

Great and Little Maplestead Pebmarsh and Gestingthorpe



**Church and Community together
March 2021**

Free

Village contacts and information

Reverend Beverley Vincent can be found on page 24 and the churchwardens on page 22.
Village Emergency Telephone Service and Neighbourhood Watch representatives see page 22
Magazine copy see page 24

Parish Clerks

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The Maplesteads

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Gt Maplestead

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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
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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

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Lt Maplestead	Geraldine Holloway	01787 476530 geraldineholloway2017@gmail.com
Gestingthorpe	L Crumpton-Taylor	01787 460277 leslicrumptontaylor@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	https://www.mollyswood.org/contact

Letter from the editor



It does now look as if we can see some sort of return to a more balanced life. It will be interesting to see what long term changes will come out of our experience of the last year. I am fairly sure that on-line bridge will continue post lockdown and I don't think Zoom is going to disappear any day soon.

You will notice some changes this month. We have been trying to widen the content and make it more interesting. Ann Harris has had three great ideas. Idea no 1 is our new gardening column. Idea no 2 is our 'stories from Pets Corner'. I know for my husband and I our dogs and our mad cat have been invaluable in lockdown. Idea no 3 is 'The Reading Room', recommendations on good reads. I completely agree with Ann that the Elly Griffiths books are a great read and they are set in Norfolk. We won't necessarily have all three each month, it will rather depend on your contributions.

I am particularly keen on any stories about our animals as we lost our beloved eldest dog this month. I cannot thank the vets at Catley Cross enough for their kindness.

We have also included a letter from a couple who are moving to one of our villages, to introduce themselves. As we are such small villages this appears to me to be a good idea and I would encourage any of you to ask people, when they move here, to let us know here in the magazine.

The cover photo is of snowdrops in my garden, such a cheering sight.

With love to you all.

Jenny

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Letter from the Reverend Beverley Vincent

Lent is traditionally a season of 40 days of penitence and fasting. I don't know how you feel about Lent this year, but I feel as though I have done nothing but give things up for the past year.

The idea of giving anything else up doesn't fill me with joy! But if we think of Lent as a time when we turn away from the things that distract us from God's love; and turn towards the things that reconnect us with God's love, that might be more helpful. Here are some things which might help you to do that:

Get out. Spend time outside every day if you can- even if it's just a few minutes- and jot down in a notebook or journal what you see, and what you are thankful for. Maybe birdsong, a few more green leaves, and the early shoots of bulbs popping up, there is a real gladness in the coming of Spring. I am reminded of God's goodness and my own part in creation and it lifts my heart.

Get writing. Go through your address book and write a letter or an email every day to someone you care about, thank them for their part in your life as a friend or neighbour. Pray for them.

Get the kettle on. Most of us drink tea or coffee most days. Can you switch to a brand of tea or coffee that is organically produced and Fairly traded, helping a farmer in a developing country to live sustainably on a decent wage?

Get a little piece and quiet. Find a quiet spot, light a candle, and just spend five minutes quietly. It doesn't have to be complicated. Ask God to be with you through each day. Ask for God's help in knowing His presence. Ask for peace in your heart. Say the Lord's prayer.

This Lent, be kind to yourself, take things gently, remember that God's love is all around you. And whatever you do, don't give up!

Blessings

Rev'd Beverley



Parish News Website

The Parish News website is a gateway to our four villages and their churches. The website address is:

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.

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

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

To get more information call Essex DaRT on 01621 874410 or email info@essexandsuffolkdart.co.uk.

The latest timetables for the DaRT service at www.essex.gov.uk/dart is incorrect.

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

F315	From 01/03/2018						
Sudbury, Bus Station	09:00	11:00	13:00	15:30	17:30	19:15	
Ballingdon, Kings Head	09:03	11:03	13:03	15:33	17:33	09:18	Timings in BOLD are fixed timing points
Bulmer Tye, Park Lane	09:07	11:07	13:07	15:37	17:37	19:22	All timings in Italics need to be pre-booked
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	09:32	11:32	13:32	16:02	18:02	19:47	Timings other than those in bold type will vary up to 10 minutes either side of stated time, dependent on the number of passengers booked on the service.
Pebmarsh, War Memorial	09:33	11:33	13:33	16:03	18:03	19:48	latest arrival time
Little Maplestead, Corner	09:39	11:39	13:39	16:09	18:09	19:54	earliest arrival time
Great Maplestead, Church	09:45	11:45	13:45	16:15	18:15	20:00	
Little Maplestead, Pump	09:51	11:51	13:51	16:21	18:21	20:06	
Halstead, High Street	09:56	11:56	13:56	16:26	18:26	20:11	
Halstead, High Street	09:37	11:37	13:37	16:07	18:07	19:43	

F315	From 01/03/2018						
Halstead, High Street	07:30	10:00	12:00	14:00	16:30	18:30	
Little Maplestead, Pump	07:35	10:05	12:05	14:05	16:35	18:35	Timings in BOLD are fixed timing points
Great Maplestead, Church	07:41	10:11	12:11	14:11	16:41	18:41	All timings in Italics need to be pre-booked
Little Maplestead, Cock	07:49	10:17	12:17	14:17	16:47	18:47	
Pebmarsh, War Memorial	07:54	10:23	12:23	14:23	16:53	18:53	
Pebmarsh, Bus Shelter	07:55	10:24	12:24	14:24	16:54	18:54	
Wickham St Paul, The Victory	08:04	10:33	12:33	14:33	17:03	19:03	Timings other than those in bold type will vary up to 10 minutes either side of stated time, dependent on the number of passengers booked on the service.
Gestingthorpe, Foundry Corner	08:10	10:39	12:39	14:39	17:09	19:09	earliest arrival time
Bulmer, Cross Roads	08:15	10:45	12:45	14:45	17:15	19:15	latest arrival time
Bulmer Tye, Park Lane	08:19	10:49	12:49	14:49	17:19	19:19	
Ballingdon, Kings Head	08:23	10:53	12:53	14:53	17:23	19:23	
Sudbury, Bus Station	08:07	10:37	12:37	14:37	17:07	19:07	
Sudbury, Bus Station	08:30	10:56	12:56	14:56	17:28	19:28	

Local Companies supporting us

Courtyard Stores in Pebmarsh are open and offering a delivery and collection service. For information look at www.facebook.com/courtyardstores or ring 01787 389222. They can be found at The Courtyard, Pebmarsh CO9 2NU.

The Mobile Lunch Company is delivering freshly prepared meals. Visit www.facebook.com/mobilelunchcompany or phone 01787 476264

The Forager's Retreat is currently closed. See their website www.theforagersretreat.co.uk or ring 01787 389123 for the latest information.

For information on the **The Pheasant** in Gestingthorpe phone 01787 465010.

For information on the **The Kings Head** in Pebmarsh see www.facebook.com/kingsheadpebmarsh or phone 01787 267942.

Spotlight on local companies

I would like to introduce to you The Oil Lady, supplier of heating oil and other fuels. Why did I call it The Oil Lady I hear you ask, especially when I could be selling massage oil or essential oil, it certainly doesn't scream heating oil, well here is my story. I am Sheila and I used to run a community syndicate local to where I actually lived at the time in Great Bardfield and Finchingfield and unfortunately, I was also very ill at the time so could not work fulltime. Well after a few years of this and with my concern for people and customer service I had learned a lot about heating oil and the industry and wanted to share my knowledge, saving more villagers money on this essential product so I decided to create a company. What to call it though, and just as I was trying to decide I received a call, a gentleman who was part of the syndicate greeted me with "Is that the oil lady?" and it stuck! I realised how many of my customers didn't actually know my name but even in the street would introduce me as "this is the oil lady" so The Oil Lady was born! Then we had to think about the logo and this is where my illness played its part. I thought it would be a good idea to have an older lady just for fun getting up into the cab of an oil truck. So off I trundle to the designer and I think they call it poetic license but what I was given back was actually a caricature of me.

So who am I, I am a local independent supplier of heating oil and other related products for both homes and businesses and we like to treat all our customers as family, please check us out on the back cover this month. Hopefully we will be able to save you money on your heating oil bills. Oh and an update on my illness, I am much better now and rarely look like my little old lady anymore, but she does still resemble my mother!

census
2021




Be a part of Census 2021

Census day is 21 March 2021.

By taking part and encouraging others to do the same, you'll help make sure your community gets the services it needs.



Find out more at www.census.gov.uk

   Follow @Census2021

 Office for National Statistics

www.census.gov.uk

AA0101

Gardening Corner Notes

For March 2021

After an extraordinarily wet winter we can only hope the words 'hose pipe ban' are not part of summer conversations, columns in newspapers or discussions when chatting with friends.

If the ground is dry enough at the end of this month, we can think about planting first early seed potatoes – Maris Bard and Maris Piper come to mind as tried and tested varieties in this part of East Anglia. If you have bought your potatoes, whether main crop or early, make sure to put them in trays to 'chit' [sprout] – if they are left in the net bags they invariably grow through the gauze/hessian. A frost-free shed or conservatory is an ideal location as this avoids growing long, weak shoots.

Sweet Peas can be sown any time from November to May, according to your site or preference. A cold greenhouse is ideal for seedlings as most of the Lathyrus family require little or no heat to aid germination.

If you have purchased bare root roses, trees or whips [saplings], and healed them in a holding area, now is the time to transplant them in their permanent planting area.

Two of my favourite shrubs at this time of year are Forsythia, with their buttercup yellow flowers, and Viburnum Bodnantense 'Dawn'. This lovely winter flowering shrub has a profuse mass of pink, scented flowers on wooden stems; in fact 'Dawn' has been flowering in my garden since November.

Lastly, with spring on the horizon, I recommend looking out for the hardy Salvia family, either 'Hot Lips', 'Royal Bumble' or 'Pink Lips'. Once established, these herbaceous plants should be cut back annually by a third so that, after the frosts have finished, they will regenerate, forming a bush shape with eye-catching flowers lasting until September.

Enjoy your garden.

The Arborist.

Colour Advertisements

If any of our advertisers are interested, they can have a colour advert on either the front or the back of the back page. This will cost £35.00 per issue plus a generous donation to our churches. Have a look at last month's to see the effect.

If any one is interested contact Jenny the editor.

Pebmarsh

Support in Pebmarsh

Over 50 Pebmarsh residents have volunteered, and the 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 pu

The Nott Family Trust

Laptop computer donations to St John the Baptist CEVA Primary School



The trustees of The Nott very proud to announce donation has been made to C.E.V.A. Primary School.

Family Trust (TNFT) are that their first community the St. John The Baptist

Five new HP Chromebook 11.6" 11.a laptop computers have been bought and paid, total cost £1216, for by TNFT outright to help and support the primary school children throughout their learning and education in these challenging times. They have been supplied pre-configured and each comes with a lifetime licence.

By supporting the school and children, TNFT are pleased to contribute to our community which will produce immediate results for children.

Congratulations and many thanks from the trustees of TNFT to all that helped in making this donation possible, as we strive to support non-profit making organisations within Pebmarsh.

Perry Crimmins Trustee – The Nott Family Trust



Stories from Pets Corner

With so many of us sharing our lives in Lockdown with our pets, both new and old, Great Maplestead residents Carol and Keith Brownlie suggested that there must be many "Pets in Lockdown" stories that people might like to share with other readers. So here is the first one; it is from Carol and Keith about Finlay, their Schnauzer/Jack Russell cross (a Schnack) who came to live with them on 5th September aged 8 weeks.

Life with a new puppy is a challenge. Carol was trying to lay the fire on our log burner and Finley joined in by taking great delight in tearing up all the newspaper. It's never a dull moment in the Brownlie household. Finley loves to chew lumps out of all his soft toys. He also takes great delight in chasing all the stray pigeons and pheasants who fly into the garden.

Please do submit your stories for inclusion in Stories from Pets' Corner to me Ann Harris at ann66harris@gmail.com



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Gestingthorpe

Support in Gestingthorpe

Please if you are self isolating, or scared, or lonely or need any help please contact Carrie on 07872 170277 or Helen on 07793 402297 if you live in the Church Street, Sudbury Road and Nether Hill area and Nic 07908445239, Penny 07840 367172 or Kate 07771 535523 for the Audley End, Moat Street and outlying areas. The village is there to help you.

Gestingthorpe Parish Council

The parish council is now operating a Facebook page, please search for 'Gestingthorpe Parish Council' and 'like' the page to be kept up to date with information pertaining to the residents of the parish. Our existing website will still be updated with information at www.gestingthorpepc.co.uk

Gestingthorpe Educational Foundation

Do you live in the ancient parish of Gestingthorpe?

You could get a grant

Grants are awarded for a wide range of educational activities such as coaching, school trips, sports etc.

Costs relating to home schooling will be considered.

Find out how to apply from the Secretary, Jane Crumpton-Taylor, Pot Kilns, Pot Kiln Chase, Gestingthorpe, CO9 3BH or jane@crumpton-taylor.com

01787460277 or 07491690510

Grant applications must be received in writing (or by email) by Friday 26th March 2021 and will be considered at the next Trustee meeting on Wednesday 31st March 2021

Covid 19

Educational activities for children continue to be difficult. The Trustees will take account of this when considering your grant application.

Gestingthorpe Defibrillator

We need a few more volunteers for our team. Will you please help us?

Everyone is under COVID-19 restrictions and they have impacted quite heavily on some of your Defibrillator team. We need to expand the team so as to ensure the great support you have had to date continues. The more villagers who can help the easier it gets!

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More Gestingthorpe

More Gestingthorpe Defibrillator

1. We need a couple more villagers to 'keep an eye' on the defibrillator that is located in the old telephone box in front of the church. We need to make sure it is secure with the battery charged, the defibrillator functioning and ready for use in an emergency. Checking the defibrillator only takes a few minutes, the results being entered into the Community Heartbeat Trust's website, for which volunteers are given an access code. Checks need to be done no less than every four weeks. We have a rota of 'checkers'.
2. We need a few more villagers to join the VETS scheme. The Volunteer Emergency Telephone System is a support network in our community and is a service provided by the Community Heartbeat Trust.

VETS is a community-run system that enables 10 "good neighbours" to assist people who need support until the emergency services arrive. A third of all 999 calls are from such people so getting help to them quickly is important.

A local 'phone number, 01787 852850, is used as a single point of contact using "Hunting-Group" technology to ring all volunteers 'phone numbers simultaneously. The system can also be used for any emergency where additional help is required from neighbours, whether Cardiac Arrest or not. This emergency number is published every month in Parish News

The availability of VETS helps villages and gives a level of reassurance to the elderly, those living alone, and to the infirmed, that there is always help on hand.

Would you like to volunteer for either of the roles? We would love to hear from you. Please telephone Wendy Jones on 469049 or email wendy.jones14@btopenworld.com for further information.

Neighbourhood Watch Gestingthorpe

As we leave what seems to have been the longest, wettest, coldest winter that I can remember. Our thoughts turn to a warmer spring, longer day's and some of us may be venturing out into our gardens.

Gardening can be very beneficial to our health and mental well-being. During this time, we will be will be getting our garden equipment out of our sheds, outbuilding and garages. This is truly a welcome relief after months of lockdown.

Please be vigilant as thieves are always on the lookout for garden equipment no matter how small or large. Remember to put all your gardening tools away after use and ensure that they are securely locked and out of sight for any would be thieves.

Gardening Angel

Experienced female gardener available for regular, or one off, gardening tasks ranging from garden re-designs and planting plans, to weeding, pruning, grass cutting/edging, hedge trimming, mulching, tubs etc

Telephone Jo on

07804 474494 (Pebmarsh)

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More Gestingthorpe

More Neighbourhood Watch Gestingthorpe

If you see anything suspicious or are concerned, please report to:

01787 237297

07793402297

Useful Numbers: Police non-emergency – 101

Crime stoppers (can remain anonymous 0800 555 111)

Keep safe everyone



THE READING ROOM

During this period of bad weather and restrictions and Lockdowns a lot of people will take comfort from having a good book to read and so here are some personal recommendations for your consideration:

THE SEVEN SISTERS by Lucinda Riley: Each of these seven books tells a contemporary story of one of the sisters who, in fact, are not related but have all been adopted by a wealthy man. When he dies, he leaves each of them a clue as to their family origins for them to investigate if they wish. In this way, the stories go back in time, interweave with each other and then come up to the present day. Currently there are only six books in the series with the publication of the seventh book, **THE MISSING SISTER**, expected later this year. Very engaging

RUTH GALLOWAY MYSTERIES by Elly Griffiths. There are now 13 books in this contemporary police series set in Norfolk. Forensic archaeologist Dr Ruth Galloway is not only a University lecturer in her subject but also works with the local police force when the services of an archaeologist are required. These are gentle but compelling interconnected stories with character arcs that are developed further in each book. Unputdownable".

LADY IN WAITING: MY EXTRAORDINARY LIFE IN THE SHADOW OF THE CROWN by Anne Glenconner. Described on Amazon as "The remarkable life of Lady in Waiting to Princess Margaret who was also a Maid of Honour at the Queen's Coronation - and is a character in Netflix series *The Crown*. Anne Glenconner reveals the real events behind *The Crown* as well as her own life of drama, tragedy and courage, with the wonderful wit and extraordinary resilience which define her". An absorbing read"

I read the first two titles/series on my Kindle and the third one in book form which I will happily pass on to anyone who contacts me: first come, first served.

I do hope that these recommendations are useful and would welcome others from readers for inclusion in future issue of this magazine.

Please contact me on ann66harris@gmail.com

Little Maplestead

Support in Little Maplestead

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

Being a Churchwarden in Little Maplestead

I had been living in the village a while and occasionally helping with some fund-raising, when my neighbour asked if I would consider becoming a member of the PCC. I agreed to join and the first meetings I attended I did not feel I was contributing much, but everyone was so friendly and the home-made biscuits that were served made the meetings something to look forward to! We were planning the Summer Fete and when someone asked where the bunting was, an elderly gentleman called John mumbled that he thought the bunting was under his bed. We all fell about laughing – it was pure Dibley.

When I was first approached by the Vicar to consider being a Churchwarden, my feeling was that I was not really a suitable candidate. I imagined that to be a good Churchwarden you would need to know everything about the church services, the building and be an exemplary Christian. I was reassured that all you really need is a willingness to learn and simply do your best, so I took the plunge and agreed to serve. I sometimes look around, whilst having a quiet moment in the church, and think how glad I am that I took that step. The reality is that you grow into the job, just as you grow in every area of your life and there are always new things to learn. The great support that is offered by the clergy, PCC members and fellow Churchwardens makes the job much easier, it really is a team effort.

The Church of England is an old institution that has documents and procedures that are sometimes quite quirky. As an example - in the early days of being a Warden I was asked to make sure that the Terrier was up to date (!) this is not a dog but an inventory of everything in the church. Churchwardens and the PCC have overall responsibility for both the fabric of the church building and ensuring that services are said regularly. We are also responsible for making sure that there is no unruly behaviour in the building or churchyard and in the vestry there is a churchwardens' "prodder" which is rather like a long poker. It has a paper label attached with instructions on how it may be used to bring under control any members of a congregation who are misbehaving.

More Little Maplestead

More being a Church Warden

In everyone's life there are the "milestone" events - births, weddings and funerals. As a Churchwarden, we get to help people at the saddest and also the most joyful times of their lives. It is a privilege to be involved in such events; people do appreciate your reassurance when they are nervous and your support when they need it. It has made me feel I am doing a useful job for our community. People visit the church to experience the peace to be found in our beautiful building and leave comments in the Visitor's Book that are lovely to read.

My job would be impossible without the support of the PCC and all the people who open the church, look after the church yard, arrange the flowers and who support fund raising events by baking and jam-making and growing plants, running stalls and organising and supporting the tea rota. It shows there is a huge amount of good-will that makes our village community such a fantastic place to live.

I have been serving as Churchwarden for the last 6 years and will soon be standing down, so if you would like to know more about the role or think you would like to join the PCC first, as I did, please get in touch with either Rev'd Beverley 07944 200132 or Jane Piper 01787 47933. We would love to hear from you.

Parish Room

The PCC are very pleased to announce that the church authorities have approved the proposed parish room and we need to now apply for grant funding.

If anyone would like to help out in any way please get in contact with a member of the PCC or email roundchurchroom@btinternet.com

Further details will be provided in the next issue. Regards Kevin Caddy

Little Maplestead Parish Council

A Parish Council meeting was held by Zoom on 16 January. It was very productive, but not as exciting as the meetings held by Handforth!!

It was agreed that we would repair the playing field footpath, as this is starting to show its age.

We have also agreed that we will try to raise some funding to install some outdoor adult gym equipment in the playing field.

We have been advised by County Broadband that works are ongoing in the village to install fast broadband, and this could result in some short term road closures in the area, although they have stated that domestic access will always be available.

Our next meeting is scheduled for 16 March 2021

More Little Maplestead

Moving to Little Maplestead

Hello future friends. We are Brian and Cyndie Young and we are moving into Ivy Cottage in Little Maplestead at the end of March. It's difficult enough moving to a new area where you don't know anyone when you are retired but to do it in the middle of a pandemic when there's lockdown (at the time of writing though I hope we will be out of it by the time we move) is a pretty tricky situation.

We have come from Honiton, Devon where we have had a smallholding for six years though before that we were in Worthing for all our working lives, Brian as a GP and Cyndie as a Specialist Nurse. Coming with us is Betty, Cyndie's mother, (93 but don't let on we've told you!).

She will be with us until we have built her a suite of rooms on our son's property in Great Maplestead.

You will see us with two white dogs, Dottie and Bonnie. Please do not be alarmed, they are as friendly, gentle and sweet as can be. We also come with a couple of cats, one with half an ear and one eye.

We are very conscious that we have very big shoes to fill now that Sheila and John Pegg have left the village but we are very friendly and hope to rise to the challenge. As this area is new to us we will have lots of questions and queries, not know where to go to find things or who to go to get things done. I hope that no one will mind sharing their contacts with us.

Starting a whole new life is very exciting and we are so pleased and happy to be doing so in Little Maplestead. Please come and say hello to us and introduce yourselves because we are going to be friends and neighbours for an awfully long time I hope.

Easter Lilies



if you would like to donate towards Lilies for the Church, please contact

Cynthia Cook

01787 461482

Griffins, CO9 3AR

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

The Maplesteads WI

It was another fun evening at The Maplesteads WI zoom meeting held on Thursday 4th February. It is so true that virtual meetings are basically modern seances: "Carol are you here?" "Make a sound if you can hear us", "Is anyone else here?" "We can't see you. Can you hear us?". At the end of the day the important thing is to be able to see one another and enjoy a laugh and a catch up on the members news. The challenge for this month was baking cookies. Several members made either sweet or savoury biscuits, they took photos of their bakes and they all looked delicious. One member made such delicious cookies there were only crumbs left in the photo. It was a shame we were unable to taste them. Next months challenge is knitting squares which will be joined together to make into a blanket to send to a charity, or for those not wishing to knit, to write a short limerick or poem on Lockdown. The next virtual meeting will be on Thursday 4th March at 7.00pm. Anyone wishing to join us please email me on: carolbrownlie@gmail.com



More Great Maplestead

Donations for Flowers

for

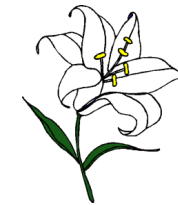
St Giles' Church, Great Maplestead

At this time of year we normally request donations to cover the cost of Lilies for the Easter Service.

However, since no Church services are allowed this Easter, we are instead looking for donations to cover the cost of flowers that will be purchased and arranged in the Church for when services can be held again later in the year.

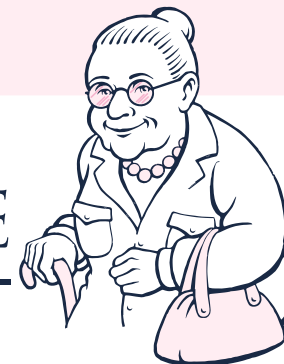
To make a donation please contact

Denise O'Connell (07795 170 048)



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Local information

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

Programme to be announced.

In the meantime, take care everybody.

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

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

Local Libraries: Halstead and Sible Hedingham Libraries, libraries.essex.gov.uk.

Four Parishes Book Group: Alison Cantor. 01787 462537 or acantor@linus.plus.com

Sudbury Area Cancer Support Group: Ruth Worsley on ruth-SACSG@outlook.com

The U3A Halstead: u3asites.org.uk/halstead/welcome

The U3A Sudbury: u3asites.org.uk/sudbury/home

U3A Braintree: u3asites.org.uk/braintree/events

Halstead & District Photographic Society: www.halsteadphoto.org.uk

Gestingthorpe History Society: www.gestingthorpehg.co.uk

Community Agents; Community-based support for an ageing population: www.communityagentsessex.org.uk.

The Empire Theatre Halstead: www.empire-theatre.co.uk

Halstead and District Local History Society: www.halsteadhistory.org.uk.

The Hedingham Singers: Bob Lilley on 07790 573435 or www.thehedinghamsingers.com/.

Sudbury Newstalk: www.sudburynewstalk.co.uk or 01787 468535.

Hedingham Medical Centre



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.

Local and National Authority Representatives

Essex County Council

Councillor David Finch - cllr.david.finch@essex.gov.uk

Braintree District Council

Great and Little Maplestead

Councillor Peter Schwier - cllr.pschwier@braintree.gov.uk

Gestingthorpe

Councillor Wendy Scattergood - cllr.wscattergood@braintree.gov.uk

Pebmarsh

Councillor George Courtauld - cllr.gcourtauld@braintree.gov.uk

Councillor Gabrielle Spray - cllr.gspray@braintree.gov.uk

Westminster

James Cleverly MP - james.cleverly.mp@parliament.uk

Parish Council Websites

Gestingthorpe	www.gestingthorpepc.co.uk
Great Maplestead	www.greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk
Little Maplestead	www.littlemaplesteadpc.co.uk
Pebmarsh	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

Pebmarsh 01787 852300

Neighbourhood Watch representatives

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

The Churchwardens serving our Benefice are

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



We urgently need UHT long life milk, fruit juice (1L variant please), dog food, (cans or pouches please), hair conditioner and size 5 baby nappies.

We currently have large stocks of baked beans, cereals, pasta, pasta sauce, biscuits, fish, soup, baby food and cereals, and we would ask if you could donate one of the items from the list below.

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Tea (40 bags if possible) | Coffee (small jars) |
| Cereal bars | Instant mash |
| Pasta sauce | Breakfast cereal |
| Tinned fruit | Packet soupd (cuppa soups) |
| Tinned tomatoes | Tinned rice pudding |
| Tinned spaghetti | Rice |
| Tinned sponge puddings | Warmed tinned meat |
| Sugar 500gms | Jam |
- Larger packs of items don't fit in our parcels making it difficult for our clients to carry home, this is why we ask for small packets.



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Church Services

Please join our services each Sunday at 10am via Zoom. The link will be posted on the 'Knights Hospitallers Parishes' Facebook page or can be emailed to you if you prefer.

Additionally services can be found on the following Facebook pages and websites:

Chelmsford Cathedral <https://www.facebook.com/chelmsfordcathedral>

- Morning Prayer Daily at 7.45am
- Evening Prayer Daily at 5.15pm
- Sunday Eucharist Weekly at 10.30am

Church of England <https://www.churchofengland.org/news-and-media/church-online>

- Weekly Sunday Service at 9am
- Daily Hope Telephone Line – 0800 804 8044. A free phone line of hymns prayers and reflection available 24 hours a day, for those without internet.

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

The Reverend Beverley Vincent

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

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The copy deadline for the October magazine is **Friday 19 March 2021**
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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Pebmarsh	Jan Bond	01787269082	janbond381@btinternet.com

This magazine is now available electronically on the parish council web sites and the Parish News website at www.knights-hospitallers.org.uk