

## Services for February 2019

	Gestingthorpe	Great Maplestead	Little Maplestead	Pebmarsh
Sunday 2 February	9.30am Holy Communion 1pm Baptism	6.30pm Sung Evensong for Candlemas (BCP)	11am Holy Communion	
Sunday 9 February	4pm Compline	9.30am Holy Communion		11am Holy Communion
Sunday 16 February	11am Morning Prayer (BCP)	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	
Sunday 23 February	8.15am Holy Communion (BCP)	11am Family Service	10am Morning Prayer	9.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 26 February			8pm Ash Wednesday Service	
Sunday 1 March	9.30am Holy Communion	6.30pm Evensong	11am Holy Communion	

### Notice of the Annual Church Meetings

Every year the church holds an open meeting where those who live in the parish can review the previous year and ask questions about the church. These annual meetings will soon be held and the details of these will in the March edition of the Magazine

### Dates for the Diary.

5th February. Deanery Synod to be held at Gt. Giles Church at 7.30pm

### PCC Dates.

2 March	Pebmarsh
4 March	Gt. Maplestead
5 March	Lt. Maplestead.
18 March	Gestingthorpe.

This magazine is available electronically on the parish council and church web sites

**Parish  
News**

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

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**Church and Community together**  
**February 2020**

**Free**

## Village contacts and information

Reverend Gay Ellis and the churchwardens see page 26.

Village Emergency Telephone Service and Neighbourhood Watch representatives see page 25

Magazine copy and deliveries see page 23

### Parish Clerks

Gt Maplestead	Ann Crisp	01787 460216	anncrisp@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk
Lt Maplestead	Ann Harris	01787 462818	littlemaplesteadparishclerk@gmail.com
Gestingthorpe	Kevin B Money	07810 781509	gestingthorpepc@gmail.com
Pebmarsh	Shelley Boydel	07801 492312	pebmarshparishclerk@gmail.com

### The Maplesteads

WI	Carol Brownlie	01787 461527	carolbrownlie@gmail.com
WEA	Jill Newton	01787 463893	gilliannnewton4@gmail.com
Autumn Show	Carol Brownlie	01787 461527	carolbrownlie@gmail.com

### Gt Maplestead

Task Force	Martin Elms	01787 461421	martinelms@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk
Village Hall	Liz Newton	01787 461308	lizatlucking@hotmail.com
Playing Field	Joe Newton	01787 461308	lizatlucking@hotmail.com
Mixed Ability Yoga	Victoria Ashworth	07751 911923	justinashworth@hotmail.co.uk
Pilates	Catherine Pawsey	07814 459683	catherinepawseypilates@gmail.com
Dance & Keep Fit	Judy Cowell	01376 561757	judy.cowell@btinternet.com
Carpet Bowls	Janice Chaplin	01787 469600	bobandjanicechaplin@btinternet.com
Youth Club	Myra Jeggo	01787 474285	m.jeggo@sky.com

### Gestingthorpe

Village Hall	Steve Bagby	07840 367182	
Village amenities	Nick Duncan	01787 313558	
Tower bell ringing	Valerie Fullman	01787 462755	
Cricket Club	Nick Duncan	01787 313558	
Football Club			
History Society	Gill Webb	01787 581836	gillwebb880@gmail.com

### Pebmarsh

Village Hall	Jonathan Nott	01787 269231	jonathannott44@hotmail.com
Dog Training	Halstead Dog Club	01787 473154	halsteaddogclub@hotmail.co.uk
Card making	Pauline Andow	01787 228790	
Ladies Club	Pauline Andow	01787 228790	
	Sandra Beaney	01787 222220	
Carpet bowls	Jim Crayston	01787 222241	jim@craystonfarms.co.uk
Youth club	Carol Parker	01787 269996	taximother@googlemail.com
Baby Sensory Class	Helen Whiting	07703 790273	braintree@babysensory.co.uk

### Footpaths

Gt Maplestead	Steve Harris	01787 462818	steve198harris@gmail.com
Lt Maplestead	Geraldine Holloway	01787 476530	geraldineholloway2017@gmail.com
Gestingthorpe	L Crumpton-Taylor	01787 460277	lesliecrumpton-taylor@gmail.com
Pebmarsh	Michael Sharp	07725 909986	michael@broomhills-farm.co.uk

### All villages

Book Club	Alison Cantor	01787 462537	acantor@linus.plus.com
Knitting group	Carol Brownlie	01787 461527	carolbrownlie@gmail.com
Handbell Ringing	Margaret Crudgington	01787 469049	
Solar Society	Miles Scrivens	01787 469766	lauri.scrivens@gmail.com
Benefice Choir	Gill Peskett	01787 462786	gillpeskett43@gmail.com
Scouts	Stuart Carter	01787 461149	
Guides	Kathy Hoy	01787 280200	
Molly's Wood	Jane Postma		<a href="https://www.mollyswood.org/contact">https://www.mollyswood.org/contact</a>

## February dates for your diary

1 February		6 Nations Rugby - The Kings Head	Pebmarsh
3 February	2.30pm	Solar Society	Castle Hedingham
5 February	7pm	Bowls Club	Pebmarsh
6 February	7pm	The Maplesteads WI	Great Maplestead
6 February	7.30pm	Quizmaster - the Kings Head	Pebmarsh
11 February		Ladies Club	Pebmarsh
12 February	7.30pm	2020 Village Events	Great Maplestead
14 February	10am	Coffee Morning	Gestingthorpe
14 February	7.30pm	Pub Night	Great Maplestead
28 February	10am	Coffee Morning	Gestingthorpe
29 February	7pm	Cards and Curry	Great Maplestead

### Save the date

Great Maplestead Jumble Sale - 14 March 2020  
 Great Maplestead. The Art of Wellbeing - 20 March 2020  
 Great Maplestead Celebrates VE Day - 8-9 May 2020

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The copy deadline for the February magazine is **Friday 21 February 2020**

We need to know who, what, where and when .....

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

#### **Copy**

Editor	Jenny Bishop	01787 472159	pmeditor@icloud.com
Gestingthorpe	Andy Craig	07970 395640	andy@mdamarketing.com
Gt Maplestead	Ann Harris	01787 462818	ann66harris@gmail.com
Little Maplestead	Beverley Bratley	01787 473281	beverley.bratley@gmail.com
Pebmarsh	Jan Bond	01787269082	janbond381@btinternet.com

## The Churchwardens serving our Benefice are

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

### 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.

#### 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



#### Baptism

3 November Little Maplestead Amber Rae Gould

#### Funeral

29 November Little Maplestead Peter Fletcher

### The Reverend Gay Ellis

The Rectory  
Church Street  
Great Maplestead  
CO9 2RG

Email [gayellis@aol.com](mailto:gayellis@aol.com)  
Telephone 01787 460273  
Mobile 07749 838769

### Church Social Media

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

Twitter - @knightsparishes

Face book - Knights Hospitallers Parishes, Little Maplestead Church, Gestingthorpe Church, Pebmarsh Church

## Letter from the editor



A Happy New Year to you all.

The lovely photograph on the front was taken by Adrian and Elaine Norris of Great Maplestead. They have also kindly paid for the colour cover, which makes the magazine look so much better.

Mothering Sunday is coming up on the 22 March. It would be lovely if you would mail me messages for your Mum in time for the March issue. Please send them by the 21 February. I shall be sending a message to my Mum.

Again an enormous thank-you to our advertisers, who enable us to send the magazine free to all our villages and give some money to our churches. Great thanks also to our army of volunteers who organise copy and distribute the magazines. Without all this we could not continue.

Jenny

## Church Web-site

The decision has been taken to cease updating the joint web-site for the four churches (<http://www.knights-hospitallers.org.uk/>) and in future services etc.. will be listed on AChurchNearYou - <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/>

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## Letter from the Rectory

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Easter eggs are on sale in supermarkets and you will have taken your decorations down so Christmas must be over – or is it? For the Church, the answer is that it certainly is not. The Christmas season actually lasts for the forty days after the 25th December. Therefore, while you may have finished eating your way through the chocolates on an Advent calendar by Christmas Day it is on that day that the churches' Christmas truly begins. The name for this time of year is Epiphanytide, rather than Christmas, the word Epiphany meaning an awakening or revelation. Christmas being the time when Jesus was revealed to the world. The nativity story tells of the first people to see Jesus – the shepherds and the wise men and the Christmas story continues until the baby Jesus is brought to the temple in Jerusalem. Here a man called Simeon recognised Jesus as the promised messiah and said the words "[that Jesus was] a light for revelation to the Gentiles" – that is the non-Jewish people.

You will see elsewhere in the Magazine references to a church service, we are having in February, called Candlemas. At this service you will be able to enter the church in darkness and then candles will be lit throughout the church to signify the promise that Jesus came to earth at Christmas as our saviour. This should be a special way to end Christmas.

Then a few weeks later we will welcome the pupils of St Giles school in the church at Great Maplestead for an Ash Wednesday service as we move into Lent and start looking forward to Easter. This year Lent will be different for us and the parishes as we will be leaving, with Gay's retirement after nearly eight years – but more about that next month.

So February is a month that we can still sign off with best wishes for the Christmas Season but also with the hope for blessing during Lent.

Gay & Nick



### Looking Forward:

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Towards the end of Lent we will have our Palm Sunday Walk 5th April. We will start at Lt. Maplestead Church and walk to Gt. Maplestead Church.

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, this will either be on Sunday 26th April or Sunday 3rd May, we will confirm which date in the March Magazine, please hold both dates in your diary.

## Village Emergency Telephone Service (VETS)

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

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

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

Each of our village halls is available for hire for all types of functions. Little Maplestead residents can hire Great Maplestead village hall at same rate as Great Maplestead residents. Please contact the relevant booking secretary

Great Maplestead	Liz Newton	01787 461308	
Pebmarsh	Christine Nott	01787 269231	
Gestingthorpe	Steve Bagby	07840 367182	or 01787 463592

### Neighbourhood Watch representatives

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

### Ecclesiastical Insurance

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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).

## Local and National Authority Representatives

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### Essex County Council

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

### Braintree District Council

#### Great and Little Maplestead

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

#### Gestingthorpe

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

#### Pebmarsh

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

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

### Westminster

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

## Parish Council Websites

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Gestingthorpe	<a href="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>

## Village Hall activities

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Pebmarsh has the Bowls Club, the Youth Club, the Ladies Club, Card Making, Dog Training, Art Club (currently full) and Baby Sensory. Great Maplestead has Yoga, Legs, Bums and Tums, Dance and Keep Fit and Pilates. Gestingthorpe has Pilates.

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

## The F315 Local Bus Service

Bold Roman indicates fixed time. Shading indicates bus only calls if pre-booked on 0621 874411. Italic indicates the bus will be later if it has called at Great Maplestead or Pebmarsh. All journeys on the last bus each way have to be booked. Out of town, away from bus stops the bus can be hailed anywhere with good visibility.

The two times for Sudbury Bus Station and Halstead High Street shows earliest and latest arrival time. A call at Great Maplestead adds 6-7 minutes, a call at Pebmarsh adds 12 minutes.

Please always check the website for the latest timetable.

### F 315 Halstead - Sudbury flexible bus service Winter 2020 until f

A call at Great Maplestead adds 6 or 7 minutes. A call all at Pebmarsh adds about 1

Mondays to Saturdays						
<b>Halstead, High Street</b>	<b>07:30</b>	<b>10:00</b>	<b>12:00</b>	<b>14:00</b>	<b>16:30</b>	<b>18:30</b>
Little Maplestead, Pump	07:34	10:04	12:04	14:04	16:34	18:34
Great Maplestead, School	07:38	10:08	12:08	14:08	16:38	18:38
Little Maplestead, Cock Road	07:41	10:11	12:11	14:11	16:41	18:41
Pebmarsh, War Memorial	07:50	10:20	12:20	14:20	16:50	18:50
Pebmarsh, Bus Shelter	07:51	10:21	12:21	14:21	16:51	18:51
Wickham St Paul, The Victory	07:45	10:15	12:15	14:15	16:45	18:45
Gestingthorpe, Foundry Corne	07:49	10:19	12:19	14:19	16:49	18:49
Bulmer, Cross Roads	07:55	10:25	12:25	14:25	16:55	18:55
Bulmer Tye, Park Lane	07:59	10:29	12:29	14:29	16:59	18:44
Ballingdon, Strawberry Stores	08:03	10:33	12:33	14:33	17:03	18:48
<b>Sudbury, Bus Station</b>	<b>08:07</b>	<b>10:37</b>	<b>12:37</b>	<b>14:37</b>	<b>17:07</b>	<b>18:50</b>
<b>Sudbury, Bus Station</b>	<b>08:26</b>	<b>10:56</b>	<b>12:56</b>	<b>14:56</b>	<b>17:26</b>	<b>19:07</b>

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

Mondays to Saturdays							
<b>Sudbury, Bus Station</b>		<b>09:00</b>	<b>11:00</b>	<b>13:00</b>	<b>15:30</b>	<b>17:30</b>	<b>19:15</b>
Ballingdon, opp Strawberry Stores		09:03	11:03	13:03	15:33	17:33	19:18
Bulmer Tye, Park Lane		09:07	11:07	13:07	15:37	17:37	19:22
Bulmer, Cross Roads		09:11	11:11	13:11	15:41	17:41	19:26
Gestingthorpe, Foundry Corner		09:17	11:17	13:17	15:47	17:47	19:32
Wickham St Paul, The Victory		09:23	11:23	13:23	15:53	17:53	19:38
Pebmarsh, Bus Shelter		09:30	11:30	13:30	16:00	18:00	19:45
Pebmarsh, War Memorial		09:31	11:31	13:31	16:01	18:01	19:46
Little Maplestead, Cock Road		09:25	11:25	13:25	15:55	17:55	19:27
Great Maplestead, School		09:28	11:28	13:28	15:58	17:58	19:43
Little Maplestead, Pump		09:32	11:32	13:32	16:02	18:02	19:30
<b>Halstead, High Street</b>		<b>09:37</b>	<b>11:37</b>	<b>13:37</b>	<b>16:07</b>	<b>18:07</b>	<b>19:35</b>
<b>Halstead, High Street</b>		<b>09:56</b>	<b>11:56</b>	<b>13:56</b>	<b>16:26</b>	<b>18:26</b>	<b>19:52</b>

## Gestingthorpe

### Gestingthorpe 'Gathering' Coffee/Tea Mornings

Our coffee mornings held between 10 am and 12 noon on alternate Fridays in the village hall are continuing to be a hit with those of all ages.

Friends and neighbours in the village come along to enjoy chatting over a mug of tea or coffee and some delicious home baked cakes.

If you haven't already been to one of our coffee mornings please come along soon; we would love to see you.

The dates for our next three coffee mornings are 31st January and then 14th and 28th February.

We hope to see you there.



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

## How Secure is Your Home? Locked Your Door?

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We are still experience around the county a number of burglaries that have occurred where either doors are not being locked or not locked correctly. You can reduce the risk of being a victim of burglary by simply taking the time to ensure you understand how your door locks and keeping your property secure.

It may sound obvious, but **do you know how your doors lock?** There are so many types of doors and perhaps your door may have been changed or you may have moved to a new house. Many types of doors can be fitted with a multi-point locking system that as the name suggests has several locking points compared to the older traditional night latch (Yale lock) and mortice lock that each lock in one point.

Most multi-point locking systems have a latch enabling the door to be held closed on the latch upon closing the door and several bolts or hooks that are engaged when you lift the handle. **The Latch** - depending on the type of lock the latch may operate with both the indoor and outdoor handles or just the indoor handle, try your door and see which you have. **The bolts or hooks** - these provide the security for your door but only if you lock them in place with the key. **The method** - upon closing the door lift the handle putting all the bolts or hooks in place, on going out lock these all in place with the key, upon locking up indoors use the key as before or the thumb turn if applicable. Until locked in place the hooks or bolts can be released by someone using the outside door handle. If you use a key to operate the lock indoors ensure that you store the key close to the door in case of emergency, but make sure that any keys are out of view from windows and doors.

**The Back door** - also, we have had some burglaries where the occupants of the house are in their lounge watching TV and in slips the burglar via the insecure rear door, takes what is in that room, the car keys and the car from the drive. Firstly think about your rear boundaries, invest in good fencing and gate(s) 1.8m high, some spiky bushes or climbing plants and fit and use locks to secure the gate. If you need to come and go through the gate use a key operated lock to secure the gate. Secondly if you are not in the room or using the rear door keep it locked, you can also get fairly inexpensive battery operated PIR alarms to alert you if the beam across the door is broken.

For suitable security products see [www.securedbydesign.com/member-companies/credited-product-search](http://www.securedbydesign.com/member-companies/credited-product-search) or [www.soldsecure.com/search/](http://www.soldsecure.com/search/) , for a Trading Standards approved trader use [www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk/](http://www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk/) or ring 0345 6037626. For further crime prevention advice - [www.essex.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention](http://www.essex.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention)



## More local information

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### Braintree Area Food Bank

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In addition to the items below they are desperately short of bags for life.

#### Urgent Items

- Sugar 500G Bags
- Sponge puddings
- 1L cartons long life fruit juice
- Packet mash potato
- Tinned spaghetti
- Tinned potatoes

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#### Food that they are short of

- Pasta sauce
- Cold tinned meats (ham, corned beef etc)
- 1L long life milk
- Tea bags (40-80)
- Tinned tomatoes
- Small boxes non-biological washing powder/liquid
- Deodorant

Donations can be made via the libraries in Braintree, Witham, and Halstead and the Coop in Halstead. For more information see [braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk](http://braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk).

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### The Empire Theatre Halstead

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The Cinema has finally returned to Halstead. It has been a journey since the Theatre closed its doors to Cinema, but thanks to some determined fundraising and desire to bring it back it has now arrived. They are making Friday Night Film Night, plus a Kids Matinee film at the weekend either Saturday or Sunday, plus a Wednesday afternoon Matinee, with free tea and biscuits, plus our Dementia Friendly presentation on the second Thursday of the month.

See <http://www.empire-theatre.co.uk>

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### Halstead and District Local History Society

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The Society currently has a membership of over 100 and holds meetings on the third Thursday of each month in the Baptist Church, Hedingham Road, Halstead, Essex. More information can be found on [halsteadhistory.org.uk](http://halsteadhistory.org.uk).

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### The Hedingham Singers

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The Hedingham Singers are a mixed voices choir: Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass. At the moment, the choir numbers approximately 40 men & women. They always welcome new members, especially male bass and tenors.

If you enjoy singing and would like to sing with them, contact Bob Lilley on 07790 573435 or see <http://www.thehedinghamsingers.com/>.

## Pebmarsh

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### St John the Baptist

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Although Christmas is now a distant memory for most of us, this being the first magazine of 2020 there are some messages of thanks due. Firstly to two very kind parishioners who donated the Christmas tree and to everyone who dressed the Christmas tree and helped with the floral arrangements, making the Church look beautiful. Our thanks also to Guy & Emily French of Foxes Farm Produce who donated a large amount of greenery to decorate the Church.

Our Carol Service accompanied by the Long Melford Silver Band was a wonderful afternoon. The Church was packed, we enjoyed lots of popular Carols followed by mulled wine & mince pies with plenty of chatter & laughter. It was lovely to see so many people.

### Clubs meeting in Pebmarsh Village Hall

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**Bowls Club** 7-9pm on the first Wednesday monthly. For more details contact Jim Crayston 01787 222241

**Youth Club** Alternate Thursday's from 6.30-8.30. Contact Carol Parker 01787 269996.

**Ladies Club** Second Tuesday monthly. If you are interested call Pauline Andow on 01787 228790.

**Card Making** Last Tuesday monthly. Booking is essential, please contact Pauline Andow on 01787 228790. All tools & materials provided.

**Baby Sensory** Monday weekly 10.15-11.00 & 11.15-12.00. For all babies birth-13 months.

### Pebmarsh Parish Council

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The update from your parish council meeting held on the 15th January 2020 brings the great news that Ms Shelley Boydell has been appointed on a permanent basis as the clerk for Pebmarsh Parish Council. The councillors attending voted unanimously in favour and thanked Shelley for her progressive work, support and building on the networking of last year with our neighbouring parish councils, with the aim to bring about economies of scales. To that end Cllr Ballard and Cllr Crimmins attended The Henney's, Middleton and Twinstead Parish Councils meeting in January 2020 to build new relationships with the aim of mutual beneficial outcomes. Also, this year we want to initiate cluster meetings with all the neighbouring parish councils attending so as to create a common purpose and better communications.

## **More Pebmarsh**

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### **Pebmarsh Parish Council**

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The second meeting of the 'Pebmarsh In Bloom' project was also held that evening and those attending have been tasked to create a steering group in order to deliver the project to be funded initially by grants. The budget for the council's 2020 - 2021 work was drafted and approved at the meeting and applied for. Currently there are two applications for the vacant parish councillor and a further expressions of interest which will be filled in February 2020.

### **Tim Black**

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Sadly, Tim Black a very well known, liked & respected figure in the village & surrounding area passed away on 7th January.

As a leading figure in the parish church he served on the PCC for many years including the role of Churchwarden. He co-ordinated the annual Ride & Stride, arranged silver & brass band concerts (his favourite!) and each year played a large part in the organisation of the Remembrance Day service. Tim came into contact with many people in the village when delivering the Parish magazine, which he undertook single handed for some years. He continued with some magazine deliveries until the end of last year.

Tim was a very kind and gentle man with a delightful sense of humour; he will be greatly missed by all his friends at Pebmarsh church and many other people in the village.

Tim and his family moved into the village 40 years ago and he was happy to call it his home for such a long time.

Tim's funeral will be a private service for family only. There then will be a Thanksgiving Memorial service at St John the Baptist in March (when the roof is ready), to which all will be welcome; full details will be advised in due course.

### **The King's Head Pebmarsh**

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The King's Head will be screening all the Six Nations Rugby matches in the snug from 1 February - come & join us!

We will also see the return of the Quizmaster for one night only on Thursday 6th February starting at 7.30pm; book in your teams of 6 now at £12 a team.

A special set menu is being created for all you romantics on Valentine's Day Friday 14th February & bookings are also now being taken for Mothering Sunday on the 22nd March 2020.

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## More local information

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### Hedingham Medical Centre

As you probably know the Castle Practice in Castle Hedingham has merged with Sible Hedingham. The Castle Hedingham surgery is open from 8.30 - 13.00 and 14.00 - 18.00 Monday to Friday. 01787 461465

### Sudbury Newstalk

Do you have a relative, a friend, a neighbour or a colleague who is registered blind or visually impaired? The volunteer team at Sudbury Newstalk records a fortnightly local Newspaper digest, and a bi-monthly Magazine, which are distributed free to listeners throughout the area. [www.sudburynewstalk.co.uk](http://www.sudburynewstalk.co.uk) or 01787 468535.



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### U3A

The University of the Third Age is thriving. Try

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

Meetings are held every fortnight from the start of the season in September, through to April/May, on a Thursday evening in the Methodist Church and School Room in Halstead and once a month (usually the first Monday) in Colne Engaine at the Five Bells public house. Look at our web site [www.halsteadphoto.org.uk](http://www.halsteadphoto.org.uk) for more information.

### Gestingthorpe History Society

Information about Gestingthorpe History Society can be found here: [www.gestingthorpehg.co.uk](http://www.gestingthorpehg.co.uk)

### Community-based support for an ageing population

Community Agents Essex provide a free, confidential service to support peoples needs. CAE can be contacted by ringing 08009 775858 or 01376 574341 or [www.communityagentsessex.org.uk](http://www.communityagentsessex.org.uk).

### The Kings Head Pebmarsh

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

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## Local Information

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### **Solar Society, February and March 2020**

On Monday 3rd February Michael Baldry returns to us to give a talk on 'Desperate Romantics. The Pre-Raphaelites' Influence on Art.'

And on Monday 2nd March we will have a talk on Agatha Christies's Botanic Poisons: Poisonous plants in the writer's detective novels'. This will be given by Dr Kathryn Harkup.

2.30pm for about 1½ hours with free light refreshments at The Memorial Hall, Church Lane, Castle Hedingham. Entrance: £4.00 All welcome. No membership fee. More details from: Miles Scrivens 01787 469766 or Wanda Sellar 01787 463459

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### **Local Women's Running Group**

We now have a small group of women who meet most Sunday mornings to run between 4 and 5km. It's a manageable pace so do come along even if you haven't run in a while. Contact - laurabloom@btinternet.com or on 07801 749802

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### **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>.

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### **Four Parishes Book Group**

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 a Thursday evening at members' homes and have wine, tea or coffee.

Recent books read include "A Prayer for Owen Meany" by John Irving, "Nora Webster" by Com Toibin, "Force of Nature" by Jane Harper, "Lullaby" by Leila Slimani and "The Convenience Store Woman" by Sayaka Murata. There is no pressure to finish the book if you don't like it and all opinions are valued. Books are chosen by suggestion or recommendation from members and are all borrowed from the library.

For information, Alison Cantor. 01787 462537 or [acantor@linus.plus.com](mailto:acantor@linus.plus.com)

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### **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)

## More Pebmarsh

### The King's Head Pebmarsh

We cater for most dietary requirements with advance notice and gluten free and vegan options are always available on our freshly prepared menus with regular daily specials. See the full menu and details of any upcoming events on the website [www.kingsheadpebmarsh.co.uk](http://www.kingsheadpebmarsh.co.uk)

The King's Head building and site is owned by Pebmarsh Community Pub Ltd, which is a Community Benefit Society. See [www.pcp.pebmarsh.com](http://www.pcp.pebmarsh.com) for further information about owning a share in this community asset.

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

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# Great Maplestead

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## Benefice Choir 2019

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The choir performed 3 times during the year and gave an exciting rendition of Boyce's 'Alleluia', which entailed singing 3 different melodies at the same time. More recently, at the Carol Service, we sang Michael Boughton's delightful 'Holy Child' and a charming carol 'O Men from the Fields'. This featured a solo from our youngest member, Sam Newton, who is now a choral scholar at Trinity College, Cambridge, where we wish him every success.

The conductor has lined up another varied programme for this year, with a mixture of old and new items.

Although we are based at St.Giles, membership is open to all the benefice and indeed, some of us come from even further afield. Please contact Gill Peskett (01787 462786) or any of the choir, if you would like to join us for one (or more!) of our events. Even if you don't sing, please come and hear us.

Jonathan Lindridge

Organist and Choirmaster at St Giles Church, Great Maplestead

### **Candlemas Service at St. Giles**

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Please join us to celebrate the true end of the Christmas celebrations with an atmospheric, candle-lit Evensong on Sunday, 2nd. February at 6-30 pm.

The Churchwardens

## **The Maplesteads WI**

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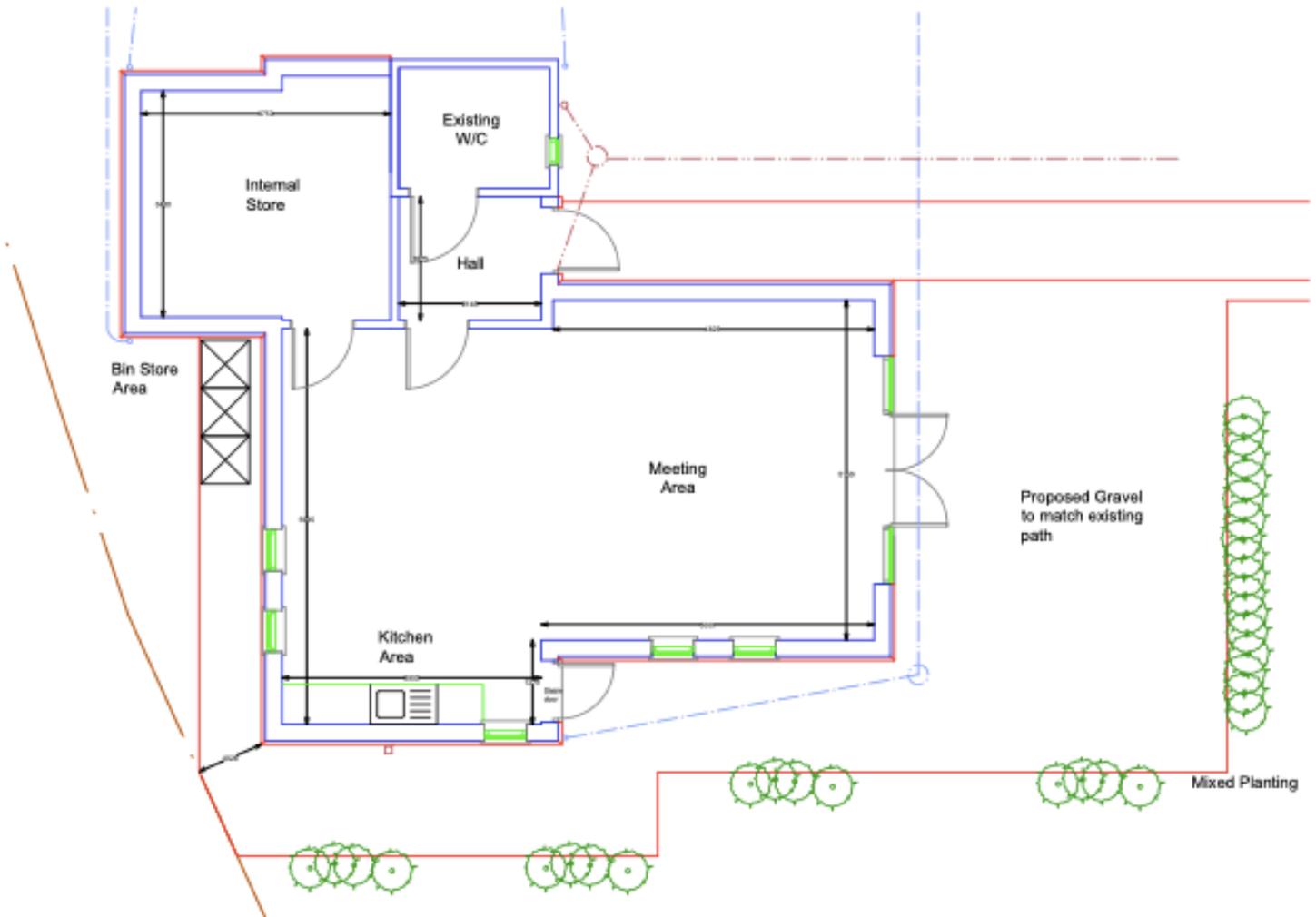
President for the evening Jill Newton welcomed everyone, including our speaker Angie Jones and her husband Maurice, to our meeting on Thursday January 9th 2020. Secretary Anne Fletcher read the minutes of the previous meeting which were signed as correct and birthday flowers were presented.

Jill then introduced our speaker, Angie Jones with her talk Slow Lane Walks in Suffolk. Angie had been a teacher until she retired and began her new "career" writing about her walks around the different counties in the UK, her first article about her visit to Walberswick, was published in the Suffolk/Norfolk Life Magazine in April 2013. Angie writes about the people she meets and their stories from their locality.

# Little Maplestead

## More Parish Room

The proposed plan of the Parish Rooms is shown below:



The roof will be clad in a natural slate and the walls on the upper level will have a natural finish featheredge weatherboard again to match what is on the round Church. Below this weatherboarding will be a red brick plinth approximately 8 bricks high with an upper cant brick going back to the boarding above. The finished boarding has been selected to match the Church and disappear.

The PCC would like to thank everyone for their support.

# **Little Maplestead**

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## **VETS in Little Maplestead (Volunteer Emergency System)**

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We have a vacancy in the VETS team.

The VETS team are 10 households in Little Maplestead who have signed up and could be available to assist in the event of a medical emergency in or near our village.

As you know we have two defibrillators in the village, which the VETS team are familiar with, and have access to.

If anyone would like to be part of a potentially life saving team please contact Bill Piper on 01787 473933

Full training will be given in the operation of the defibrillator and basic CPR, as well as a rucksack containing basic needs in the case of an emergency.

You do not need to be a doctor or nurse, just someone who cares about the community and may be able to assist if called upon.

### **Parish Room**

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The PCC are very pleased to let you all know that the planning application for our Parish Room has now been approved! We are now in the process of having more detailed plans drawn up so the project can be accurately costed and we can apply for grant funding.

It has taken a lot of effort by many people to get us to this stage and if you want to get involved please send an email to the PCC at [roundchurchroom@btinternet.com](mailto:roundchurchroom@btinternet.com) with how you would like to help. Initially this help could be with grant applications, liaising with selected building contractors to obtain estimates or even helping with the construction when we reach that stage.

Several parishioners have already said they would like to contribute in some way, this needn't be financial, although all donations would be very gratefully received.

If you do want to make a donation, or make a promise to pay later on, again please get in contact with members of the PCC using the above email address. If you would like to know that your donation was used for a specific purpose e.g. you want your contribution to go towards paint, windows etc, let us know and we will make every effort to accommodate your wishes.

The details of the planning application and the approval, can be viewed on Braintree's Planning Portal; the application references are 19/00867/FUL & 19/00868/LBC.

## **More Great Maplestead**

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### **More the Maplesteads WI**

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At the end of her talk, Angie quizzed us on photographs of locations around Suffolk, all in all a very enjoyable and informative talk. After a number of questions and answers Jane Stone gave a warm vote of thanks.

After refreshments Jill said we had a "Chocolate Quiz" devised by Anne Fletcher, the team comprising Sandra Birch Barbara Middleton and Jan Clark won and were rewarded with Cadbury Roses donated by Gill Peskett.

Next month's meeting is on Thursday 6 February 2020 where Reverend Janet Nichols will speak about "Agricultural Chaplaincy". For further information please contact Carol Brownlie on 01787 461527

Anne Fletcher

### **More news from Jan Bettley The Knicker Lady**

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A few months ago, I wrote in this magazine about my trip to Greece where I helped to deliver aid intended for the migrants who live in the camps on the islands, usually better known for being holiday destinations. I went back in November and I was shocked by the increasingly squalid conditions in the camps which were full to overflowing with whole families living in tents intended for two people. Inside the camps there is limited access to sanitation and water, but outside the camp, even this is lacking. Tents cling to hillsides and at night the areas are infested by rats and snakes. The food available is meagre and women will light fires to try and cook a family meal. Some have died when fires get out of control in an environment which is made of wood and plastic.

As you will have read, on my return to the UK, I asked my WI and a few friends if they would help. I asked them to put one pack of knickers in their shopping trolley, once a month. The idea caught on and developed some impetus, and people responded to my request in this magazine. By November, when I returned to the islands I took 1000 pairs of knickers. They were all sizes and they were all new! That means that women can have two pairs of knickers in a hygiene pack (until they run out).

It is easy to get overwhelmed by the problems one sees on these visits and feel that the situation is hopeless, but the delight of the warehouse staff when they saw my boxes of knickers made me realise that although there were things I couldn't change, we could help to give dignity to the women trapped in the nightmare of the camps.

I met some amazing people on my trips, one restaurant owner helped me to give food to the young teenage boys who hang about on the streets each evening; and when he asked me why I wanted to feed them, I said I was a Christian. To my surprise, he started to open his shirt, but he only wanted to show me a tattoo of the face of Christ which adorned his chest!

## More Great Maplestead

Going to Greece with Hope and Aid Direct was a great thing to do, and I hope to continue my association with them. More importantly, I want to have 2000 pairs of knickers by April 2020. Thank you for your generosity to date and please keep going! If you would like to help me reach the goal for next spring, please put a pack in your shopping basket and drop them into the conservatory at the rear of 8 Stone Cottages, Church Street, GM Buy your size, but no thongs please. Or contact me on [jan@janhancock.co.uk](mailto:jan@janhancock.co.uk) or 07901711394



Jan Bettley

## The Art of Wellbeing

Come and unwind with a relaxing evening of art, crafts and pampering.



Prosecco, hot drinks and light bites available.

**FREE ENTRY**



Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020, 7:00 – 9:30pm

Great Maplestead Village Hall

## More Great Maplestead

# JUMBILE SALE!

*Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 3.00pm*

*Great Maplestead Village Hall*

**Admission 30p Raffle & Refreshments**

All types of clothing, fabrics and small pieces of furniture (e.g. tables/chairs) welcome  
[but **no** beds, wardrobes or settees please]

**Contributions gratefully received by: Diane Smith (473 300),  
Doreen Faulks (460 727) or Liz Newton (461 308)**



**The Village Hall will also be open for deliveries on:**

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March : 9.00am-4.00pm

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March : 9.00am-noon

*All proceeds in aid of the Village Hall*

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

## 2020 Village Events

### Social Committee Meeting

Great Maplestead Village Hall

on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Start time: 7.30pm

## Everyone Welcome!

Please come and share any thoughts and ideas with the Social Committee.

## More Great Maplestead



in

# Great Maplestead Village Hall

## Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> February

**Doors open 7.00pm; Curry from 7.30pm  
Card games afterwards**



**Please bring your own drinks and glasses**

**Tickets £10/person from  
Philippa Mills (01787 460 578)**

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

# Great Maplestead Village Hall

## **PUB NIGHT!**

**Come along, unwind, have a chat and then join us  
for a Valentine's evening of fun and games.**



## **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February : Kurling\***

**\*Like Curling, but without the ice. Or the brooms...**



**from 7.30-9.30pm**



**Bring your own drinks, glasses, nibbles & a £3 donation...**

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

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**Thurs-Sat 5pm-late**

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*"The food was divine as always and the service just lovely."*

*"Thank you and your lovely staff for another amazing evening. You guys never disappoint!"*

To book please use our dedicated email [shillingfords@theforagersretreat.co.uk](mailto:shillingfords@theforagersretreat.co.uk)



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