

## Services for December 2018 and January 2019

	Gestingthorpe	Gt Maplestead	Lt Maplestead	Pebmarsh
Sunday 2 December	10am Special Follow the Star Advent Service HC In St. Giles. Gt. Maplestead.			
Sunday 9 December	4pm Compline	9.30am Holy Communion		11am Holy Communion
Wednesday 12 December	7pm CAROLS			
Sunday 16 December	11am Morning Prayer	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	4pm Band Carol Service
Monday 17 December		2.15pm School Service		
Tuesday 18 December		7pm CAROLS		1.30pm School Service
Wednesday 19 December			7pm CAROLS	
Friday 21 December			6pm Follow the Star Service	
Sunday 23 December	HALSTEAD 10AM			
Christmas Eve		11.30pm Communion	4pm Crib Service	10pm Communion
Christmas Day	9.30am Holy Communion	10am Informal Christmas	10.30am Holy Communion	10am Informal Christmas
Sunday 30 December	10am Team Holy Communion – Earls Colne			
Sunday 6 January	9.30am Holy Communion	6.30pm Even-song (BCP)	11am Holy Communion	
Sunday 6 January	3pm Plough Sunday Service – Hill Farm, Gestingthorpe			
Sunday 13 December	4pm Compline	9.30am Holy Communion		11am Morning Service
Sunday 20 January	11am Morning Prayer	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	
Sunday 27 January	8.15am Holy Communion	11am Family Service	10am Morning Prayer	9.30am Holy Communion

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

# Parish News

## Great and Little Maplestead Pebmarsh and Gestingthorpe



Church and Community together  
December and January 2018

Free

## Village contacts and information

Neighbourhood watch representatives, see page 26,

Reverend Gay Ellis and the churchwardens see page 25.

Magazine copy and deliveries see page 27

### Parish Clerks

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

### The Maplesteads

WI	Carol Brownlie	01787 461527 carolbrownlie@gmail.com
WEA	Jill Newton	01787 463893 gilliannevton4@gmail.com
Autumn Show	Carol Brownlie	01787 461527 carolbrownlie@gmail.com

### Gt Maplestead

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

### Gestingthorpe

Village Hall	Sharon Flannery	07873 238095
Village amenities	Nick Duncan	01787 313558
Tower bell ringing	Valerie Fullman	01787 462755
Cricket Club	Nick Duncan	01787 313558

### Football Club

History Society	Gill Webb	01787 581836 gillwebb008@gmail.com
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### Pebmarsh

Village Hall	Jonathan Nott	01787 269231 jonathannott44@hotmail.com
Dog Training	Halstead Dog Club	01787 473154 halsteaddogclub@hotmail.co.uk
Card making	Pauline Andow	01787 228790
Ladies Club	Pauline Andow	01787 228790
	Sandra Beaney	01787 222220
Carpet bowls	Jim Crayston	01787 222241 jim@craystonfarms.co.uk
Youth club	Carol Parker	01787 269996 taximother@googlemail.com
	Susan Rawlinson	01255 815205

### Footpaths

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

### All villages

Book Club	Alison Cantor	01787 462537 acantor@linus.plus.com
Knitting group	Carol Brownlie	01787 461527 carolbrownlie@gmail.com
Handbell Ringing	Wendy Jones	01787 469049 wendy.jones14@btopenworld.com
Solar Society	Miles Scrivens	01787 469766 lauri.scrivens@gmail.com
Benefice Choir	Gill Peskett	01787 462786 gillpeskett43@gmail.com
Scouts	Stuart Carter	01787 461149
Guides	Kathy Hoy	01787 280200
Molly's Wood	Jane Postma	<a href="https://www.mollyswood.org/contact">https://www.mollyswood.org/contact</a>

## December and January dates for your diary

1 December	6pm	Christmas Tree Lights	Great Maplestead
1 December	10am	Christmas Coffee Morning	Little Maplestead
1 December	10am	Christmas Craft Fair	Gestingthorpe
5 December	7pm	Solar Society	Castle Hedingham
5 December	7pm	Youth Club	Great Maplestead
5 December	7pm	Carpet Bowls	Pebmarsh
8 December	12pm	Christmas Shopping	Pebmarsh
12 December	7pm	WI	Great Maplestead
21 December	7pm	Carols round the village	Great Maplestead
29 December	7pm	Merry Christmas	Great Maplestead
31 December	Evening	New Year's Eve at the Kings Head	Pebmarsh
4 January	7.30pm	Mystery Game	Great Maplestead
6 January	3pm	Plough Sunday Service	Hill Farm, Gestingthorpe
6 January	11am	Village Walk	Great Maplestead
7 January	2.30pm	Solar Society	Castle Hedingham
11 January	11.30am	Repair Cafe	Halstead
18 January	7.30pm	Kurling	Great Maplestead
19 January	7pm	Cards and Curry	Great Maplestead
21 January	6.30pm	WEA	Great Maplestead

### Dates for the Diary

Wednesday 5th December 7.45pm Halstead. Treasurers Meeting.

Sunday 6th January 3pm at Hill Farm, Gestingthorpe, Plough Service,

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Spectrum House, Woodhall Business Park, Sudbury CO10 1WH  
01787 880260 [hello@indigoross.co.uk](mailto:hello@indigoross.co.uk)

The copy deadline for the February magazine is **Friday 18 January 2019**

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

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

### Copy

Editor	Jenny Bishop	01787 472159	pmeditor@icloud.com
Gestingthorpe	Andy Craig	01787 469687	andy@mdamarketing.com
Gt Maplestead	Ann Harris	01787 462818	ann66harris@gmail.com
Little Maplestead	Beverley Bratley	01787 473281	beverley.bratley@gmail.com
Pebmarsh	Jan Bond	01787269082	thebonds.copperfield@btinternet.com

## Neighbourhood Watch representatives

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

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

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

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

### The Churchwardens serving our Benefice are

Great Maplestead	Gill Peskett	01787 462786	gillpeskett43@gmail.com
	Jill Newton	01787 463893	gilliannewton4@gmail.com
Little Maplestead	Jane Piper	01787 473933	jane-piper@hotmail.co.uk
	Karen Sunnucks	01787 472145	karen.sunnucks@btinternet.com
Gestingthorpe	Alice Nolda	01787 469688	-
	Peter Nice	01787 460126	peter.427nice@btinternet.com
Pebmarsh	Belynda Fellows	01787 269986	belynda1@btinternet.com

### Would you like a lift to church?

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

### The Reverend Gay Ellis

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

## Letter from the editor

Have a joyful Christmas and a happy new year.

This is our last issue of our first free year. I hope you have enjoyed it and found it useful. It gets fuller each month, which is great.

Please, please, please send in your photos and all your ideas for improving the magazine.

We have no issue in January, I look forward to talking to you in February.

A huge thank you to our advertisers who enable us to provide the magazine free, as well as making a donation to all our Parish Churches. May they all have a prosperous new year.

Also, for any one who is interested in advertising in the magazine, our adverts run for a year starting in our February issue. Please contact me now if you are interested.



Jenny

### Braintree Area Food Bank

This year we have seen a significant increase in the number of single people and families who have had to visit us, which is why we are asking for people to donate from our Winter Appeal List instead of suggesting specific Christmas food donations.

Fruit Juice (1lt Long life)	Pasta Sauce	Biscuits
Long Life Milk	Nappies (all sizes)	Tinned fish
Instant Mash	Toilet Rolls	Tinned Fruit
Sponge Puddings	Deodorants	Sugar (500g bags)
Tinned Tomatoes	Toothpaste	Tinned Cold Meat
Tinned Rice Pudding	Non-bio washing powder	Coffee (small jars)
Packet Soups	Chocolate Bars e.g. Penguins, Kit Kat etc.	Tinned Spaghetti Jam
Custard (that can be made with hot water)		Packet Rice (500g)
		Baby Wipes
		Pet food

We ask for small packs as larger packs do not fit in our boxes making it difficult for our clients to carry home. Also, we are unable (for hygiene reasons) to split large size or catering packs. Food donations can be made via your local library in Braintree, Witham, and Halstead.

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

T: 01376330694

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

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

## Letter from the Rectory

This Christmas the "Ministers' Letter" starts off with a guest appearance by the Archbishops' of Canterbury and York, who have recently written:

"For many of us, Christmas brings up so many emotions, memories and expectations. We have one nativity story, but it can seem like we all have very different Christmases. For you it might be a time of joy and togetherness. Or perhaps it's all about planning and to-do lists.

Many others can find it a sad and lonely time – nagged by the feeling that your Christmas is not like those 'perfect' ones we see in the media.

Mary and Joseph and all those caught up in the Christmas story were surprised by the astonishing way that God chose to live among us.

Each Christmas we are reminded of God's longing to surprise us with his gift of joy, love and new life. It's the greatest present we can receive and share with others!"

Apart from Mary, Joseph and Jesus, the rest of the people in the Christmas story are an unexpected assortment of individuals who were invited to meet the baby Jesus, such as the shepherds, the Kings. As the carol reminds us: We three kings of Orient are; Bearing gifts we traverse afar, Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following yonder star.

This year you are invited to "#followthestar" both online and in our churches. You are invited to come just as you are to take the life-changing Christmas journey to follow the star and to be with Jesus. You are welcome.

Our journey will start on Sunday 2nd December with a special service at Great Maplestead. Although we hope to see you at one of our services over Christmas, we wish each and every one of you the "peace of the Season"

God Bless,

Gay & Nick



## Plough Sunday

On the 6th January at 3pm, we hope to see many of you at our annual plough service. This year it is being held, courtesy of Ashley Cooper in a barn at Hill Farm, Gestingthorpe. This is one of four services in the year in which we particularly think about those who farm the land around us, we do hope you can come and share this short service with us, all welcome whichever parish you live in.

Gay Ellis

## Fancy a cup of coffee and a chat?

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



## Village Emergency Telephone Service (VETS)

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

The telephone numbers of the village VETS are:

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



## Entries from the Registers

Funerals Great Maplestead  
19 November – David John Playle  
3 December – Andrew William Drake  
Weddings Little Maplestead  
8th December - Ryan Miller and Victoria Hiscock  
Weddings Pebmarsh  
15 December - Kyle de Klee and Edwina Drake  
Baptism. Little Maplestead  
5th December - Benjamin McColl

## Sudbury Area Cancer Support Group

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

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

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



## 5 Tips to Fight Crime – Christmas

Have you seen Essex Police's current crime prevention campaign? The current campaign under the name "Let's Talk about Crime" features five tips on eleven different crime types such as: Home Security, Garden Security, Cybercrime etc. These are available on the Essex Police webpage below, Social Media and as leaflets. As an example below are 5 tips for a crime free Christmas.



1. Don't leave Christmas presents or valuables in view of a window. Keep them out of sight from thieves. If you are storing items in a shed or outbuilding, secure them by fitting good quality locks and considering an alarm.
2. If you're attending a Christmas party, make sure that you have considered how to get home in advance and don't use unlicensed taxis. Ensure you drink responsibly and are aware of your surroundings, whilst keeping your drink and belongings safe. For personal safety advice visit: [www.suzylamplugh.org](http://www.suzylamplugh.org)
3. Whether you're on an evening out, or Christmas shopping, keep your bags, handbags, wallets and mobile safe. Busy places make it easier for the sneak thief, so be alert at all times.
4. Record your valuables and property serial numbers by using [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com) - a free property recording website that helps the police identify owners of recovered property every day. On the site you can create a private and secure log of all your personal property including adding photographs.
5. After Christmas don't advertise your nice gifts to the thieves by putting the empty boxes out for collection. Disguise them, fold them inside out or put them inside other plain boxes.

Christmas is fast approaching, for more information about how to keep yourself and your property safe visit: [www.essex.police.uk/letstalk](http://www.essex.police.uk/letstalk)

We wish you all a happy and crime free Christmas and New Year 😊



## Local Information

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

SUDBURY - BULMER - GESTINGTHORPE - WICKHAM ST. PAUL - PEBMARSH - GREAT AND LITTLE MAPLESTEAD - HALSTEAD						
Mondays to Saturdays						
	09:00	11:00	13:00	15:30	17:30	19:30
Sudbury, Bus Station	<b>09:00</b>	<b>11:00</b>	<b>13:00</b>	<b>15:30</b>	<b>17:30</b>	<b>19:30</b>
Ballingdon, Kings Head	<b>09:03</b>	<b>11:03</b>	<b>13:03</b>	<b>15:33</b>	<b>17:33</b>	<b>19:33</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>	<b>19:37</b>
Bulmer, Cross Roads	<i>09:11</i>	<i>11:11</i>	<i>13:11</i>	<i>15:41</i>	<i>17:41</i>	<i>19:41</i>
Gestingthorpe, Foundry Corner	<i>09:17</i>	<i>11:17</i>	<i>13:17</i>	<i>15:47</i>	<i>17:47</i>	<i>19:47</i>
Wickham St Paul, The Victory	<i>09:23</i>	<i>11:23</i>	<i>13:23</i>	<i>15:53</i>	<i>17:53</i>	<i>19:53</i>
<i>Pebmarsh, Bus Shelter</i>	<i>09:32</i>	<i>11:32</i>	<i>13:32</i>	<i>16:02</i>	<i>18:02</i>	<i>20:02</i>
<i>Pebmarsh, War Memorial</i>	<i>09:33</i>	<i>11:33</i>	<i>13:33</i>	<i>16:03</i>	<i>18:03</i>	<i>20:03</i>
<i>Little Maplestead, Corner</i>	<i>09:39</i>	<i>11:39</i>	<i>13:39</i>	<i>16:09</i>	<i>18:09</i>	<i>20:09</i>
<i>Great Maplestead, Church</i>	<i>09:45</i>	<i>11:45</i>	<i>13:45</i>	<i>16:15</i>	<i>18:15</i>	<i>20:15</i>
<i>Little Maplestead, Pump</i>	<i>09:51</i>	<i>11:51</i>	<i>13:51</i>	<i>16:21</i>	<i>18:21</i>	<i>20:21</i>
<b>Halstead, High Street</b>	<b>09:56</b>	<b>11:56</b>	<b>13:56</b>	<b>16:26</b>	<b>18:26</b>	<b>20:26</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>20:07</b>

Timings in BOLD are fixed timing points  
All timings in Italics need to be pre-booked  
these times will vary dependent on the number of passengers booked onto the service  
latest arrival time  
earliest arrival time

Mondays to Saturdays						
	07:35	10:00	12:00	14:00	16:30	18:30
<b>Halstead, High Street</b>	<b>07:35</b>	<b>10:00</b>	<b>12:00</b>	<b>14:00</b>	<b>16:30</b>	<b>18:30</b>
<b>Little Maplestead, Pump</b>	<b>07:40</b>	<b>10:05</b>	<b>12:05</b>	<b>14:05</b>	<b>16:35</b>	<b>18:35</b>
<i>Great Maplestead, Church</i>	<i>07:46</i>	<i>10:11</i>	<i>12:11</i>	<i>14:11</i>	<i>16:41</i>	<i>18:41</i>
<i>Little Maplestead, Cock</i>	<i>07:53</i>	<i>10:17</i>	<i>12:17</i>	<i>14:17</i>	<i>16:47</i>	<i>18:47</i>
<i>Pebmarsh, War Memorial</i>	<i>07:59</i>	<i>10:23</i>	<i>12:23</i>	<i>14:23</i>	<i>16:53</i>	<i>18:53</i>
<i>Pebmarsh, Bus Shelter</i>	<i>08:00</i>	<i>10:24</i>	<i>12:24</i>	<i>14:24</i>	<i>16:54</i>	<i>18:54</i>
<i>Wickham St Paul, The Victory</i>	<i>08:09</i>	<i>10:33</i>	<i>12:33</i>	<i>14:33</i>	<i>17:03</i>	<i>19:03</i>
<i>Gestingthorpe, Foundry Corner</i>	<i>08:15</i>	<i>10:39</i>	<i>12:39</i>	<i>14:39</i>	<i>17:09</i>	<i>19:09</i>
<i>Bulmer, Cross Roads</i>	<i>08:20</i>	<i>10:45</i>	<i>12:45</i>	<i>14:45</i>	<i>17:15</i>	<i>19:15</i>
<i>Bulmer Tye, Park Lane</i>	<i>08:24</i>	<i>10:49</i>	<i>12:49</i>	<i>14:49</i>	<i>17:19</i>	<i>19:19</i>
<i>Ballingdon, Kings Head</i>	<i>08:28</i>	<i>10:53</i>	<i>12:53</i>	<i>14:53</i>	<i>17:23</i>	<i>19:23</i>
<b>Sudbury, Bus Station</b>	<b>08:12</b>	<b>10:37</b>	<b>12:37</b>	<b>14:37</b>	<b>17:07</b>	<b>19:07</b>
<b>Sudbury, Bus Station</b>	<b>08:35</b>	<b>10:56</b>	<b>12:56</b>	<b>14:56</b>	<b>17:28</b>	<b>19:28</b>

Timings in BOLD are fixed timing points  
All timings in Italics need to be pre-booked  
these times will vary dependent on the number of passengers booked onto the service  
earliest arrival time  
latest arrival time

## Local Libraries

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

## More Local Information

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### Solar Society

#### Your local adult daytime learning group.

Unfortunately the meeting, Hark the Heroes, on Monday 3rd December has had to be postponed.

However, we start the New Year on Monday 7th January with a talk by Seona Ford on the work of The Samaritans. 'Call the Samaritans'.

The meeting starts at 2.30pm at The Memorial Hall, Church Lane, Castle Hedingham. Free light refreshments during a short interval.

All welcome. Entrance £4.00.

A very Merry Christmas to you all!

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

### Essex Libraries Consultation

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

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

### Four Parishes Book Group

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

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

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

### Ecclesiastical Insurance

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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).

## Gestingthorpe

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### Remembrance Service

"The centenary of the Armistice which led to the end of the First World War fell on Sunday 11 November and this year the Benefice service was at Gestingthorpe. The Reverend Gay led a congregation of over 60 people in a moving and reflective service which ended with a most appropriately chosen organ voluntary, Elgar's *Nimrod*, listened to in rapt silence by all those present. Earlier the two minutes' silence had been held at the war memorial outside the church. Wreaths were laid on behalf of each of our four parishes, also by David Pearson, currently serving in the RAF and by the local branch secretary of the Royal British Legion, Ray Hales. Martin Elms sounded the Last Post and Reveille to mark the beginning and the end of the two minutes' silence. Our warm thanks go to all who took part in this very special service."

**CHRISTMAS  
CRAFT FAIR**

Gestingthorpe Village Hall

Saturday 1st December

10am until 3pm

Come and visit the Gestingthorpe Village Hall Craft Fair.  
Purchase a unique gift made by local crafts people.

Tea, Coffee and seasonal treats are available throughout  
the day and there will be a raffle.

Painting • Needle Felting • Jewellery • Pottery • Books  
Woodwork • Cards • Candles • Glassware etc

## More Pebmarsh

GESTINGTHORPE VILLAGE HALL

# Wine Tasting

with Cheeses & Canapés

hosted by George Unwin & Pebmarsh Hall Wines

Saturday 8th December at 7:30pm

Opened in November 2017, the Wine & Kitchen Shop and Events venue is East Anglia's most exciting destination for food and wine.

Table bookings would like to join a table

(All proceeds go towards the improvement of our village hall.)

To book your place please call either Steph Prior on 01787 462351 or Andy Craig on 01787 469687

**POSTPONED UNTIL EARLY 2019**

**£16 per person**  
(to include 8 wine tastings with delicious cheese & canapés)

### Parish Council Websites

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

### Essex County Council

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

### Braintree District Council

#### Great and Little Maplestead

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

#### Gestingthorpe

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

#### Pebmarsh

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

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

#### Westminster

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

#### European

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

## Great Maplestead

### The Maplesteads WI

President Carol Brownlie welcomed everyone, including our speakers "The Doppelgangers" to the meeting on Thursday 1 November 2018. Secretary Janice Chaplin read the minutes and various items of correspondence and after the usual WI business birthday flowers were presented.

Carol then introduced John and Neil, "The Doppelgangers". John or was it Neil ?? began the evening's entertainment by explaining how they met in 2013. After several instances of mistaken identity John and Neil eventually met and to quote them "it was like looking at myself in the mirror!" Their story was taken up by the local Braintree news and then made it to an American Radio station, The Radio Times, an Australian TV station and Channel 4 has made a programme about them which will be aired next year. John and Neil took it in turns to read poems of their own composition and some of established poets. They made us laugh and almost cry with the emotional words from the great war. Mary Crawley gave them a warm vote of thanks and Carol invited them to join us in the lovely refreshments provided by Jan Bettley, Angela Hilton and Gill Peskett. Flower of the month was won by Connie Hume with a pretty yellow dahlia.

Our next meeting will be our Christmas Lunch on Wednesday 12 December 2018. For any information regarding our WI please telephone Carol Brownlie on 01787 461527 Anne Fletcher

### Maplestead Youth Club

"It's Christmaaas!"

Wednesday 5th December

7pm-9pm

£2.00 entry, drinks and snacks available to buy.



### Afternoon Tea Party

On behalf the **Rotary Club of Halstead**, Peter and Lyn Haylock would like to thank everyone who supported the Polio Tea party on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> October.

Special thanks to all those who baked the delicious cakes and scones, made the sandwiches, provided raffle prizes and helped serve and wash up.

Over fifty people attended and the magnificent sum of £420 was raised which will help towards the immunisation programmes to eradicate polio throughout the world.



## More Great Maplestead

### The Maplesteads' World War 1 Centenary Commemoration

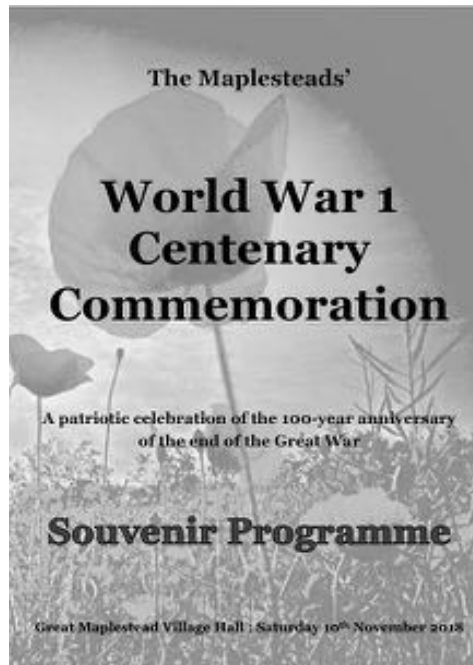
A patriotic celebration of the 100-year anniversary of the ending of the First World War was held in Great Maplestead's suitably decorated Village Hall on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November. The event was attended by over 70 people from both villages, many of whom dressed in WW1 period style to enjoy a hog-roast meal followed by an Old-Time Music Hall style show, in which they participated with much enthusiasm!

As well as various eclectic live acts, the show also included audio-visual reflections on aspects of the Maplesteads. Maps on display showed where the local men who were killed during the conflict fell, and the finale included a poignant and respectful commemoration of their sacrifice.

This event amply demonstrated the remarkable community spirit that is alive and well in the Maplesteads, with so many people helping to put on the show and make it an astounding success. The Organisers would therefore like to express their sincere and heartfelt thanks to all the sponsors, programme advertisers, people and organisations who donated, contributed to, or otherwise helped with, or took part in, the staging of this event – as a result, a remarkable **£915.83** was raised for the **Royal British Legion**. This has now been donated to, and gratefully received by, the local Hedingham and District Branch who would love to hear from you on [01787 269986](tel:01787269986) or [belynda1@btinternet.com](mailto:belynda1@btinternet.com)

### Great Maplestead Quiz Night Saturday 13th October:

The Brownlies and Castros would like to thank everyone who came along and supported the quiz night. Lots of fun was had including teams building the tallest tower from spaghetti and marshmallows!! The food and drink round had everyone guessing the country of the wine sample and the vegetable used in the purée sample. The amount raised for the evening was £300 split between the church and village hall and £46 raised for Diabetes UK.



## More Pebmarsh

### A message from THE JOHN NOTT CHARITY of Pebmarsh

Nothing tops the flavour of freshly harvested home grown produce so if the idea appeals to you why not rent an allotment in Pebmarsh?

You don't have to be a resident of the village.

If you are interested please e-mail me at [grahamtufnell@btinternet.com](mailto:grahamtufnell@btinternet.com) for further information.

### The King's Head Pebmarsh

Our splendid new King's Head sign is now in place and really enhances the appearance of the pub. We are very grateful to local artist Steven Binks and his assistant Justin for their work on this. The building has now also been completely re-roofed, securing it against whatever the weather chooses to throw at us this winter, and for many winters to come. Inside, we have warm fires and a warm welcome. If Confit Quail, Salmon in Prosecco, Lamb Hotpot and Chocolate Orange Cheesecake sound tempting, you will find the Christmas menu is excellent value. Traditional Christmas dinner is also part of the seasonal offering. All Christmas Menu items are available from Tuesday 27 November to Monday 24 December, excluding Sundays. See the full menu on [www.kingsheadpebmarsh.co.uk](http://www.kingsheadpebmarsh.co.uk)

We will also be celebrating New Year's Eve at the King's Head with live music. Tickets available soon.

The King's Head is owned by Pebmarsh Community Pub Ltd. If you would like to become a shareholder or know someone who might like a share in our community pub as a Christmas present, shares cost £50 and are available individually or in blocks of up to 100. Contact [pcpshareholder@gmail.com](mailto:pcpshareholder@gmail.com) for a copy of the prospectus which provides full details.

You can follow the latest news from the King's Head on Facebook [@kingsheadpebmarsh](https://www.facebook.com/kingsheadpebmarsh) or Twitter [@pebmarshpub](https://twitter.com/pebmarshpub)

Christmas Shopping Fair  
Pebmarsh Village Hall  
Sat 8th Dec 12pm-4pm  
Do all your Christmas shopping locally in one afternoon

Decs & Wrap  
Beauty  
Clothes  
Home ware  
Sweets & Treats  
Unique Gifts  
Raffle

Free Entry - food donations  
for the local foodbank gratefully recieved

## More Pebmarsh

### News from St John the Baptist Primary School

#### Remembrance

At 11 o'clock on Friday 9th November, our children participated in a minute silence to remember those who had fallen in both World Wars. The children were enthralled by Mr Martin Elms who played The Last Post on the bugle. At the War Memorial, after placing a poppy wreath on behalf of the school, pupils laid crosses for those who had lost their lives in World War 1. Pupils also read poems and prayers which had been written at school. As usual, pupils removed their own poppies and placed them by the War Memorial. Children read memories of family members who lost their lives or who experienced wartime. Mr Lee Ivatt, one of our parents, kindly drove his WWII, 6 wheel drive, American army truck, for the children to see. It had been used in the Battle of the Bulge, the Battle of Remagen Bridge and the Liberation of Prague to name but a few. The children were able to ask Mr Ivatt questions about it before returning to school. We were also able to view an American WW2 Jeep complete with motor cycle.

#### Harvest Gifts

As a diocesan school, we were invited to send a box of locally grown produce to Chelmsford Cathedral for the County Harvest Festival. Thanks to the artistic talents of one of our parents, our box was presented most beautifully and had 'centre stage' both at Little Maplestead Flower Festival and the County Harvest Festival in Chelmsford Cathedral. After the service all the food was put to good and practical use to support people in the locality.

#### Gardening Club

Over the summer term a group of parents organised and ran a lunchtime Gardening Club for all interested children. Each week the children sowed, watered and nurtured the seeds, 'potted them on' and 'grew them on' to later 'plant out'. Pupils brought in recycled containers from home including lampshades, leather boots, wellies, shoes, recycled plastic containers, an old guitar, egg boxes, toy trolleys, toy castles, sieves, troughs, bags and more. At the end of July our school entered the East of England 'Grub in a Tub' competition at Marks Hall Country Fair. We were the largest exhibitor with over 25 containers! We won 1st, 4th, 5th and 6th prizes.

#### Admissions for September 2018

Children born during the period 1st September 2014 to 31st August 2015, are due to start school in September 2019. Applications can be made from 12th November 2018 until the 15th January 2019. If you know anyone who is due to start school, please pass on our details. We also have a few places in other year groups. Karen De Pietro Headteacher

## More Great Maplestead

### Maplesteads' WEA

# WEA

Many famous artists – **Constable, Turner, Spencer, Hambling** and **Munnings** to name just a few – have been inspired by the rural landscapes, wide skies, rolling seas, and imposing churches of **East Anglia** during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries.

To gain a greater appreciation of the influence of this region on art and artists, come to **Great Maplestead Village Hall on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January at 6.30pm\***, enjoy a free glass of wine and refreshments, and try our taster-session for a **9-week course** that we're confident you will find both interesting and informative...

\*Subsequent sessions start at **7.00pm**.

More details at <https://greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk/community-village-life/wea/>



**Jill Newton and Gill Peskett**



**Churchwardens at St. Giles, Great Maplestead**

**wish all their friends in the 4 parishes**

**a very happy and peaceful Christmas.**

**We will be making a donation to charity**

**instead of sending cards.**

## More Great Maplestead



*Carols Round the Village*  
in Great Maplestead

*Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December*

*Starting from the Village Hall at*  
*7.00pm*

*Followed by Mulled Wine*  
*and Light Refreshments*

## Great Maplestead Village Hall

**PUB  
NIGHT!**

Come along, unwind and join us at any of our informal social Friday evenings to play indoor games or just have a chat.



**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> January : Mystery Game**  
**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January : Kurling\***

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

**from 7.30-9.30pm**

**Bring your own drinks, glasses & nibbles**



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

## Pebmarsh

### Carol Service

The Carol Service, open to everyone will take place on 16th December at 4pm, music will be provided by the talented Long Melford Silver Band. The band performed at the Menin Gate ceremony in Ypres at the end of October & more recently in Long Melford at the Battle's Over Service & Beacon Lighting on Remembrance Day. We look forward to seeing you on 16th December.

### Carpet Bowls Club

The last Bowls Club meeting of the year will be held in Pebmarsh Village Hall on 5th December from 7pm until 9pm.

### Church update

Firstly a very big 'thank you' to Norman Rapkin who has opened the Church daily for the last few years. His support in making sure the Church has remained open during daylight hours is very much appreciated by all of us. Many visitors to the village have been pleasantly surprised to find the Church open and have left some very supportive comments to that effect in the visitors book.

Norman has now decided that he will withdraw from this role & if there is anyone in the village who is interested in taking his place Belynda Fellows would love to hear from you on [01787 269986](tel:01787269986) or [belynda1@btinternet.com](mailto:belynda1@btinternet.com)

### Are you interested in joining the Pebmarsh Art Group?

The Group meets on Thursdays in Pebmarsh Village Hall. Sessions are open for members to drop in at any time between 11am & 4pm.

Places are available now for anyone wishing to join. For more information please call Ann Hepburn on 01787 269738

### Thank you from Pebmarsh

The Treasurer, the Church Council and myself would like to say thank you to all respondents to our plea for additional direct debit contributions. Your response is very much appreciated. Ordinarily we would send thank you emails but we do not have specific contact details for most of the respondents.

Gay Ellis



## More Little Maplestead

A model of the proposed Parish Room and draft plans will be on display a few days before the Carol Service and will be left in the church for people to view; a comment box will be available for people to leave comments anonymously in a sealed envelope should you prefer.

However, The Parochial Church Council would like to invite all residents of Little Maplestead to a meeting at the church on 13th January 2019 at 10am. A short presentation will be made and members of the PCC and their architects will be available to answer any questions. Refreshments will be provided.

### Local Women's Running Group

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

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### At Halstead Library

#### What is a Repair Café?

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

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

Saturday, Oct 20<sup>th</sup> 9.30 - 11.30  
**FRIDAY**, Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> 11.30 - 1.30  
**FRIDAY**, Jan 11<sup>th</sup> 11.30 to 1.30

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

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

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



For further details talk to library staff or contact us:

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## More Great Maplestead

# New Year VILLAGE



# WALK 2019

## Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> January

**Starting at 11.00am from the Village Hall.  
Finishing at the Village Hall for drinks and nibbles.**

**Adults: £2.50 each; Children & Dogs: free**

**(Please pay at the Hall at the beginning of the walk)**

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

**Great Maplestead Village Hall**  
**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> January**

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

Please bring your own drinks and glasses

Tickets £8/person from  
Phyllipa Mills (01787 460 578)

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

## More Great Maplestead



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Great Maplestead

Winter Beer Festival &  
Christmas Party

Dancing may feature!

7pm – 11pm

**SATURDAY 29<sup>TH</sup>  
DECEMBER 2018**

After all the Christmas entertaining come and let your hair down and enjoy a few drinks and maybe a little dancing.

The wearing of Christmas jumpers is optional!

TICKETS TO BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE

PLEASE PHONE: - JULIE 01787 463637 OR ANN  
01787 460216

## Great Maplestead Village Hall

### CHARITY LENT LUNCH

Saturday 16th March 2019

12 noon to 2pm

£5 entry, ploughmans & soup, raising funds for Essex Air Ambulance

## More Little Maplestead

### An Important Letter from Lt. Maplestead Church Council.

The PCC have been working for many months on a new proposal for a small Parish Room. The proposed location, for the building is for it to be adjacent to the existing toilet in the grounds of the Round Church. This is not a new idea; 10 years ago plans were drawn up for a building which provided a Tea Point, Store room and Toilet. In 2013, with the assistance of the Parish Council, a limited funding opportunity arose that allowed the toilet portion of this building to be built.

The church is the only building in the village which can be used by the community and although we are very lucky to have such a wonderful church, it has many challenges; for instance, I'm sure many of you appreciate the amount of effort it takes to provide refreshments at events with just a stand pipe for water and trestle tables for a kitchen!

The main purpose of the Parish Room is to support the church's mission, but it will always be secondary and subservient to the main Church building, both in its appearance and also its purpose. It will provide a flexible open space, that as well as supporting the Church's mission will also be able to be used by the whole community for other small events.

The proposed location of the Parish Room, is for it to be located in the northwest corner of the churchyard and for it to be connected to the existing toilet building; in plan it is 'T' shaped. The main part of the building will be situated along the western boundary and will measure 4m deep and just over 6m long. From the main structure, the east elevation will extend 4m beyond the existing toilet building towards the church; this part will be just over 5m wide. Glazing has been proposed for the east elevation to give a vernacular view of the church. The store room will be placed out of the way, behind the toilet building.

The PCC, their building surveyors and the DAC architects, have looked into a number of alternative proposals but believe this has the least impact on the surroundings whilst providing a flexible useable space. The proposed location has been selected to ensure the room is as far away from the church as possible so the views of the church from the main entrance are unaffected. The design has been chosen to keep the ridge height as low as possible as this is a significant factor to ensure the Parish Room is subservient to the Church.

In addition to working closely with Oswicks, our Building Surveyors, the Diocese of Chelmsford Advisory Council and their architects, the PCC have also engaged with Braintree District Council, Heritage England, as well as St. John's Ambulance as they have a long historic connection with the church.

## Little Maplestead

### Carol Service

Our Christmas Carol Service and Lessons will be held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm. Come along and enjoy the candlelight, traditional carols, mulled wine and mince pies. This is a really lovely way to start the countdown to Christmas.

### Follow the star

Join us for the "Night of Stars" in a service on Friday 21 December at 6pm that will light up Little Maplestead Church through singing and activities to make stars as we recall the star that was seen in the sky that first Christmas. Bring a torch or a lamp.

### Crib Service

The Crib Service is held on Christmas Eve at 4pm. The Christmas story is told beginning with the journey to Bethlehem, and ending with the visit of the kings. Children bring up the figures, one by one to build the nativity scene, and we sing carols to help tell the story. Audience participation is essential and children love it. Space is limited, so please come early to make sure you have a seat!

### Christmas Day

The Christmas Day 10.30am service is a Carol Service, followed by an informal Holy Communion for those who wish to stay on. It is the one time of the year where we get to choose the carols – so do come along so your favourite carol gets a vote.

### Christmas Coffee Morning

The Little Maplestead Christmas Coffee Morning will be held at School Farm on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December.

Local homemade Christmas produce includes cakes, puddings, mince pies, shortbread, chutneys and other wonderful treats.

Don't forget there will be some unique and special Christmas decorations for you to browse and buy.

Selection of Christmas trees with free delivery. Let's not forget the raffle!

Pop in for a coffee between 10am - 1pm.



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**Adult £12.00, Child £12.00, Under 3 £5.00**

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For more details please contact; Email [peter@andersonwellbeing.com](mailto:peter@andersonwellbeing.com) Website [www.andersonwellbeing.com](http://www.andersonwellbeing.com) Phone 01787 269499

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SEPT 28TH  
OCT 26TH  
NOV 30TH  
DEC 21ST  
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