 6 January, the twelfth day of Christmas. The weather was mild so the part of the service taken outside was not too chilly. Our thanks as always to Ashley Cooper, to Wendy (playing the keyboard) and to Gay who took the service, not to mention those present from relatively near and far (Bures!). God speed the plough!

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### **Gestingthorpe Village Hall**

Building work will be continuing during February to upgrade the toilet facilities.

Please bear with us while we carry out these works, your village hall will still be operational during this time and we look forward to welcoming you to see the new and improved facilities in 2019.

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### **Early Call for Crafters**

If you would like a table at our Easter Craft Fair on Saturday the 13th April, please contact Claire Craig on [thecraigs2018@outlook.com](mailto:thecraigs2018@outlook.com)



## **Pebmarsh**

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### **Remembrance Service November 2018**

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Albeit belatedly, we couldn't let the occasion of the Remembrance Service on 11th November at the War Memorial pass without thanking Tim the bugler. Wreathes were laid on behalf of the PCC, the Parish Council, Pebmarsh Community Pub and by a visitor in memory of a relation who had lived in the village. In the Centenary year we saw in excess of 100 people attending the service.

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### **Carol Service**

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The Carol Service saw a packed Church which was fabulous & a delightful way to start the Christmas celebrations. The Long Melford Silver Band were superb; our grateful thanks to them & Bob Lane who helped organise the evening. Refreshments after the service gave everyone a chance to chat & catch up with friends.

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### **Christmas Decorations**

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Thank you to the ladies on the flower rota for the beautiful floral decorations in the Church over the Christmas period & for dressing the Christmas tree, which was kindly donated by a parishioner.

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### **The Courtyard**

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No doubt most people in Pebmarsh have noticed the welcome addition of Courtyard Stores to our village. For those who haven't this is our new local grocery store located alongside Headquarters Hair Design at Le Mote Farm, Cross End. The grocery store is open daily, please see the advert for details of opening times.

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### **Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal**

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Many thanks to those in the village who collected on behalf of the Poppy Appeal and to everyone who donated so generously. A total of £493.27 was raised in Pebmarsh from door to door collections, the school, church & pub.

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### **Ladies Club**

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Ladies Club meets on the second Tuesday of the month from 1pm until 3pm through the year. The February meeting is time for a catch up with tea, cakes and a game of Bingo. The March meeting will be a talk by Susan Tibbett from Sudbury Museum entitled "An ordinary family".

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### **Card Making Club**

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Card Club meets on the last Tuesday of the month from 1pm, booking is essential with Pauline on 01787 228790. All tools and materials provided.

## More Pebmarsh

### Pebmarsh Parish Council

Late last year representatives of the Parish Council (Jackie Tufnell and the Parish Clerk, Pippa Potter) had a very constructive and lengthy meeting in the village with three representatives of Essex Highways to discuss and examine road safety issues in the village.

The first was that, with the help and support of David Finch (head of Essex CC), the Parish Council have been pressing for yellow zig-zag lines outside the school and more prominent signs, including "20's Plenty" signs. They told us this was in hand.

Next, they agreed that the signage leading up to the bridge over the Peb in the middle of the village (where traffic is - in theory - one way only, but many people go far too fast and ignore the priority signs) was unsatisfactory and they will consider putting new and clearer signage there. We also discussed the perils of exiting Mill Lane, because of the speed with which cars come up the hill past the church, often in the middle of the road; they suggested that the exit lines on the road should be moved further out. Finally the dangers of the junction of Oak Road and Birchleys Road at the top of the village were discussed. There is no Give Way sign on Birchleys Road and the road markings have all but disappeared.

How long this is going to take is, I'm afraid, anyone's guess but each of these points is now "in the system" and all we can do is keep pressing, which we will do.

On another subject the Parish Council at its last meeting decided to try and re-issue the Guide to the Footpaths of Pebmarsh (of which there are many). The last version of this Guide was produced over 20 years ago, and many in the village therefore don't have it. Once this is available again, copies will be available in the Pub and the new local Convenience Store which has recently opened in Cross End (and which is a very welcome addition to the facilities of the village along with the hair and beauty salon next to it)."

### The King's Head Pebmarsh

There's plenty at the King's Head to brighten up those dark winter nights and the hugely popular Open Mic Night returns on Sunday 3 March from 5pm. The lunchtime menu, with 20% senior's discount, is proving very popular, as is the exceptional Sunday Lunch and there's a special menu planned for Valentine's Day - call 01787 267942 to reserve your table. See the full menu and details of upcoming events on the website [www.kingsheadpebmarsh.co.uk](http://www.kingsheadpebmarsh.co.uk)

Pebmarsh Community Pub Limited is a Community Benefit Society established and managed by the community for the benefit of the community.

## More Pebmarsh

Why not join the Society and support us with the next phase of our community project, by purchasing shares and thereby becoming a member. We now have over 420 individual shareholders. Shares cost £50 and are available individually or in blocks of up to 100.

Contact [pcpshareholder@gmail.com](mailto:pcpshareholder@gmail.com) for a copy of the prospectus which provides full details.

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



At Halstead Library

#### What is a Repair Café?

We throw away vast amounts of stuff including things with almost nothing wrong and which could get a new lease of life after a simple repair. The Halstead Repair Café is where you can bring items for repair, get advice on how to repair things yourself, or even learn a new skill.

Repair sessions at Halstead Library **once a month** for clothing repairs.

**FRIDAY, Feb 8th 11.00 - 1.00**

**FRIDAY Mar 8th 11.00 - 1.00**

**FRIDAY Apr 5th 11.00 - 1.00**

Please bring along any items of clothing to be altered, repaired, patched etc and other fabric items that need a bit of TLC or come along for advice.

For help with mechanical and furniture repairs and restoration, Contact Steve 01787 469390/07713521236 [stevemendit@hotmail.com](mailto:stevemendit@hotmail.com)  
All items mended at owner's own risk.

Also, if you can volunteer to help, eg repairing electrical equipment, or other items, please contact us and join in.



For further details talk to library staff or contact us:

 [repaircafehalstead@gmail.com](mailto:repaircafehalstead@gmail.com)

 [www.facebook.com/repaircafehalsteadessex](http://www.facebook.com/repaircafehalsteadessex)

 01787 462537