

**Parish  
News**

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

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**Church and Community together**  
**June 2020**

**Free**

## Village contacts and information

Reverend Beverley Vincent and the churchwardens see page 28.

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>

## Letter from the editor



Now that the Government has slightly eased lockdown we have decided that we will distribute the magazine this month. Our distributor's will be distributing whilst exercising and will maintain social distancing and hygiene precautions.

One of the things that I have become aware of in lockdown is the importance of supporting our local businesses. I am quite surprised at the amount of local business there is based in our four villages. I am, therefore, adding two sections to the magazine. One will be an article about a local business which will be repeated month by month. I am starting with Andy Craig's company, MDA Marketing Services, in Little Maplestead. Andy is responsible for collecting all the Gestingthorpe copy for the Parish Magazine. The other will be on local companies providing a support service to the four villages during lockdown.

For everyone who has appalling broadband in Little Maplestead, like us, please read the article in the Little Maplestead section regarding the County Broadband initiative to bring fibre to every house in the Parish (not just those in the middle of the village).

I wish everyone well and hope that you stay well and can find meaningful, interesting and enjoyable things to do during this time.

With love to you all.

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## **Letter from the the Great Maplestead Church-wardens**

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As you probably know, the Church building is locked during the pandemic. It is usually a place of sanctuary and the fact that even this is denied us is a cause of great sadness to many. The Churchwardens check it once a week and enjoy a few moments of peaceful reflection while doing so. We look forward to opening the doors as soon as this is permitted.

On the 13th. May, Janet Belben was buried in our Churchyard. She & her husband, the Rev. Ken, had lived in the Old Vicarage for over 30 years and are remembered with affection by many for their years of service to the community. They are now reunited in the same plot. The poignant & dignified funeral service was taken by the Rev. Beverly Vincent with Janet's daughters, Susan & Wendy & the immediate family in attendance. It is hoped that a memorial service will be held in the future so that Janet's many friends can attend. A beautiful floral tribute on the coffin was created by Denise O'Connell and the family was touched by the many people who clapped as the hearse passed by. It was a fitting tribute to a lovely lady.

The Churchwardens. Maplesteads WI

There is no need to say more but to send all readers the wish of the times: Stay Safe and Take Care.

Rev'd Mark Payne from Earls Colne is doing an excellent job of streaming worship, he is providing morning prayer everyday at 9am. It is available on Facebook at this link:

[www.facebook.com/pg/3Colnes.HalsteadAreaTeam/posts/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/3Colnes.HalsteadAreaTeam/posts/?ref=page_internal).

Please also look at page 8, which describes how you can be involved in the selection of the next Bishop of Chelmsford and Page 9 which describes the Parish Just Giving Scheme which tells you how you can support your local Parish. You would need to talk to your churchwarden as you will need your specific parish reference number.

### **Parish News Website**

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The benefice website has now been donated to Parish News to become a gateway to our four villages and their churches. The website address is:

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

It provides you with links to the websites of our churches, our villages and local information as well as the latest copy of Parish News, including all our advertisers. When services and events restart it will be updated monthly with the latest information. It also contains links to the Government and NHS websites with information on the Corona virus outbreak.

## The F315 Local Bus Service

Bold Roman indicates fixed time. Shading indicates bus only calls if pre-booked on 01621 874411. Italic indicates the bus will be later if it has called at Great Maplestead or Pebmarsh. All journeys on the last bus each way have to be booked. Out of town, away from bus stops the bus can be hailed anywhere with good visibility.

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

Please always check the website for the latest timetable.

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

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

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

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

## Local Companies supporting us

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

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

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

**The Mobile Lunch Company** is delivering freshly prepared meals. This is David Singer's story - A Three Course Menu – Delivered To Your Door

Enjoy a three course, weekly changing menu for just £12!

In a normal world, my diary at this time of year would be filled with catering for lunch, dinner and hen parties. As you can imagine, the bookings have all evaporated and so I have been left with a fully functioning, licensed and insured mobile kitchen and ample time!

To give the kitchen, and myself, something to do I came up with the idea of preparing fresh meals, chilling them and arranging a doorstep delivery service (observing physical distancing, of course). I sourced eco-friendly, compostable, biodegradable and recyclable containers, that are both freezable and microwavable.

For the last six weeks I have been taking orders and delivering (on Thursdays) to the Maplesteads and surrounding villages. As an alternative; How about a virtual dinner party with your neighbours during lock down?

To find out more, visit [www.themobilelunchcompany.co.uk](http://www.themobilelunchcompany.co.uk)

Facebook: @MobileLunchCo | Instagram: @themobilelunchcompany

David Singer - 01787 476264

### **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).

## Help Identify the Next Bishop of Chelmsford

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Consultation now open

Dear Friends,

On 12 April 2020 Bishop Stephen Cottrell left his role of Bishop of Chelmsford after nearly a decade in post. Later this year he will become the Archbishop of York. We thank him for his huge contribution to our Diocese and we will be praying for him and his wife Rebecca as they embark on a new chapter in their ministry.

The process is now underway to discern who God is calling to be the next Bishop of Chelmsford and as part of that process the diocesan Vacancy in See Committee want to hear what you think.

The consultation will help to inform the Diocesan Statement of Needs. The Statement of Needs is an important document that will help the Diocese tell a story about who we are and what our priorities are for the future. It will be read by candidates and those who make decisions during the process.

Prayer is at the heart of this process. The Very Reverend Nicholas Henshall, the Dean of Chelmsford has written a prayer for discernment which we encourage you to say as we embark on this important period for our diocese.

A diocese wide consultation is now open. Submissions are welcome from churches, groups and individuals until 4 July. I encourage you to take part in the consultation and submit your own response. Complete the online form to give your views: <https://chelmsdio.typeform.com/to/LMxWdl> If you are unable to complete the consultation online, please contact Rev'd Beverley for a paper copy on [halsteadcurate@gmail.com](mailto:halsteadcurate@gmail.com) or 07944 200132.

With every blessing,

Rev'd Beverley

### **A prayer for discernment**

God of provision and care,  
discernment and knowledge:  
lead us in your love,  
empower us by your Spirit,  
and equip us with your gifts;  
give us hearts full of love for all people,  
minds open to the signs of the times,  
and wisdom to know how to respond  
to the voice of your calling;  
We ask this through him whose coming is certain,  
whose day draws near, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

# Parish Giving Scheme

## LAUNCH OF NEW TELEPHONE SERVICE



The PGS is delighted to announce the launch of a new telephone service, designed to enable prospective donors to set up a regular Direct Debit donation to your parish **over the phone**.

### How will it work?

The service will go live on **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2020** and will operate weekdays between 9 - 5pm.

Please encourage prospective donors to set up a regular gift to your parish by calling our dedicated telephone line:

**0333 002 1271**

One of our administrators will take them through the sign up process – this normally takes around 15 minutes. They will need to have the following information to hand:

- Personal bank account details
- The name of the parish they wish to donate to
- They will need to confirm if they want to increase their gift in line with inflation each year
- Confirm if they are eligible for Gift Aid
- The PGS code for their parish (usually 9 digits in length) \*

***\*Note: This is the one piece of information that the donor will not have. Please ensure they have this information, to guarantee the gift goes to the correct parish.***

### What happens next?

Donors will receive written confirmation (by email or post) of their Direct Debit, including details of the parish they are supporting, the amount of their gift and the date of their first donation.

Please note that if they currently give to the church via standing order, we advise them to wait until receiving the confirmation letter from PGS before attempting to cancel it.

### How will our parish be notified of the donation?

The parish's Planned Giving representative will receive a monthly statement, detailing the names of those who have donated (unless they choose to remain anonymous) and all the gifts given through the PGS.

### What if they need to change their donation?

If donors wish to make any changes to their Direct Debit, they should notify a member of the PGS team by phone 0333 002 1260, email [info@parishgiving.org.uk](mailto:info@parishgiving.org.uk) or in writing to the address below.

Praise for the new service:

*"I found the ease of using the new telephone service very satisfactory. The whole process was efficient and only took 15 minutes. The staff were very helpful and I would thoroughly recommend this service."*

**Dr Simon Thorp, Eastbourne St Saviour**



## **Little Maplestead**

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If you are self isolating, or scared, or lonely or need any help please contact Bill 01787473933, Jane 01787 472525 or Gemma 07826 523187. The village is there to help you. For example they can pick up shopping, collect prescriptions and post mail, so get in touch with them if you need help or just want someone to chat to.

## **County Broadband**

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Living, as my husband and I do, in the Parish of Little Maplestead, but not in the village, our broadband is not really adequate. This time of lockdown has shown us how important decent broadband is. Great Maplestead and Pebmarsh have got enough potential customers and fibre will be introduced to all the houses in the those two parishes. Currently, there are not enough people signed up for Little Maplestead. Without enough potential customers County Broadband will not bring in fibre to the Parish. They are having an online village update with Q&A on Monday 1 June, online, between 7 and 8pm. Please, please go to [www.countybroadband.co.uk/online-meeting-little-maplestead-2/](http://www.countybroadband.co.uk/online-meeting-little-maplestead-2/) to register for this meeting, then, please sign up. If we do not get enough interest we will not get fibre to our houses. In theory we have fibre, but only to the green box. It is then copper cable to our houses. County Broadband will bring fibre right to the house.

Jenny - Parish News editor

## **The Round Church**

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We have now received full building regulations approval for the Parish Room and are progressing with the faculty application and have appointed a consultant to prepare the archeological monitoring plan.

## **Help Identify the Next Bishop of Chelmsford**

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As can be seen on page 8, a diocese wide consultation is now open. Submissions are welcome from churches, groups and individuals until 4 July. I encourage you to take part in the consultation and submit your own response. In order to give your views, please complete the form, found here: [https://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/uploads-new/pages/VISC-questionnaire\\_final.pdf](https://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/uploads-new/pages/VISC-questionnaire_final.pdf)

We may be organising a group discussion for our church community soon, so that we can have our say as a parish, I will send you more details if we can arrange this. The discussion will inform a submission to the consultation on behalf of our church. You can find out more about the process here: <https://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/vacancy-in-see-resources>. If you are not able to do this, I can send a paper form to fill in. You will notice the web page also includes a prayer of discernment, which Rev Beverley has thoughtfully included in her piece about the next Bishop.

## **More Little Maplestead**

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### **More Help Identify the Next Bishop of Chelmsford**

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I also encourage you to think deeply as we embark on this important period for our diocese.

If you have any questions, please contact me 01787 473933 or at jane-piper@hotmail.co.uk. Jane Piper – Churchwarden Little Maplestead

### **Little Maplestead Parish Council**

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In accordance with the current Government Guidelines and also advice from Public Health England relating to COVID-19, the following measures have been introduced with immediate effect:

1. Little Maplestead Parish Council will not hold either the 2020 Annual Parish Meeting or the Annual Parish Council Meeting, both of which were scheduled to take place in The Round Church on 20th May 2020.
2. Consequently the election of the Council Chairman and the Vice-Chairman will be deferred until the Annual Parish Council Meeting in 2021. The current Chairman and Vice-Chairman, elected in May 2019, will continue in their roles until the 2021 APCM.
3. Furthermore the current individual Councillor roles and responsibilities will also continue until this time.
4. On 20th May the Clerk will issue to the Councillors the Clerk's Report covering current financial and administration matters that would otherwise have been reported on, in person, at the APCM. This report will then be posted on the Parish Council notice board and website.
5. The next Parish Council meeting is provisionally scheduled for Wednesday 15th July, subject to Government regulations pertaining at the time, when matters relating to the Annual Return and Audit will be considered.

### **Little Maplestead VETS**

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Our volunteer VETS have been provided with safety information regarding the use of the defibrilators in the current pandemic. Those who are high risk should not attend a rescue at this time.

### **Parish Giving Scheme**

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The information is on page 9 and the parish reference number is 080608408

## More Little Maplestead

### Village community under lock down.

We have all been subjected to lock down now for a number of weeks, and people have reacted in different ways.

The Morris family have been really busy:

Eleanor, Florence and William have been litter picking in Little Maplestead over the past week as part of a school project.

William and David also ran the 5k for £5 up and down Gestingthorpe Road whilst also collecting litter!

The Parish Council want to thank them for their community spirit.



### The Thursday celebration for the NHS

Clapping (and toasting) our NHS, carers and everyone else who helps us. We can hear Great Maplestead from here.



## **Gestingthorpe**

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### **Gestingthorpe Volunteer service**

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Please if you are self isolating, or scared, or lonely or need any help please contact Carrie on 07872 170277 or Helen on 07793 402297 if you live in the Church Street, Sudbury Road and Nether Hill area and Nic 07908445239, Penny 07840 367172 or Kate07771 535523 for the Audley End, Moat Street and outlying areas. The village is there to help you.

### **Gestingthorpe Facebook Page**

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Gestingthorpe has several facebook pages that will be helpful to the villagers, the Gestingthorpe Village page is a private group (you have to apply) for the residents and friends involved with the village, Gestingthorpe Village Hall has its own page to give information about the hall to the village. Gestingthorpe History Group also has a facebook page that gives information about the history group.

### **Spotlight on Local companies**

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We are starting a regular series looking at the businesses who are located in our four villages. We are starting with Andy Craig's company, MDA Marketing Services. Andy Craig is our village representative for Gestingthorpe, where he lives, and his business is in Little Maplestead. Here is his article about his company:

#### **MDA Marketing Services**

MDA Marketing Services Ltd has been assisting businesses large and small in all areas of visual communications for over 40 years. Based in Little Maplestead for the last 10 and Great Dunmow prior to that, we pride ourselves on the close relationships we have with our clients. From business cards to brochures, logos to letterheading's, we service all of our client's requirements right up to custom built exhibition stands both in the UK and Internationally. We are always delighted to hear from businesses locally who might want assistance with their own brand image or setting up a website if you are starting out – and a custom designed logo on your business card is a great way to get your foot in the door. Through our network of suppliers, we have built up many longstanding relationships that allow us to pass on the best advice and cost-saving solutions to help you creatively stand out from the crowd. Please feel free to give Rob or Andy a call on 01787 478372 to discuss any project you feel we could help you with or visit our website to see current and previous examples of the work we have undertaken. [www.mdamarketing.com](http://www.mdamarketing.com)



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Debenhams

Booking.com

M&S  
EST. 1969

next

Sainsbury's

Primark

ASOS

£24 million raised

1.2 million users

100,000 causes

# Pebmarsh

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## Pebmarsh Volunteer Service

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Over 50 Pebmarsh residents have volunteered, and the village has been divided into areas and each area now has a Lead Volunteer who heads-up a small team of volunteers. A yellow card has been put through every door with the contact details of the nearest Lead Volunteer.

Volunteers are helping with tasks such as shopping and collecting prescriptions, as well as generally keeping an eye on the people in their area.

Don't hesitate to get in touch with Kate Carling (Phone: 267924) if you need anything and she'll put you in touch with your most local volunteer.

## Pebmarsh Lockdown Activities

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Community spirit has been alive & well in Pebmarsh during this very unusual time. There are numerous people in the village phoning neighbours to check on them & have a friendly chat, getting shopping & collecting prescriptions for those who are isolating. If anyone still needs help please see the separate note from Kate Carling.

Additionally many villagers are making use of the village shop, singing their praises for the range of produce stocked to the speed & convenience of home delivery. Foragers Retreat are doing a fantastic job serving delicious take away food including Friday night pizzas & Sunday roasts.

A very talented villager placed 'Take Me Home' stones around the village, brightening our walks & giving the children something to collect. The stones were beautifully painted with a range of subjects including flowers, animals & rainbows. In recent days more stones have appeared, some doubtless painted by children inspired by the original idea. Thank you, whoever you are.



## More Pebmarsh

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### More Pebmarsh Lockdown Activities

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Thursday evenings herald much noise across the village as we join the Clap for Carers. Clapping, the beating of pots & pans, whistles & an air horn can all be heard. In the centre of the village the activities now include music &



fancy dress as shown in these photos.

Finally VE Day...a number of houses were decorated with bunting and flags and at Cross End a socially distant street party with afternoon tea took place.

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### Village rallies round to repair Church

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Villagers in Pebmarsh (population 445) have rallied round to raise over £8,000 which with matched grants from three local Trusts enabled the Pebmarsh Parochial Church Council (PPCC) to meet the £19,752 cost of renewing the chancel roof of St. John the Baptist Church.

Fabric officer of the PPCC Jonathan Nott said "Our grateful thanks go to the Essex Churches Trust, Garfield Western and Allchurches Trust who together matched what the village raised through our registered charity – Friends of Pebmarsh Church. Our thanks also go to the wonderful father & son team of George & Dan Bayes of Bayes Roofing, Bury St Edmunds who undertook the restoration with skill, care and good humour, even building in access for the swifts and bats who call St John's home. Thanks also to the professional skill of Surveyor David Whymark who planned & supervised the job.

Jim Crayston Chairman of the PPCC said "The PPCC together with Friends of Pebmarsh Church are determined to preserve this wonderful historic village landmark as a key community asset. Our next challenge is repairs to the roof and gutters on the North side of the chancel and the nave which are scheduled for the next "bat window" in September. We are also going to repair a partially collapsed boundary wall when the builders are permitted to go back to work and materials become available".



## More Pebmarsh

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### Pebmarsh Lockdown Activities

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The pictures on the next page show part of the roof before repair and the new roof together with George & Dan Bayes.



More Information: Jonathan Nott 01787 269231  
[jonathannott44@hotmail.com](mailto:jonathannott44@hotmail.com)

### Pebmarsh Village Hall

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Your village hall continues to remain closed due to the Covid 19 pandemic regulations in place to protect us all.

The village hall has undergone a thorough clean in preparation for the time when activities are allowed to resume.

The car park surface is in need of some attention, due to weather / wear and tear, and many thanks to Pebmarsh Parish Council who recently agreed to undertake some surface repairs using the spare planing stored onsite.

With the easing of the lockdown restrictions we look forward the time when we can welcoming back the regular classes, take on new bookings and all see each other again. To discuss any future bookings please call 01787 269231 and speak with Jonathan.

Meanwhile your village hall committee wish for you and yours to stay safe.

Perry - Pebmarsh Village Hall Committee

### Pebmarsh Defibrillator Team

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Your Pebmarsh Defibrillator Team volunteers hope all are well and staying safe as all get to understand more about the Covid 19 pandemic.

Specific guidance relating to Covid 19 on any call has been issued by Resuscitation UK - website [www.resus.org.uk](http://www.resus.org.uk) - to help all stay safe and that guidance has been circulated to all the team.

## More Pebmarsh

### More Pebmarsh Defibrillator Team

The guidance is freely available online to all and you may wish to make yourself familiar with the advice, just in case you are at the scene of a call out.

If you would like to know more about the Covid 19 guidance, learn how to use a defibrillator, or become part of the team please contact any of the volunteers or Perry on 01787 269450.

Stay safe

Perry - Pebmarsh Defibrillator Team

### St John the Baptist Primary School

As from the afternoon of Friday 20th March our school closed for the majority of pupils due to the COVID-19 emergency. However, we remain open for pupils of Key Workers (NHS staff, police officers, delivery drivers etc) whenever necessary. Staff have provided teaching resources for each pupil for Home Learning and have been in contact with pupils and parents on a regular basis to offer support and guidance. Parents have set up a private Facebook page for Home/School ideas which has been a great success.

Karen De Pietro Headteacher



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Sudbury  
Suffolk  
CO10 7GY

simon@randrgardenmachinery.co.uk  
www.randrgardenmachinery.co.uk

**01787 375194**

## Great Maplestead

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Great Maplestead has set up a Village Support Group for residents and has already hand-delivered the village personalised flyers to every household.

If you are self isolating, or scared, or lonely and need any help please contact Jacqui. The village is there to help you. The volunteers can shop for you, collect prescriptions and other helpful activities

We find ourselves in strange and different times as a result of the Government 'lockdown' restrictions that are intended to limit the spread of COVID-19.

### Great Maplestead's VE Day 75th Anniversary Celebrations

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Despite the cancellation of the big village party celebrations planned for the VE75 Anniversary Weekend in May 2020, the parishioners of Great Maplestead were still able to mark the occasion in an appropriate fashion, displaying flags and bunting on houses and roadsides throughout the village and enjoying convivial tea parties in a properly socially-distanced way...

At 2.55pm Parish Councillor Martin Elms played a most moving Last Post from the village centre, which could be heard from a large number of homes across the parish. For those unable to hear it, and to avoid people gathering to try, he also pre-recorded a video, featuring images of the village, which was posted on Facebook and the village website: (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rg7NfMS8fGY> ). It is a very moving commemoration that is set to become a beautiful piece of local history.

At 3.00pm villagers were encouraged to toast the nation from their homes. Many were able to sit in their front gardens, see their neighbours from a safe distance and enjoy a new type of camaraderie. 1940's music could be



heard amidst the lockdown quiet and photos were shared.

## More Great Maplestead

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WhatsApp was used to share the residents in period outfits enjoying their afternoon teas/tipples. We all felt together even though we were apart.



At 9.00pm the Queen's speech was played through loudspeakers in the main village street, another spine-tingling moment as the broadcast was



accompanied by the song of blackbirds calling in the dusk. The finale of the day was everyone joining in the nation's We'll Meet Again singalong, led by 22-year old trainee opera mezzo-soprano Holly Putt, as darkness fell.

A fitting end to a different, but still very special day.

## The Maplesteads Autumn Show

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Due to the COVID 19 virus the Autumn Show Committee have made the decision to cancel the Autumn Show this year. This has been a difficult decision and we know that many people will be disappointed, particularly in view of the good weather. But we look forward to next year when we hope we can rely on your support.

## Keeping your home safe in these changing times

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Having been “confined to barracks” during lock down don’t forget to lock up your home securely when you do go out. Whether going for your daily exercise, or to get your provisions, or with some now beginning to return to work its important get back into the habit of locking up when we leave our homes unoccupied.

Even if you are at home still consider your home security for as it gets warmer, we get to see a rise in the number of “Creeper Burglaries” where burglars take advantage of open gates, windows and doors.

An open or insecure garden gate will provide the thief with access to the back of your home. If you have unoccupied rooms that are accessible to others from outside or off flat roofs make sure the windows are closed, if you need ventilation in these rooms whilst at home at least lock the larger window and only have the small window open even during the daytime. If you only have just bigger windows consider a lockable window restrictor and a small alarm sensor on the window to detect entry.

A few tips for keeping your home secure:

1. Don’t attract a thief with insecure pedal cycles or cars or gates.
2. Keep side or rear gates, sheds and garages shut and securely locked.
3. Doors closed and locked? Don’t forget that with a PVCu multi-locking door you may have lifted the handle but until you turn the key or thumb turn on the inside you have not locked all the locks in place. Before going out or turning in for the night don’t forget to check all doors, someone may have closed it but did they lock it?
4. Windows - lift the blinds or open the curtains and check they are closed, the sun may have been on the TV when it was hot, and so the curtains were drawn with the window open. Remember the above advice about open windows. Make sure in case of fire that keys to windows and doors are accessible to occupants but not in view.
5. If you have an intruder alarm activate it when going out and activate the zone for the unoccupied area whilst in.
6. Car keys - don’t take them to bed with you, where possible leave them in noisy drawer/location. Keep the keyless fob in a “Faraday” bag.
7. If you do hear a suspicious noise in the house that you are not happy with dial 999 and make a noise, shout out, it could cause any intruder to flee, they may not have known you were home, remember your life is more important than your property. If safe to do so get a good description of the person and car number and direction of travel.

For further crime prevention advice see  
[www.essex.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/](http://www.essex.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/) or  
[www.thecrimepreventionwebsite.com](http://www.thecrimepreventionwebsite.com)



## Local information

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Solar Society: Miles Scrivens 01787 469766 or Wanda Sellar 01787 463459

Local Women's Running Group: laurabloom@btinternet.com or on 07801 749802

Local Libraries: Halstead and Sible Hedingham Libraries, [libraries.essex.gov.uk](http://libraries.essex.gov.uk).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Braintree Area Food Bank

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

#### Urgent Items

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

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#### Food that they are short of

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

DUE TO CORONAVIRUS MANY OF THEIR USUAL DONATION POINTS ARE NOT AVAILABLE. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION YOU CAN CALL 01376 330694 OR DONATE VIA THE COLLECTION BINS IN THE COOP IN HALSTEAD.

## Local and National Authority Representatives

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### Essex County Council

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

### Braintree District Council

#### Great and Little Maplestead

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

#### Gestingthorpe

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

#### Pebmarsh

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

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

### Westminster

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

## Parish Council Websites

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Gestingthorpe	<a href="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>

## Hedingham Medical Centre

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The Castle Hedingham surgery is triaging all patients so please phone 01787 461465. Do not go to the surgery. The surgery is open from 11.00 - 13.00 and 14.00 - 18.00 Monday to Friday to collect pre-ordered prescriptions. Their website is [www.hedmed.co.uk](http://www.hedmed.co.uk).

## Village Emergency Telephone Service (VETS)

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

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

## Neighbourhood Watch representatives

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

## The Churchwardens serving our Benefice are

Curate	The Rev'd Beverley Vincent	07944 200132	halsteadcurate@gmail.com
Great Maplestead	Gill Peskett Jill Newton	01787 462786 01787 463893	gillpeskett43@gmail.com gilliannewton4@gmail.com
Little Maplestead	Jane Piper Karen Sunnucks	01787 473933 01787 472145	jane-piper@hotmail.co.uk karen.sunnucks@btinternet.com
Gestingthorpe	Alice Nolda Peter Nice	01787 469688 01787 460126	- peter.427nice@btinternet.com
Pebmarsh	Jim Crayston	01787 222241	jim@craystonfarms.co.uk

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## 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. They are currently cancelled.

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The copy deadline for the June magazine is **Friday 19 June 2020**

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