

Services for December 2019

	Gestingthorpe	Great Maplestead	Little Maplestead	Pebmarsh
Sunday 1 December	10am Advent Service HC in St. Marys Gestingthorpe.			
Sunday 8 December	4pm Compline	9.30am Holy Communion		11am Holy Communion
Wednesday 11 December	6.30pm Handbells 7pm CAROLS			
Sunday 15 December	11am Morning Prayer	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	4pm Band Carol Service
Tuesday 17 December		2.15pm School Service 7pm CAROLS		
Wednesday 18 December			7pm CAROLS	
Thursday 19 December				1.30pm School Service
Sunday 22nd	11AM Family Service in Gt. Maplestead			
Christmas Eve		11.30pm Christmas Communion	4pm Crib Service	10pm Christmas Communion
Christmas Day	9.30am Holy Communion	10am Informal Christmas	10.30am Holy Communion	10am Informal Christmas
Sunday 29 December	10.30am Team Holy Communion – Gosfield			
Sunday 5 January	9.30am Holy Communion	6.30pm Evensong (BCP)	11am Holy Communion	
Sunday 12 January	4pm Compline	9.30am Holy Communion		
Sunday 12 January	3pm Plough Sunday Service – Hunts Hall Farm Pebmarsh			
Sunday 19 January	11am Morning Prayer	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	
Sunday 26 January	8.15am Holy Communion	11am Family Service	10am Morning Prayer	9.30am Holy Communion

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

**Parish
News**

Great and Little Maplestead Pebmarsh and Gestingthorpe



**Church and Community together
December and January 2019**

Free

Village contacts and information

Reverend Gay Ellis and the churchwardens see page 26.

Village Emergency Telephone Service and Neighbourhood Watch representatives see page 25

Magazine copy and deliveries see page 23

Parish Clerks

Gt Maplestead	Ann Crisp	01787 460216	anncrisp@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk
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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
	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	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	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		https://www.mollyswood.org/contact

December and January dates for your diary

1 December	6pm	Christmas tree light up	Great Maplestead
2 December	2.30pm	Solar Society	Castle Hedingham
4 December	7pm	Bowls Club	Pebmarsh
5 December	7pm	WI Christmas Party	Great Maplestead
10 December		Ladies Club	Pebmarsh
13 December	10am	Coffee Morning	Gestingthorpe
15 December	5pm	Christmas Party Karaoke - Kings Head	Pebmarsh
20 December	7pm	Carols around the village	Great Maplestead
20 December		Live music - Kings Head	Pebmarsh
27 December	11am	Christmas Village Walk	Great Maplestead
28 December	7pm	Winter Beer Festival & Christmas Party	Great Maplestead
31 December	8pm	Party and Disco - Kings Head	Pebmarsh
3 January	10am	Coffee Morning	Gestingthorpe
6 January	2.30pm	Solar Society	Castle Hedingham
10 January	7.30pm	Pub night	Great Maplestead
14 January		Ladies Club	Pebmarsh
15 January	7pm	Pebmarsh Parish Council	Pebmarsh
17 January	10am	Coffee Morning	Gestingthorpe
20 January	6.30pm	Maplesteads WEA	Great Maplestead
25 January	7pm	Comic Greyhound Racing Night	Great Maplestead
31 January	10am	Coffee Morning	Gestingthorpe

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The copy deadline for the February magazine is **Friday 17 January 2020**

We need to know who, what, where and when

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

Copy

Editor	Jenny Bishop	01787 472159	pmeditor@icloud.com
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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

The Churchwardens serving our Benefice are

Great	Gill Peskett	01787 462786	gillpeskett43@gmail.com
Maplestead	Jill Newton	01787 463893	gilliannewton4@gmail.com
Little	Jane Piper	01787 473933	jane-piper@hotmail.co.uk
Maplestead	Karen Sunnucks	01787 472145	karen.sunnucks@btinternet.com
Gestingthorpe	Alice Nolda	01787 469688	-
	Peter Nice	01787 460126	peter.427nice@btinternet.com
Pebmarsh	Jim Crayston	91787 222241	jim@craystonfarms.co.uk

Would you like a lift to church?

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

Fancy a cup of coffee and a chat?

Come to the Tower Room in St Giles Church, Great Maplestead

Open every Wednesday Morning 10.30am to 12noon

No charge, this is a social get together, not a fund raiser. Everyone is welcome -
for more details please ring

Dorothy on 01787 829963 or Gill on 01787 462786



Have a happy and joyous Christmas

The Reverend Gay Ellis

The Rectory
Church Street
Great Maplestead
CO9 2RG
Email gayellis@aol.com
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Mobile 07749 838769

Church Social Media

Web site - www.knights-hospitallers.org.uk

Twitter - @knightsparishes

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

Letter from the editor



A happy and joyous Christmas to you all.

I have started my Christmas preparations by spending Saturday in Castle Hedingham Church, learning how to make a wreath for the front door (and a table centrepiece and a spray). Such fun, we hope to do something similar in the round church next year. It was a lovely opportunity to talk and meet new people in our community as well as the satisfaction of making something both useful and beautiful. Now all I have to do is all the rest of the work necessary for Christmas. This year we are lucky enough to be joined by our families.

Spare a thought for those less fortunate. Sadly, although we are one of the richest countries on the planet, we have fellow citizens in crisis. Braintree Area Food Bank is very necessary to help local people, not just at Christmas but all through the year. Have a look at page 22 to find out what they need. Also Volunteer Essex, found at:

www.volunteeressex.org/news/festive-volunteering/

has information about where you can help others over Christmas.

On a happier note, it is good to see how much is going on in our villages over the Christmas period, I hope to see some of you at these events.

Best wishes to all.

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Letter from the Rectory

The 18 January is the start of the Week for Christian Unity when we are encouraged to think about the other churches, not just in our villages, or our Diocese, or England but throughout the world. Obviously we know so much more about some of the churches than others. We are encouraged not only to think about the other churches but also to pray for them. Say a prayer each day throughout that week to help us think about them

Throughout history the Christian church has broken into different denominations and at times this has caused much pain and suffering but now as we learn so much more about each other we can see that there is so much more which unites us than divides us. If our services are a little different and even is our doctrine is a little different, this should enrich our lives and our faith – the week is called Christian Unity.

We need unity in our world between peoples beliefs, politics and faiths. We need to understand and appreciate one another and by the time you read this article the General Election will be very soon and then we start again.

The one thing that is certain is that we need to bring unity. Unity within our country and within the world, surely it should start with the churches. We are all one and so we should love and respect one another and join together in prayer for our country and our world. If, during the week starting 18 January, we pray for each other then it means that we are thinking about each other, with care and concern and love. Perhaps that is a good way to start to bring about unity in our world.

We wish you all a joyous and peaceful Christmas and New Year

God Bless,

Gay & Nick



Plough Sunday

On the 12th January at 3pm, we hope to see many of you at our annual plough service. This year it is being held, courtesy of Jim Crayston in Shed 6 at Hunts Hall Farm, Pebmarsh. This is one of the 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.

The Silver Band Carol Service is back

As some of you are aware, the Silver Band Carol Service had to be cancelled last year because of bad weather on the day, but this year they are back. PEBMARSH Sunday 15th December at 4pm. Favourite carols and reading followed by mulled wine and mince pies. Please do come and support them and make them feel welcome.

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

Hire of Great Maplestead, Pebmarsh and Gestingthorpe Village Halls

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

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

Neighbourhood Watch representatives

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

Ecclesiastical Insurance

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.

Compassion & Company for the Elderly

- ✓ *Light Chores*
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DBS Enhanced Certificate
Excellent References

call Amanda 07817 736914
To arrange a free introductory chat

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	https://www.essexinfo.net/gestingthorpe/
Great Maplestead	http://greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk
Little Maplestead	http://littlemaplesteadpc.co.uk
Pebmarsh	http://parishcouncil.pebmarsh.com

Village Hall activities

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.



HANDMADE CURTAINS & BLINDS, CLOTHING ALTERATIONS & REPAIRS

Please contact Jaquie on 07412 608344
or email enquiries@ninesaved.co.uk

www.ninesaved.co.uk [f/ninesaved](https://www.facebook.com/ninesaved)

Collections & deliveries can be arranged

Let us be your stitch in time...

Christmas in our villages.

Wed 11 December

Gestingthorpe Church. Carols in Church. 6.30pm. Handbell, then Carols at 7pm followed by mulled Wine and Mince Pies.

Sunday 15 December

Pebmarsh Church. Carols with the Silver Band. 4pm in Pebmarsh Church followed by refreshments.

Tuesday 17 December

Great Maplestead Church. Carols in Church. 7.30pm followed by refreshments.

Wednesday 18 December

Little Maplestead Church. Carols in Church. 7.30pm followed by refreshments.

Tuesday 24 December. Christmas Eve

Each of these is a wonderful way to start the Christmas season. Then on Christmas Eve we have the delightful Crib Service for young and old alike. This is at 4pm in The Round Church Little Maplestead. Please do come.

We then have the Christmas communion services in Pebmarsh Church at 10pm and Great Maplestead Church at 11.30pm.

Wednesday 25 December. Christmas Day

Christmas Day we have a service in each church where you can choose your favourite carols and share the joy of Christmas and be finished in good time to go back to your Christmas lunch. Gestingthorpe at 9.30am, Great Maplestead and Pebmarsh at 10am and Lt Maplestead at 10.30am.

You are all welcome to any or all of these Christmas services, it does not matter which village you live in you are welcome at any of the services.

Nick and Gay Ellis and all the Churchwardens and PCC members wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and we hope to see you at some of the Christmas Festivals.



Dates for the Diary.

12th January 3pm Plough Sunday. Hunts Hall Farm in Pebmarsh.

15th January Magazine Steering Committee meeting.

The F315 Local Bus Service

All buses serve Halstead, Little Maplestead, Wickham St Paul, Gestingthorpe, Bulmer, Sudbury. Book giving two working hours' notice, on 01621 874411. The latest information can be found on <http://www.essexbus.info>. The Saturday times are the same as Monday to Friday. Please always check the website for the latest timetable.

Arrow Taxis F315 Sudbury-Halstead

Mondays to Fridays (from 12 February 2018)

	service no.	F315	F315	F315	F315	F315	F315
	notes	A	A	A	A	A	A
Sudbury, Bus Station Stand A	0900	1100	1300	1530	1730	1915	
Ballingdon, Strawberry Stores	0903	1103	1303	1533	1733	1918	
Bulmer Tye, Park Lane	0907	1107	1307	1537	1737	1922	
Bulmer, The Street	0911	1111	1311	1541	1741	1926	
Gestingthorpe, Foundry Corner	0917	1117	1317	1547	1747	1932	
Wickham St Paul, The Victory	0923	1123	1323	1553	1753	1938	
Pebmarsh, The Kings Head	0932	1132	1332	1602	1802	1947	
Pebmarsh, War Memorial	0933	1133	1333	1603	1803	1948	
Little Maplestead, The Cock	0939	1139	1339	1609	1809	1954	
Great Maplestead, Church	0945	1145	1345	1615	1815	2000	
Little Maplestead, Pump	0951	1151	1351	1621	1821	2006	
Halstead, High Street	0956	1156	1356	1626	1826	2011	

Arrow Taxis F315 Halstead-Sudbury

Mondays to Fridays (from 12 February 2018)

	service no.	F315	F315	F315	F315	F315	F315
	notes	A	A	A	A	A	A
Halstead, High Street	0730	1000	1200	1400	1630	1830	
Little Maplestead, Pump	0735	1005	1205	1405	1635	1835	
Great Maplestead, Church	0741	1011	1211	1411	1641	1841	
Little Maplestead, The Cock	0749	1017	1217	1417	1647	1847	
Pebmarsh, War Memorial	0754	1023	1223	1423	1653	1853	
Pebmarsh, The Kings Head	0755	1024	1224	1424	1654	1854	
Wickham St Paul, The Victory	0804	1033	1233	1433	1703	1903	
Gestingthorpe, Foundry Corner	0810	1039	1239	1439	1709	1909	
Bulmer, The Street	0815	1045	1245	1445	1715	1915	
Bulmer Tye, Park Lane	0819	1049	1249	1449	1719	1919	
Ballingdon, Strawberry Stores	0823	1053	1253	1453	1723	1923	
Sudbury, Bus Station Stand A	0830	1056	1256	1456	1728	1928	

Twelve tips for Christmas and after

1. If you must store Christmas food and drink, presents and other goodies within garages and outbuildings, ensure that they are out of sight and that it's securely locked with good quality well fitted locks. Treat your shed to a shed alarm.
2. Avoid tempting window shopping burglars; don't leave presents and valuables on full view in front of a window.
3. Ensure that your windows and doors are closed and locked before leaving the house. Don't attract burglars to your home by leaving it in darkness; leave lights on timers, perhaps treat yourself to a TV simulator too.
4. Lock gates to keep unwanted visitors from getting to the rear of your home.
5. Whether 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.
6. Park safely; look for a Parkmark accredited car park www.parkmark.co.uk/car-park-finder Check that your car is locked before you leave it and don't leave valuables and gifts on display in your car.
7. When you go to leave the house and find that your car is all iced up, don't leave it unattended with the engine running to de-ice it. It only takes a second to steal your car and it would invalidate any insurance claim.
8. Attending a Christmas party – make sure that you have considered how you are getting home in advanced and avoid using unlicensed taxi's. Ensure you drink responsible and are aware of your surroundings, whilst keeping your drink and belongings safe. www.suzylamplugh.org/Pages/FAQs/Category/personal-safety
9. Watch what you put on social media; check your settings to ensure that you are not broadcasting when you are not at home and the lovely gifts you have received.
10. After Christmas don't advertise your nice gifts to the thieves by putting the empty boxes out for collection, disguise them, fold them up inside out or put them inside other non-descript box.
11. Record your new property free on www.immobilise.com , install tracking and security apps on relevant electrical and computer products.
12. Have a Great Christmas and New Year!! For further crime prevention advice see: www.essex.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/



More local information

Braintree Area Food Bank

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

Food that they are short of

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

Donations can be made via the libraries in Braintree, Witham, and Halstead and the Coop in Halstead. For more information see braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk.

The Empire Theatre Halstead

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

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

Halstead and District Local History Society

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

The Hedingham Singers

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

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

Little Maplestead

Parish Room

Historic England have provided a very positive letter to the council in support of the proposal, unfortunately the application is still in a pending consideration status as the planner dealing with the application is unwell.

Church Maintenance

All the damaged and missing tiles on the church roof have been replaced and a number of repairs to the guttering have also been completed. A number of other repairs have also completed as part of the quinquennial works. In addition the Friends of the Round Church have raised funds for further repairs to the windows and the stonework around the entrance door. Improvements to the church heating and remedial work to the electrics will be completed shortly.

Owl box

An owl box is to be installed in one of the large trees in the churchyard. Once it is occupied, it is planned to arrange our own spring watch evening in the church to view live pictures of the owls together with a talk with a representative from the Essex Wildlife Trust. Further details will be provided in the next issue of the magazine and in the church noticeboard. Gestingthorpe History Group

Christmas Craft Fair

Many thanks to everyone who helped on the day or provided their support with setting up, donating goods to sell etc. It was a very festive event and good to see so many people. We raised a total of £800 which will go towards the recent works on the church.

Little Maplestead Parish Council.

We have been fortunate enough this year to receive various grants which have allowed us to upgrade some of the facilities on the playing field, including addressing the safety issue of the entrance to the main road, and also the placing of the two picnic tables and benches. In 2020 we are again intending to apply for various grants, and we would like to ensure that any funding we are lucky enough to obtain is spent on items that the Parishioners' feel would be an asset to our village, and would enhance their quality of life. Can you please contact either Anne Harris or Bill Piper with any suggestions or ideas that you may have.

Little Maplestead Parish Council

wishes everyone a Happy Christmas, and a happy, healthy and prosperous new year, also wants to thank everyone who has been helped to look after and care for our village.

Gestingthorpe

Gestingthorpe Village Hall:

Tuesday the 19th of November saw 31 audience members enjoy an evening of enlightenment given by Keith Lovell about the History behind the Village sign. Keith has published a number of books on this subject and was able to inform the audience members on the iconography on a number of the signs that feature in the villages that are local to Gestingthorpe. Hopefully the audience all left with a greater awareness of the village signs that we all pass but sometimes go unnoticed on our travels throughout the county.

Candle Lit Carol Service

"Gestingthorpe's traditional candle-lit Carol Service will take place on 11th December. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served from 6.30pm and the service itself will start at 7pm. The congregation's voices will be boosted by the sounds of the Exaltation! Gospel Choir from Halstead and before the service there will be a short performance by the Gestingthorpe handbell ringers. All are very welcome at this service."

Gestingthorpe 'Gathering' Coffee / Tea Mornings

Our coffee mornings held between 10 am and 12 noon on alternate Fridays in the village hall are continuing to be a hit with those of all ages. Friends and neighbours in the village come along to enjoy chatting over a mug of tea or coffee and some delicious home baked cakes.

If you haven't already been to one of our coffee mornings please come along soon; we would love to see you. The dates for our next two coffee mornings are 29 November and 13 December, restarting on Friday 3 January and then the 17 and 31 January. We hope to see you there.

Your 'coffee morning team' send you best wishes for Christmas, the festive season and for a Happy New Year



christmas carol singing
9th december start at 5pm
start at church any money raised will go
towards church and hall
anyone can come to sing
we will go door to door

More local information

Sudbury Newstalk

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



Hedingham Medical Centre

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

U3A

The University of the Third Age is thriving. Try

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

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

Gestingthorpe History Society

Information about Gestingthorpe History Society can be found here: www.gestingthorpehg.co.uk

Community-based support for an ageing population

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

The Kings Head Pebmarsh

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

Local Information

Solar Society, December and January 2019.

On Monday 2 December It's our Christmas Social. We will enjoy a selection of music chosen by our committee. Each piece will be accompanied by a short talk from the member who has chosen it. It will be **free**.

On Monday 6th January at 2.30pm Angie Jones will talk about 'Walking in the Slow Lanes'. Two loves has she, walking and writing. (The lanes of Suffolk). Cost £4.00.

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

Local Women's Running Group

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

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>.

Four Parishes Book Group

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

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

For information, Alison Cantor. 01787 462537 or acantor@linus.plus.com

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

Pebmarsh

Pebmarsh Village Hall

Your village hall has had a busy year with many community classes going from strength to strength and the Pebmarsh Village Hall Management Committee would like to wish all our customers, friends, contractors and volunteers a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year.

We look forward to 2020 and building on all the good will and work so that our village hall can continue to be the community success it has become.

Please contact us on 01787 269231 to arrange bookings over the festive and new year period for your parties, meetings, gatherings and classes, etc.

Finally, may we also thank Jan Bond our parish news contact for all the hard work and support that she continues to give. Thank you Jan and your colleagues that make the Parish News another community success.

St John the Baptist Church Silver Band Carol Service

Our annual Carol Service will be held on Sunday 15th December starting at 4pm, accompanied by the wonderful Long Melford Silver Band.

Please come along with friends & family to join in the singing, support the band & then enjoy mulled wine & mince pies.

Remembrance Service 11th November

Despite the wet weather the service at the War memorial was well attended by villagers & pupils from the village school. Wreaths were laid on behalf of The Parish Council, the School, the Church, Pebmarsh Community Pub and the village. Our thanks to the bugler Martin Elms who sounded The Last Post. A number of people adjourned to the Church after the service for refreshments & a chance to catch up with friends.

Bowls Club

The Bowls Club is going back to evening meetings on the first Wednesday monthly 7.00pm – 9.00pm. The December meeting will therefore be Wednesday 4th December but please note there will not be a meeting in January. The first meeting of the New Year will be 5th February.

Poppy collection

Thank you to everybody who helped with the door to door collection & all who generously donated to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. We don't have a specific figure for Pebmarsh but the grand total for the Pebmarsh District which includes Alphamstone & Twinstead was £743.37.



More Pebmarsh

Pebmarsh Parish Council

Armistice day saw many Pebmarsh parish community groups and parishioners attend our war memorial in the pouring rain to pay their respects. Lest we forget, especially now as those memories pass into history.

Our November parish council meeting once again had a good attendance including Cllr Spray, Cllr Courtauld and Tim Lucas - Housing R&D Manager who all represent Braintree District Council. Tim kindly gave a very informative presentation on housing in Hamster Close and Pearson Close including how and when to register. Pebmarsh traffic and telecommunications issues raised with and through Essex County Council remain unresolved as we await further information.

Your parish council all thank Louise Bradley-Flack who has now stood down from your council for her parish work, Robert Henn for his grass cutting services, Jan Bond and her colleagues for creating our parish news magazine as well as all our other partners, district and local councillors for their sage and invaluable support.

Finally we would like to thank all in our parish for your support and we wish you a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you all at our next meeting on 15th January 2020 at Pebmarsh Village Hall.



Pebmarsh Clubs

They all meet in the village hall.

Bowls Club meets at the village hall from 7pm to 9pm pm on the first Wednesday monthly. For more details contact Jim Crayston 01787 222241

Youth Club meets at the village hall on alternate Thursday's from 6.30-8.30. Contact Carol Parker 01787 269996.

Ladies Club meets at the village hall on the second Tuesday monthly. If you are interested call Pauline Andow on 01787 228790.

Card Making meetings are held in the village hall on the last Tuesday monthly. Booking is essential, please contact Pauline Andow on 01787 228790. All tools & materials provided.

More Great Maplestead

The Maplesteads WI



**Beer, Cider,
Prosecco, Gin, Wine
& Soft Drinks**

Tickets £16

**Food and Drinks
included**

WINTER BEER FESTIVAL & CHRISTMAS PARTY

SATURDAY 28TH DECEMBER 2019

Great Maplestead

**Winter Beer Festival
& Christmas Party**

Dancing may feature!

7pm – 11pm

**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 BY
20TH DECEMBER**

**PLEASE PHONE: JULIE 01787 463 637
OR: ANN 01787 460 216**



More Great Maplestead

Remembrance

Great Maplestead's Christmas Tree

decoration and light-up

Sunday 1st December

6.00pm at the top of Church Street

Bring a decoration
then enjoy some
Mince Pies in



to hang on the tree
Mulled Wine and
the Village Hall

A Remembrance Service for our four Knights Hospitallers parishes took place at St.Giles, Great Maplestead, on Sunday, November 10th.

The service was lead by Rev.Gay Ellis, and the congregation, numbering just over 60, were joined by a representative from the Royal British Legion. We were fortunate to have the services of bugler Mr. Martin Elms.

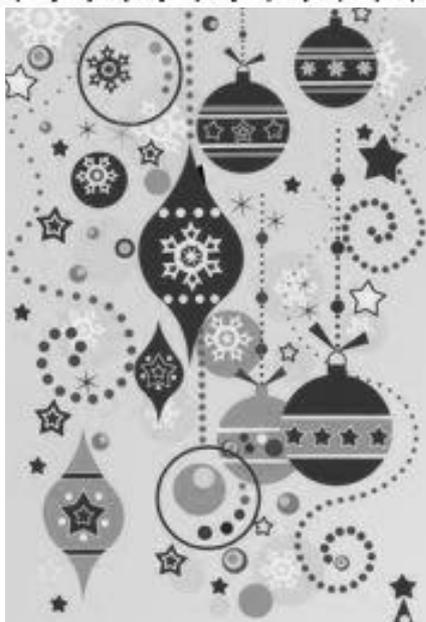
Also present were 5 members of the Abrams family, attending in memory of Ernest Josiah Abrams of Great Maplestead, who lost his life in World War 1.

A sum of £300 was collected for the Royal British Legion.

Christmas Trail

We will light up the Christmas Tree at the top of Church Street at 6pm on the 1st December. Please bring a decoration to hang on the tree and join us for mulled wine and mince pies in the village hall.

Trees or windows will be lighting up every day throughout Advent as part of the Great Maplestead Christmas Trail.



More Pebmarsh

Sue Rawlinson

After 18 years of hosting Pebmarsh Youth and Toddler Clubs, the time has finally come for Sue Rawlinson to enter into her well-deserved retirement.

Many of your children will have fond memories of Sue and the clubs she selflessly gave her time to. To this day, Pebmarsh Youth Club remains a highly regarded and well-run asset within our small community.

Ever energetic, Sue tirelessly worked for the benefit of the Youth Club and our children, not only on every other Thursday evening, (driving in from Holland-On-Sea for the last four years!) but also devoting a great deal of time to fund raising by making and selling jam, cleaning the church and looking after its floral arrangements.

As a village we would like to gift Sue with a hamper of festive goodies that everyone can donate towards. Her last day is the 19/12/19 and we would like to make a presentation at the village hall on that evening.

Donations in the form of food and drink items can be dropped off at youth club (discretely!) or to Carol at 1 Clay Hills, Oak Road or Mandy at 8 Hamsters Close. Many thanks.

Carol Parker

Church Warden

Pebmarsh now has a Church Warden:

Jim Crayston 01787 222241 jim@craystonfarms.co.uk

The King's Head Pebmarsh

It's cold outside but the King's Head has warm fires and a warm welcome. If dishes like Pan Fried Pigeon Breast, Seafood Risotto, Teriyaki Salmon Stir-fry, Red Thai Curry and Sticky Toffee Pudding sound tempting, you will find the Winter Menu is excellent value. Traditional Christmas fare is also part of the seasonal offering with a special Festive Menu available to pre order from Tuesday 3 December to Saturday 21 December excluding Sundays. Gluten free and vegan options also available. See the full menu via www.kingsheadpebmarsh.co.uk or call 01787 267942 to reserve your table.

Upcoming events - admission free:

Sunday 15 December - Christmas Party Karaoke Evening, hosted by the ever popular "J" and featuring music from the excellent "Boston Flowers".

Friday 20 December - Live Music from fantastic local 5 piece band "Main Street" with rock, pop and dance covers.

New Year's Eve - Celebrate at the King's Head with a party and disco. Free event, doors open at 8pm.

More Pebmarsh

St John the Baptist Primary School

Remembrance

Despite the rain, at 11 o'clock on Monday, our children joined villagers to participate in a two minute silence to remember those who had fallen in both World Wars. The children were once again enthralled as the Last Post was played on the bugle. Crosses were placed by the children on the village memorial as the names were read out for those who lost their lives in the First World War. Pupils read poems and prayers which had been written at school. At the end of the service pupils removed their own poppies and placed them in a tray which was left by the war memorial. Once again, Mr Lee Ivatt kindly drove his WWII, 6 wheel drive, American army truck, GMC CCKW 353 H1 to the school for the children to see. It had been used in the Battle of Bulge - France 1944/45, the Battle of Remagen Bridge - Germany March 1945, the Liberation of Prague - Czechoslovakia May 1945 to name but a few. The children were able to ask Mr Ivatt questions and watched the back of the truck lift up. Years 5 and 6 were lucky enough to be able to climb into the back of the truck to experience how a soldier might have felt. Lots of thoughtful questions were asked.

Sending our 'Love in a Box'

Our 'Operation Christmas Child' Appeal is well under way. Families have packed shoeboxes of goodies for children less fortunate than our own. A simple shoebox gift packed with love has a huge impact on a child's life! Shoeboxes have been packed for either a boy or a girl and include an item to love, something to help keep warm, items to help with education and items to assist with hygiene. Pupils in Year 6 deliver the boxes to the collection depot in Halstead and assist with the checking and HM Customs security labelling.

September 2020 Admissions Open

If you are thinking of applying for a place at St John the Baptist CEVA Primary School, please come along and see what we have to offer and see each class in action. The children love to show off their learning! To make a personal appointment, contact the school office on 01787 269300

You can apply online for a primary (Reception) place between 11th November 2019 and 15th January 2020.

Please pass these details to anyone you know with pre-school children!

Karen De Pietro Headteacher

More Great Maplestead

Maplesteads' WEA



A number of individuals throughout the ages have left their mark on the development of the United Kingdom. People like Boudicca, Edward I, William Tyndale, Oliver Cromwell, Lord Nelson, Aneurin Bevan and Winston Churchill have all had a profound effect on our country's history.

To gain a better appreciation of the significant contributions that these seven people have made, come to **Great Maplestead Village Hall** on **Monday 20th January** at **6.30pm***, enjoy a free glass of wine and refreshments, and try our taster-session for a **7-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/>



The Maplesteads WI

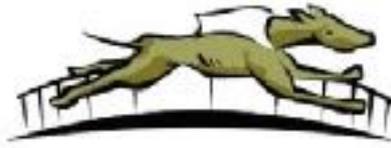
President Carol Brownlie welcomed everyone, to our meeting on Thursday November 7th 2019. Secretary Anne Fletcher read the minutes of the previous meeting which were signed as correct and birthday flowers were presented. Carol spoke about the Big Breakfast, held on Saturday 12 October, this raised a fantastic £492.30! Thank you to everyone who supported our fundraising event.

Carol then introduced Heather Johnson with her talk "An Introduction to Mindfulness". Heather began by asking if anyone had practiced mindfulness before and a number of ladies said they had and found it very helpful. Heather asked us all to sit comfortably and talked us through a simple calming exercise by focusing on our feet and gradually working our way towards the top of our heads. It worked! We all felt more relaxed. Heather went on to explain the origins of mindfulness and how it can help school children and workplace anxiety. By focusing our attention away from our minds to our bodies helps to cope with stress levels and eventually helps our wellbeing. Sandra Birch gave a warm vote of thanks and invited Heather to join us for refreshments. Diane Smith won the flower of the month with a pretty pale yellow rose.

Next month's meeting is on Thursday 5th December 2019 and will be our Christmas Party. For further information Carol Brownlie on 01787 461527.

More Great Maplestead

COMIC GREYHOUND RACING NIGHT



Back by popular demand!

Great Maplestead Village Hall
Saturday 25th January 2020
Starts at 7.00pm

Bring your own drinks, glasses and £1 coins.

Race sponsors required

Tickets: £12.00 per head, to include a Fish & Chip supper
from

Martin or Jo Watson: 01787 469 857

Proceeds towards the Village VE Day celebrations

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Great Maplestead



Carols Round the Village in Great Maplestead

Friday 20th December

*Starting from the Village Hall at
7.00pm*

*Followed by Mulled Wine
and Light Refreshments*

Christmas VILLAGE



WALK



Friday 27th December

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

Adults: £2.50 each; Children: free

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

More Great Maplestead

Gill Peskett and Jill Newton



Churchwardens at St. Giles, Great Maplestead

wish all their friends in the 4 parishes

a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Instead of sending cards

we will be making donations to charity

Great Maplestead Village Hall

**PUB
NIGHT!**

**Come along, unwind, have a chat and then join us
for an informal social Friday evening playing a
really enjoyable indoor game.**



Friday 10th January : Kurling*

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

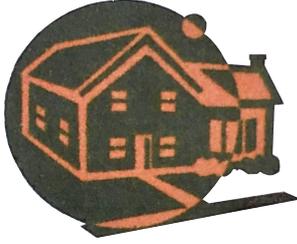


from 7.30-9.30pm



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

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



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