

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

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**Church and Community together**  
**February 2023**

**Free**

## Village contacts and information

Reverend Beverley Vincent can be found on page 32 and the churchwardens on page 30.

Village Emergency Telephone Service and Neighbourhood Watch representatives see page 30.

Magazine copy see page 32.

### 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 Boydell	07927 775989	pebmarshparishclerk@gmail.com

### The Maplesteads

The Maple Leaves	Angela Davis	01787 236007	angeladavis99@outlook.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
Dance & Keep Fit	Judy Cowell	01376 561757	judy.cowell@btinternet.com
Carpet Bowls	Janice Chaplin	01787 469600	bobandjanicechaplin@btinternet.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			
Fun Fit Fab	Nic Smith	07908 445239	nicsmithpe@gmail.com
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	steveharris@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk
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	acantor56@outlook.com
Knitting group	Carol Brownlie	01787 461527	carolbrownlie@gmail.com
Handbell Ringing	Margaret Crudgington	01787 476259	
Benefice Choir	Gill Peskett	01787 462786	gillpeskett43@gmail.com
Scouts	Stuart Carter	01787 461149	
Guides	Kathy Hoy	01787 280200	
Molly's Wood			<a href="https://www.mollyswood.org/contact">https://www.mollyswood.org/contact</a>

## Nice to Meet You! Letter from the Editor.

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Wow! December and January have flown by and all of a sudden, I'm editor of the Parish News! It's very nice to meet you!

First thing to do is to thank Jenny for all the years she has been the editor - thank you for your guidance as I take over and it's lovely that as the Little Maplestead rep, we will all still have your valued contribution to the Magazine. Next, thank you to all those who also give time to the Parish News cause - without everyone's contribution and collaboration, the magazine simply wouldn't exist!

A little about me as this is my first edition. We moved to Gestingthorpe in 2019 having put a pin mark in an area up to 45 mins way from Stansted Airport as our son was commuting from Bexleyheath to Stansted Airport College, over 4 hours believe it or not!

My husband Al is also a community minded volunteer, he is a steam loco driver at Epping Ongar Railway.

I am a keen watcher of sport, which I use to give Young People and Career Changers an innovative way of gaining career awareness through my social value organisation Roles4Goals. Treasurer at St Mary's Church, Gestingthorpe & with a full time job - I certainly keep my brain ticking!

I want to encourage articles from one and all, take a look at Page 9 for more info.

Finally, to explain why I have an Otter above, this is my Scout Leader name and as with most nicknames, they stick! So you are welcome to call me Nic or Otter - I do answer to both!

Wishing you a lovely February - a short month leading us towards Springtime.



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## Letter from the Reverend Beverley Vincent

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Christmas is a distant memory, and we find ourselves in the in-between time, between Christmas and Easter in the Christian calendar.

That is unless you celebrate Saint Valentine. Valentine, has become the patron saint of love and around his festival on the 14th we are inundated with symbols of love everywhere. Of course, once the 15th arrives all those symbols will have been eaten, recycled, discarded, or perhaps put away as keepsakes – and the remainder in the shops will be sold off at a discount.

Romantic love is a wonderful thing while it lasts, and can be the foundation for lasting, mutual care and relationships, but like the cards and gifts, chocolates and flowers, it sometimes it doesn't last.

But love is very important: - love of family, friends, neighbours, all humankind, as individuals, as groups, love for creation, for life on our planet, for ourselves. Without love, which gives us a focus, a passion, a reason to act positively for others we would miss so much that is good in our lives. Real love is not cheap, easy, or disposable, it can be difficult, unrewarding, costly and unrelenting.

For those of us who follow a faith, we are asked to share that love, to pass it on and follow God's example, that's not easy, and we often fail as we are human, not divine. If you find it hard to love, or feel you fail at times the passage below helps us with some instructions. Also being reminded just how much we are loved by the one who will never stop loving us can make it easier.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

May you know just how much you are loved and share that love with everyone you meet, after all love is not just for Valentine's day but for life.

Rev'd Beverley



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 £2.50 single, £4 return. Concessionary bus passes are accepted after 0900 Monday to Friday and all day on Saturdays.

For more information 01621 874410 or [info@essexandsuffolddart.co.uk](mailto:info@essexandsuffolddart.co.uk)

Halstead - Gt Maplestead - Pebmarsh - Gestingthorpe - Sudbury (Demand Responsive Service)							F315								
Monday to Friday (Except Bank Holidays)							Saturday								
Operator	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT
Notes	STATS	STATS	STATS	STATS	STATS	BOOK STA	STATS	STATS	STATS	STATS	STATS	STATS	STATS	STATS	BOOK STA
Halstead, High Street (NE-bound)	0730	1000	1200	1400	1630	1830	0730	1000	1200	1400	1630	1830			
Little Maplestead, Little Maplestead Pump (W-bound)	0735	1005	1205	1405	1635	1835	0735	1005	1205	1405	1635	1835			
Great Maplestead, Church (opp)	0741	1011	1211	1411	1641	1841	0741	1011	1211	1411	1641	1841			
Little Maplestead, The Cock (E-bound)	0749	1017	1217	1417	1647	1847	0749	1017	1217	1417	1647	1847			
Pebmarsh, War Memorial (opp)	0754	1023	1223	1423	1653	1853	0754	1023	1223	1423	1653	1853			
Pebmarsh, The Kings Head (opp)	0755	1024	1224	1424	1654	1854	0755	1024	1224	1424	1654	1854			
Wickham St Paul, The Victory (opp)	0804	1033	1233	1433	1703	1903	0804	1033	1233	1433	1703	1903			
Gestingthorpe, Foundry Corner (N-bound)	0810	1039	1239	1439	1709	1909	0810	1039	1239	1439	1709	1909			
Bulmer, The Street (opp)	0815	1045	1245	1445	1715	1915	0815	1045	1245	1445	1715	1915			
Bulmer Tye, Park Lane (opp)	0819	1049	1249	1449	1719	1919	0819	1049	1249	1449	1719	1919			
Ballingdon, Strawberry Stores (o/s)	0823	1053	1253	1453	1723	1923	0823	1053	1253	1453	1723	1923			
Sudbury, Bus Station (A)	0830	1056	1256	1456	1728	1928	0830	1056	1256	1456	1728	1928			
<b>Sunday</b>															
no service							no service								

**NOTES**  
**BOOK** Journey must be pre-booked  
**STA** Most times approximate (confirm by booking on 01621 874411, costs apply)  
**TS** Passengers to/from Pebmarsh and The Maplesteads must pre-book  
**OPERATORS**  
**ARWT** Arrow Taxis Essex Ltd 01621 855111  
 Suffolk 01/12/2021



Sudbury - Gestingthorpe - Pebmarsh - Gt Maplestead - Halstead (Demand Responsive Service)							F315								
Monday to Friday (Except Bank Holidays)							Saturday								
Operator	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT
Notes	STATH	STATH	STATH	STATH	STATH	BOOK STA	STATH	STATH	STATH	STATH	STATH	STATH	STATH	STATH	BOOK STA
Sudbury, Bus Station (A)	0900	1100	1300	1530	1730	1915	0900	1100	1300	1530	1730	1915			
Ballingdon, Strawberry Stores (opp)	0903	1103	1303	1533	1733	1918	0903	1103	1303	1533	1733	1918			
Bulmer Tye, Park Lane (adj)	0907	1107	1307	1537	1737	1922	0907	1107	1307	1537	1737	1922			
Bulmer, The Street (adj)	0911	1111	1311	1541	1741	1926	0911	1111	1311	1541	1741	1926			
Gestingthorpe, Foundry Corner (S-bound)	0917	1117	1317	1547	1747	1932	0917	1117	1317	1547	1747	1932			
Wickham St Paul, The Victory (o/s)	0923	1123	1323	1553	1753	1938	0923	1123	1323	1553	1753	1938			
Pebmarsh, The Kings Head (o/s)	0932	1132	1332	1602	1802	1947	0932	1132	1332	1602	1802	1947			
Pebmarsh, War Memorial (opp)	0933	1133	1333	1603	1803	1948	0933	1133	1333	1603	1803	1948			
Little Maplestead, The Cock (W-bound)	0939	1139	1339	1609	1809	1954	0939	1139	1339	1609	1809	1954			
Great Maplestead, Church (opp)	0945	1145	1345	1615	1815	2000	0945	1145	1345	1615	1815	2000			
Little Maplestead, Little Maplestead Pump (E-bound)	0951	1151	1351	1621	1821	2006	0951	1151	1351	1621	1821	2006			
Halstead, High Street (SW-bound)	0956	1156	1356	1626	1826	2011	0956	1156	1356	1626	1826	2011			
<b>Sunday</b>															
no service							no service								

**NOTES**  
**BOOK** Journey must be pre-booked  
**STA** Most times approximate (confirm by booking on 01621 874411, costs apply)  
**TH** Passengers to/from Pebmarsh and Gt. Maplestead must pre-book  
**OPERATORS**  
**ARWT** Arrow Taxis Essex Ltd 01621 855111  
 Suffolk 01/12/2021

Timetable taken from the Responsive Demand Service published route & times on 14 January 2023.

## Little Maplestead

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### Little Maplestead Volunteer Network

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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

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### Volunteer Emergency Telephone System (VETS)

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As you know we have two defibrillators in the village.

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

These can and should be used in an emergency.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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### Crafty, Knitty, Sewy Stuff

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

If so drop me an email at:

[jennyarchitect@waitrose.com](mailto:jennyarchitect@waitrose.com)

Jenny Bishop



## More Little Maplestead

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**HELP HELP HELP**

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This is an appeal for people to assist in some aspects of village life.

I am sure that all the four villages in our benefice have the same problem.

It's the same half dozen or so people in each village who sit on the various committees to make things happen for the rest of us...Those people are getting older and tired, we need some new blood to inject some fresh ideas and to take things forward.

There are many talented people in our villages, some of whom may have a little time to devote for the benefit of everyone.

In Little Maplestead, the Parish Council have earmarked a sum of money to hold a village celebration for the Coronation of our new King, but we desperately need ideas to decide what to do, and then to establish a small working party to make it happen. This would not be hard work, and would generally involve a glass of wine or two.

As a further note in Little Maplestead, we need a church warden, and there is a Parish Council vacancy.



Please don't leave it to the same people, come forward and support your local community, nothing will change, no new activities or facilities without new people with fresh ideas.

Please contact: Bill Piper on [billpiper204@gmail.com](mailto:billpiper204@gmail.com)

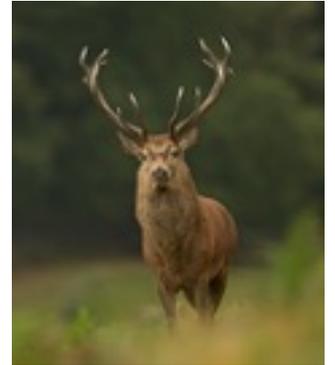


## Nature Notes

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The weather continues to astound, with late November and early December temperatures in the low to mid-teens. Common snowberries were evident and seemed out of place on the warm days. Then came the snow and a 10-day big freeze, which only broke before Christmas and gave us a mild festive season. As I write this we are again in a prolonged run of frosts.

I had a real surprise walking over to Hull's Mill on the 24<sup>th</sup> November when I came across a large red deer stag with a full set of antlers among a stand of old hawthorns – a wood I associate normally with winter thrushes who throng there for the berry harvest. The stag saw me at the same time I saw him, and we stared at each other for a moment or two before he turned and ambled off. He was alone; I see muntjac deer everywhere, big herds of fallow deer and the occasional roe, but have never seen a red deer in the patch before.



Another feature of autumn evenings is the nightly chorus of tawny owls, which seem to be quite common in our area. The males call and the females respond, bonds are formed between new pairs and nest-site prospecting begins although eggs are not laid until March. The calls themselves are quite different; the male issues a hoodle-oodle-oo, to which the female responds with a sharp kewick! They start early in the evening and continue until just before dawn.



Towards the end of the big freeze there was a male blackcap on the feeders in my garden but I have not seen siskins or bramblings on my walks this winter. The big event, on the last day of the freeze, was a small group – maybe ten – of lapwings in flight over the open ground beyond my garden.

This is a new bird for the garden list but also a significant record for the patch. In the nearly six years of my local observations, I have only seen lapwings once; a small flock in a field of horses over towards

Wickham St. Paul. These birds have disappeared over large swathes of farmland over the past 20 years or so as a breeding species. Once common, they were admired for their eye-catching display flight and the peezy-wheet alarm call they give when approaching a nest. Thankfully, they are still quite common in wetland and coastal areas – a stunning bird with its flashy crest, bold colours and dashing flight.

**Patch Patroller**

# Great Maplestead

## Great Maplestead Volunteer Network

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

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

## Coffee at St Giles

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

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

## Articles, Drawings, Photos or Questions

Be a part of your Parish News. All ages welcome and encouraged to contribute to the magazine each month. We would love to hear from you!

The Editor's always looking for contributions, so here's Ten Top Tips to help you if you're going to write an article for the Parish Magazine:

1. Avoid alliteration – always.
2. Prepositions are not words you use to end sentences with.
3. Avoid clichés like the plague – they're old hat.
4. Comparisons are as bad as clichés.
5. Be more or less specific.
6. Writers should never generalise.
- Seven. Be consistent!
8. Beware of redundancy: don't use more words than necessary, It is really superfluous.
9. Who needs rhetorical questions?
10. Exaggeration is a million times worse than understatement.

Now get contributing!



Budding journalist?

Got an interesting story?

A drawing to share?

Maybe a poem?

A bit of news?

A masterpiece painting?

Views in a letter?

Photos are your thing?

An achievement for you or other?

Whatever it is, why not get it printed?

Send it to your Parish Rep,  
or directly to the editor at:  
Nicola.coppen@live.co.uk

**Next deadline for submissions:**

**Friday 17 February 2023**

## Great Maplestead Village Hall AGM

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March – 7.00pm

**Everybody Welcome**



# Great Maplestead

## Celebrating The King's Coronation



**The Maplesteads Royal Variety Performance Show**  
*"Roll up, roll up all you budding thespians, comedians, dancers, singers, musicians, magicians, etc!"*

As part of events to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III, there will be a variety show on the evening of Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023, at Great Maplestead Village Hall.

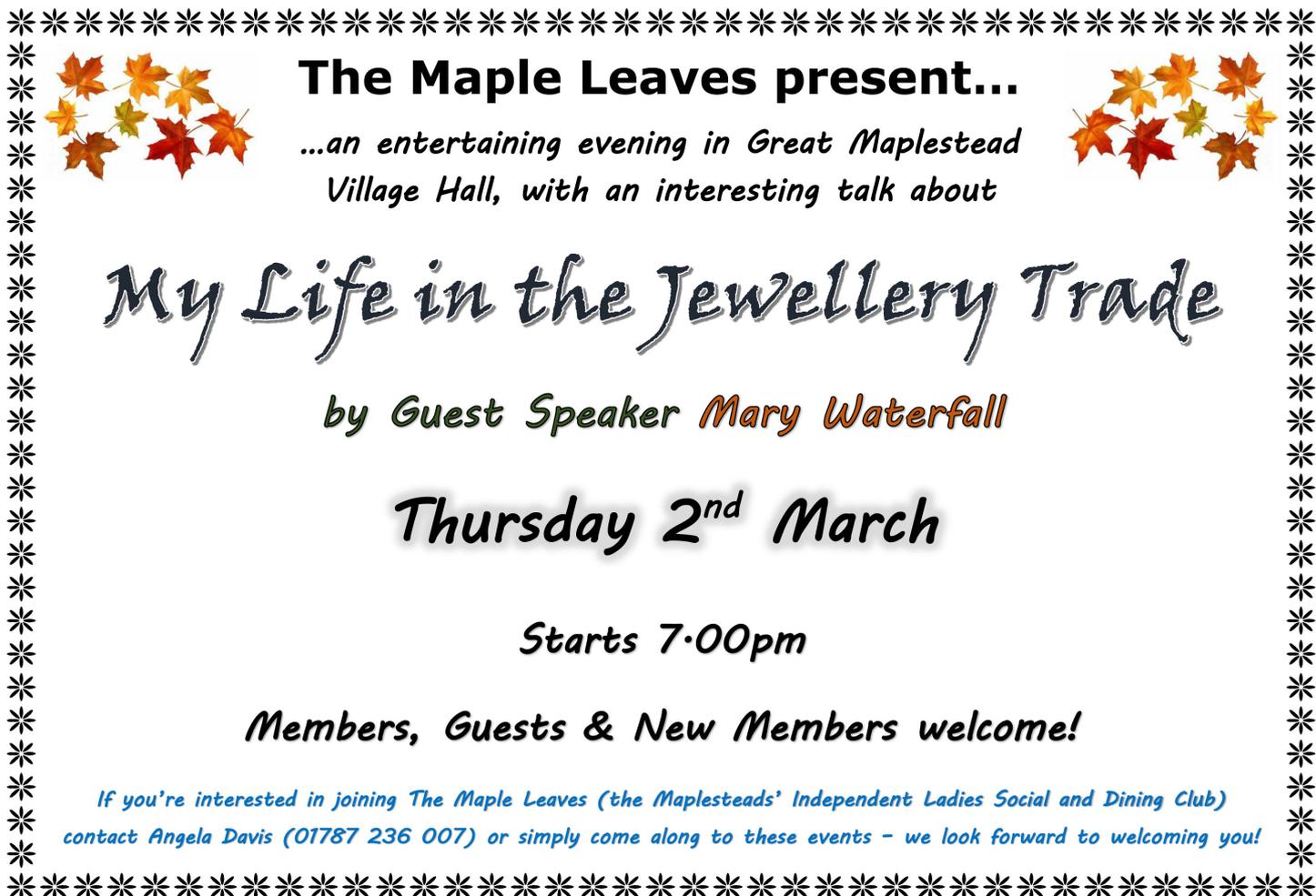
If you would like to perform within the show, we would love to hear from YOU.

We require a brief description of your act and roughly how much time it takes (5-10 mins max).

Please e-mail Ann Crisp at [acrisppc@btinternet.com](mailto:acrisppc@btinternet.com) or tel:01787 460216.  
Please register by 26<sup>th</sup> February 2023, if you want to take part!

It is your time to shine!

Further details of the Coronation Celebrations will be advised in the coming weeks and in the March issue of the Parish Magazine.



**The Maple Leaves present...**  
*...an entertaining evening in Great Maplestead Village Hall, with an interesting talk about*

***My Life in the Jewellery Trade***  
*by Guest Speaker Mary Waterfall*

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March**  
**Starts 7.00pm**

**Members, Guests & New Members welcome!**

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

## More Great Maplestead

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### The Benefice Choir in Great Maplestead

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After the disruption caused by the Coronavirus pandemic, the choir finally re-assembled for Harvest Festival 2022. Several people thought that the Taizé Responses sung during the service were particularly evocative.

Then Covid raised its ugly head again and threatened to strike down the choir just before the Carol Service. Fortunately, most of the choir recovered in time and, with some last-minute rehearsing, was able to participate on the day, contributing to the occasion with a carol by Elgar and a Christmas folk song from Anjou.

We are now looking forward to taking part in an Easter Service.

**Jonathan Lindridge - Choirmaster**

*The next bumper Maplesteads'*

**JUMMIBLIE SAILIE**

*in Great Maplestead Village Hall*

*will not be until*

***Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September***

**Please make a note of the date and hold on to any suitable items yourself until then – the organisers have no storage capacity available.**

**Many thanks - more details in the September Magazine**

## Save the Date!

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March**  
**Maplesteads' Quiz Night**

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March**  
**Maple Leaves Big Breakfast**

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April**  
**Easter Village Walk**

**More information in the March Magazine**

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plans, to weeding, pruning, grass  
cutting/edging, hedge trimming,  
mulching, tubs etc**

**Telephone Jo on**

**07804 474494 (Pebmarsh)**

## Gardening Corner

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At the start of each year we have 12 months of gardening to look forward to; with each month there are several horticultural delights – some stunning others dramatic. A swath of snowdrops and aconites can help set us up for the seasons ahead.

Now is the time to purchase seed potatoes – keep the tubers in trays and in a frost-free place. Broad beans can be planted in pots or directly in the ground if you are on free draining soil. Pot-sown beans need to be in a cold greenhouse but keep an eye open for mice – there is nothing more disheartening than finding knocked over containers and chewed seed!



My recommended plant of the month is a medium sized tree, the Tibetan cherry [Prunus serrula]. With a beautiful polished-looking bark on a banded trunk (right) it really does stand out at this time of year.



If you haven't already done so, apple and pear trees can be pruned in February. Take out any dead and crossing branches and try to form an umbrella shape to improve your fruit crop – the fruit buds are large and slightly bulbous.

If the soil is dry enough, remove any weeds – they came with a flourish at the end of last summer and I am still removing chickweed, milk thistle etc., which seem to have been hiding amongst my perennial plants.

If you have recorded in your diary or taken photos of any bland areas, make a note of plants that could be used to fill in, giving you extra colour or structure. For instance, look at what is hardy to plant on a north facing wall that is not so attractive to pests.

Wash pots for re-use and sort out old seed from recently purchased seed packets. Clean and sharpen tools; there is never enough time once the warmer weather arrives and the daylight hours fly past.



House plants need the minimum of water at this time of year – keep them in a draught free position and feed them a minimal amount. Schlumbergera, Christmas cactus (left), are at their best now and, if you have been given a Poinsettia and it's thriving, all I can say is 'well done'! They are difficult plants to keep alive...

A belated Happy New Year to you all.

**The Arborist**

## News from the Gardens of Easton Lodge

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We have been working hard on pruning, treeplanting and other winter jobs and are now looking forward to re-opening the Gardens for the snowdrop season. In 2022 it was wet in February and we had to cancel two of the planned snowdrop days, so we have our fingers firmly crossed for decent weather and ground conditions and for the snowdrops to be at their best on time (despite the unseasonably mild start to 2023)!

On the Sunday Snowdrop Open Days, on 12 and 19 February, we will have our full offer, Visitors will enjoy the vistas of snowdrops in the Bosquet, in the front of the Gardens, the Glade and in the Walled Kitchen Garden. The Trust's volunteers will provide hot and cold drinks, bacon/cheese/hummus rolls, homemade soup, and homemade cakes. There will be a plant stall and snowdrops in the green for sale. Gates open at 11.00, last entry 3.00pm, gates close at 4.00pm.

On Thursday Snowdrop Days, on 16 and 23 February, the Gardens of neighbouring Warwick House are not open to visitors, but there is still lots of space for visitors and their well-behaved dogs on leads and lots of snowdrops of course! The Trust's volunteers will provide hot and cold drinks and homemade cakes; and snowdrops in the green will be on sale. Gates open at 11.00, last entry 2.00pm, gates close at 3.00pm.

For more information go to our website [www.eastonlodge.co.uk](http://www.eastonlodge.co.uk). Tickets will be available in advance through Trybooking.com and any not sold in advance will be available on the Gate. Advance tickets will be refunded if the Trust has to cancel the Snowdrop day.

Jill Goldsmith



# Market Hill Photography

28 Market Hill, Sudbury, Suffolk. CO10 2EN



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# S.T.GREEN

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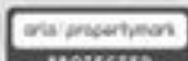
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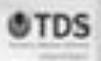
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## Gestingthorpe

### Gestingthorpe 'Gathering' Coffee Mornings.

Our coffee mornings continue to be a great place for villagers and friends to have a fortnightly 'catch up' over a coffee and cake.

Please come along and join us; you will be made very welcome.

If you are in Gestingthorpe and you don't want to walk along the roads on a wet and windy day please give **Chris or Rose a call on 01787 462763** who would be happy to give you a lift to the village hall.

Our coffee mornings during **February** will be held on the **Fridays of 3rd and 17th** and during **March** on the **Fridays of 3rd, 17th and 31st**.

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

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

### Gestingthorpe Village Hall Events

Date	Use	Time
Thursday, 2 February 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab	10.00 -
Friday, 3 February 2023	Coffee Morning	10.00 -
Monday, 6 February 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab	19.00 -
Tuesday, 7 February 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab-Dance	9.30 - 10.30
Tuesday, 7 February 2023	Tuesday Talk - Detectorists	19.30 -
Thursday, 9 February 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab	10.00 -
Thursday, 9 February 2023	Village Hall Committee Meeting	19.30 -
Monday, 13 February 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab	19.00 -
Tuesday, 14 February 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab-Dance	9.30 - 10.30
Tuesday, 14 February 2023	Book Club	19.30 -
Thursday, 16 February 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab	10.00 -
Friday, 17 February 2023	Coffee Morning	10.00 -
Monday, 20 February 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab	19.00 -
Tuesday, 21 February 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab-Dance	9.30 - 10.30
Thursday, 23 February 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab	10.00 -
Monday, 27 February 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab	19.00 -
Tuesday, 28 February 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab-Dance	9.30 - 10.30

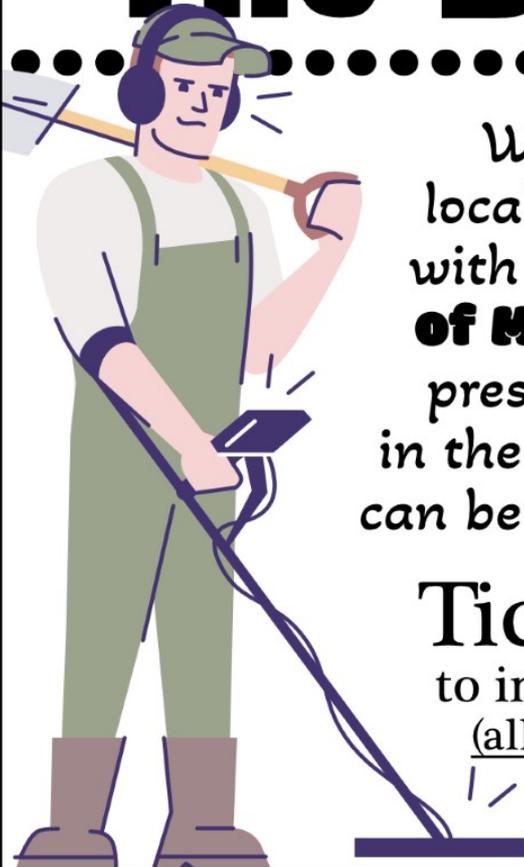
GESTINGTHORPE VILLAGE HALL

**THE TUESDAY TALK**  
**7th FEBRUARY at 7:30pm**

.....

# The Detectorist

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We are very pleased to welcome local metal detectorist Howard Davis with his talk on '**The Lefts & Rights of Metal Detecting**' together with a presentation about treasure hunting in the local area, how it works and what can be found - he has some stories to tell!

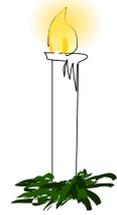
**Tickets £5 on the door**  
to include a glass of wine or soft drink  
(all proceeds go to the village hall funds)

## More Gestingthorpe

### Candlelit Carol Service

On 15 December it was one of the coldest nights of the year. So it was a delight that evening to see over 80 people at the Gestingthorpe Candlelight Carol Service.

Fortified by mulled wine and wrapped up warm, the congregation admired the impressive displays of white chrysanthemums and the hundreds of candles lighting up the great roof space.



Music was started by the bells in the tower and handbells in the nave. Our singing was led by the superb Gospel choir from Halstead.

The children present helped to decorate the Christmas tree before the service.

Rev Beverley, our vicar, was unfortunately prevented at the last minute by covid from being with us but Alice stepped in to lead the service. Many people contributed to a splendid evening: ringers, flower arrangers, singers, readers and our organist, Janet Benfield from Earls Colne. And those who prepared the church beforehand and tidied away afterwards, not to mention the volunteer bar staff dispensing mulled wine! Thanks are due to all.

Coming out of the church at the end of the evening into an even sharper frost under a clear starry sky was a wonderful way to round off this magical evening.



THE GESTINGTHORPE VILLAGE HALL

# QUIZ NIGHT

FRIDAY • MARCH • 17TH  
7.30PM • TICKETS £10 PP

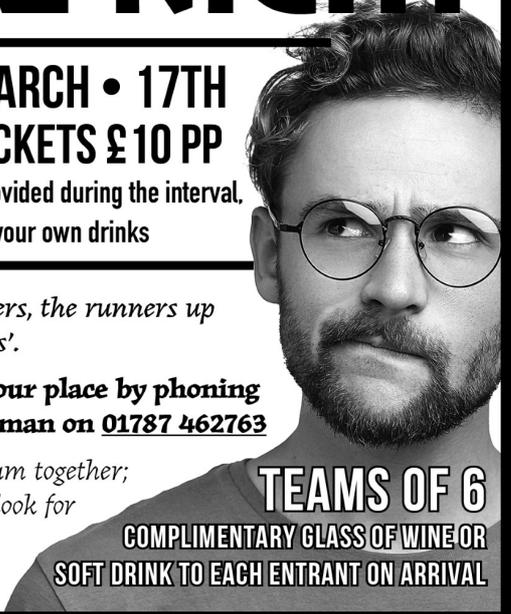
A cold buffet will be provided during the interval,  
please bring your own drinks

*Prizes for the winners, the runners up  
and the 'tail-enders'.*

**Please pre-book your place by phoning  
Rose or Chris Harman on 01787 462763**

*If you can't get a team together;  
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## Pebmarsh

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### Support in Pebmarsh

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

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### Pebmarsh Youth Club

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The four months leading up to Christmas have been very busy and full of exciting activities such as football competitions, beauty & hair tuition, pumpkin carving in fancy dress, Christmas baking, and arts & crafts. Even our night walk across the fields of Pebmarsh (thank you Chris) on a damp and foggy night proved to be a lot of fun. Just before we broke up for the Christmas holidays we enjoyed a film night with hot dogs, popcorn and some delicious homemade cakes (thank you Selina).

A big "Thank You" to our volunteers Jimmy (football coach), Caroline (hair & Beauty), Sue (baking), Heather and Lucy (night walk), Tanja (YC assistant) and Sophie (YC assistant through DofE Award); your assistance helped enrich the lives of our amazing young people.

We are all looking forward a fun packed 2023!

And finally, if you have a talent you wish to share with our youth or would on occasions like to volunteer feel free to contact Carol or Mandy or get in touch via our Pebmarsh Youthclub Facebook Site.

*Join us!*

Upcoming YC dates: 6.30pm- 8.30pm at Pebmarsh Village Hall for 8-13 year olds

26th January  
9th February  
23rd February  
9th March  
23rd March

Carol & Mandy



## More Pebmarsh

---

### St John the Baptist Church Pebmarsh

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May I open this year's magazine report by wishing you all a Happy New Year! The record of the church services required by the Diocese showed just what a busy time 2022 was for Pebmarsh Church! We are very grateful for the community support we have received.

We had a very successful carol service attended by 120 people, and I must thank the team who helped decorate the church. I also thank Pebmarsh school and youth club for their tree decorations.

Our Christmas Eve service saw 23 of us enjoy carols and communion at 10.30 pm. It is a magical night and holds special memories for me.

I would like to apologise to anyone who has had trouble accessing the church over Christmas and New Year as we had problem with our key safe, which obviously didn't like the cold and damp conditions! Thanks to Jonathan Nott this has been remedied by the donation and fitting of a new key safe.

We are always looking for people to help with the daily unlocking and locking of the church. If anyone feels they could help with this please email me at [sarahburgess@btinternet.com](mailto:sarahburgess@btinternet.com)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jenny Bishop who has been the magazine editor for the parish magazine for some time, and for all she has done to make it a very successful publication. Welcome to our new editor Nic Coppen.

As wardens we are facing a busy year with the repair to the church wall and continued repairs to the church. We also work with the other churches in our benefice to arrange this year's services.



We will also be discussing how to mark the anniversary of Sir William Fitzralph our resident knight who died 700 hundred years ago this year. I'm hoping this will be in the form of a community event. So, watch out for more information in the near future...!

Sarah Burgess

Pebmarsh Church Warden

## Focus on a Local Not for Profit

### How do you like your tea? Would you prefer a coffee?

Well, that is a weird way of introducing you to our not-for-profit, small enterprise with big aspirations (& goals!) created around our communities!

Us Brits do like to offer an ice-breaker drink as part of introductions, Mark and I thought we would offer that to you, so if you would like to talk to us more after reading the article, we are all ears and would love to hear from you.

So why have a brew with us?

Roles4Goals is an organisation that focuses on the community – the local people, the businesses around or serving the area, the facilities and sports clubs that can provide a 'hub'.

We are thrilled to be asked to provide an article and promote our work to help Young People & Career Changers understand about the world of work, find out who they are, and help shape their own future. This is essential for businesses which have opportunities that they cannot fill. Here is a little about the formation of Roles4Goals and how it works:

Founded in 2017 by Nicola Coppen and the late Alan Dean, '4Roles4Goals' was formed to help support their respective businesses in the need for Project Managers in Construction and Contract Managers in Sustainability for Real Estate Developments.

Together they designed an initiative to attract a potential workforce by creating an awareness of the community and wanting to do good within it. They scouted for a local sports club to 'pitch' their idea to and partnered with Dartford Football Club.

With our Evidenced Career Experience Days, Young People and Career Changers formed a Junior Press Team enabling them to prepare a report for a publication

after the day – that publication was evidence of Corporate Social Responsibility by the sponsoring organisation. Which in turn meant that the funds for the event could be offset against their operational costs as advertising and marketing. One of the sponsoring organisations (Gavigan Paving, photo left) submitted a copy of the publication with their tender submission for groundworks in London and not only was their bid successful, but the awarding organisation specifically referred to the innovative CSR proof submitted.



Tragically, Alan Dean suddenly passed away on 23 April 2021, but not before he and Nicola discussed plans and got very excited about the future. Thanks to the blessing of his wife, Jan and daughter Rachel, 4Roles4Goals was to continue – Nicola was connected to Mark through an amazing business connection and the two talked for hours about their aspirations. As if each person had half the ideas and other made the whole!

Today, Roles4Goals has developed. We work even closer with business to ensure that individuals are recognised as their business asset, the community is the resource pool of local talent and that the Players transitioning up or down their sport structure are supported, not just in the sport they undertake, but also in stability and careers if they are semi-professional or to help with a Plan B for those who don't go further in their professional careers. The last thing we want to happen is players leaving the sport they love.

We also aim to make sustainable local economies for our communities to ensure health, well-being and to keep our local facilities open to all. We are a Not for Profit, People First Organisation and pleased to be in your community, back to that cuppa...feel free to get in touch and arrange that cuppa and chat with us!

**NICOLA COPPEN**  
DIRECTOR, ROLES4GOALS Limited

0774 381 6725  
0207 760 8859  
nicola@roles4goals.com  
www.roles4goals.com

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If you work for or know of a Charity or Not For Profit organisation, why not encourage them to submit an article to give them a spotlight?

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Business Advertising: Join any month, there are 10 copies in the calendar year. Quarter page £70; Half Page £130 & Full Page £200.

The magazine is posted in every door in the 4 Parishes by hand!

We welcome an article from our advertisers, although we cannot guarantee which month the details go in if there is an influx of submissions!

## Local Information

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**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 [acantor56@outlook.com](mailto:acantor56@outlook.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.

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

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## Hedingham Medical Centre

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The Castle Hedingham surgery: 01787 461465. 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).

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

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

## Local and National Authority Representatives

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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

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

Great Maplestead

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

Little Maplestead

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

Pebmarsh

[www.parishcouncil.pebmarsh.com](http://www.parishcouncil.pebmarsh.com)

## Village Emergency Telephone Service (VETS)

---

VETS provide support when a defibrillator is required although the first action must be a 999 call. The telephone numbers of the village VETS are:

**Little Maplestead**

**01787 852252**

**Gestingthorpe**

**01787 852850**

## Neighbourhood Watch representatives

---

Gestingthorpe

Helen Skerratt

01787 237297

Great Maplestead

Ian Johnson

01787 461109

Little Mapestead

Bill Piper

01787 473933

## The Churchwardens serving our Benefice are

---

Great Maplestead

Gill Peskett

01787 462786

[gillpeskett43@gmail.com](mailto:gillpeskett43@gmail.com)

Jill Newton

01787 463893

[gilliannewton4@gmail.com](mailto:gilliannewton4@gmail.com)

Little Maplestead

Gestingthorpe

Alice Nolda

01787 469688

-

Peter Nice

01787 460126

[peter.427nice@btinternet.com](mailto:peter.427nice@btinternet.com)

Pebmarsh

Jim Crayston

07957870340

[jim@craystonfarms.co.uk](mailto:jim@craystonfarms.co.uk)

Sarah Burgess

01787 269092

[sarahburgess@btinternet.com](mailto:sarahburgess@btinternet.com)

## Church Services in February 2023

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Sun 5 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 Holy Communion	Great Maplestead
	9:30 Morning Prayer	Gestingthorpe
	11am Holy Communion	Little Maplestead
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 Holy Communion	Pebmarsh
	10:30 Café Church	Great Maplestead
	11:00 Holy Communion	Gestingthorpe
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 Benefice Holy Communion	Pebmarsh
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup>	7pm Ash Wednesday, Holy Communion with Ashes.	Little Maplestead
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 Holy Communion	Great Maplestead
	9:30 Morning Prayer	Little Maplestead
	11:00 Morning Worship	Pebmarsh
	4pm Compline	Gestingthorpe

### What are the 'Knights Hospitaller'?

The Knights Hospitaller are also known as the Order of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem or the Knights of St John, as the Knights of Rhodes from 1309 to 1522 and as the Knights of Malta since 1530.

According to some historians the origin of the Knights Hospitaller dates to about the middle of the 11th century when the merchants from Amalfi helped to restore the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, rebuilt the demolished Benedictine monastery and established a hospital for the Christian pilgrims and merchants which was run by Benedictine monks.

However, the majority of scholars consider the foundation date of the Knights Hospitaller in year 1199 when the Benedictine monk Blessed Gerard established a separate and independent religious order, the Friars of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem which was confirmed by a papal bull of Pope Paschal II in 1113. Either way, you can see the history is pretty prestigious and an honour to be a part of for our Churches.

## Coming Up and Save the Date

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Wednesday mornings Coffee at St Giles, Great Maplestead  
Friday mornings fortnightly, Gestingthorpe Coffee Mornings

7 Feb, The Detectorist, Gestingthorpe Village Hall  
12, 16, 19 & 23 Feb, Snowdrop Open Days, Easton Lodge  
2 Mar, 'My Life in the Jewellery Trade', Great Maplestead, Village Hall  
9 Mar, Great Maplestead Village Hall AGM  
17 Mar, Quiz Night, Gestingthorpe  
18 Mar, Quiz Night, Great Maplestead  
25 Mar, Maple Leaves BIG Breakfast  
10 April, Easter Walk, Great Maplestead  
16 Sept, Jumble Sale, Great Maplestead

### The Reverend Beverley Vincent

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Church Street  
Great Maplestead  
Halstead  
CO9 2RG

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

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The copy deadline for the March 2023 magazine is **Friday 17 February 2023**

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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### Parish News Website

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

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