

**LOWER HALSTOW**  
**VILLAGE NEWS**

**DECEMBER 2015**



**Celebrate Christmas at St. Margaret's church**

<b>CHRISTINGLE SERVICE</b>	<b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 3.00 p.m.</b>
<b>CAROL SERVICE</b>	<b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 3.00 p.m.</b>
<b>CRIB SERVICE</b>	<b>Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 5.30 p.m.</b>
<b>MIDNIGHT MASS</b>	<b>Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 11.30 p.m.</b>
<b>FAMILY COMMUNION</b>	<b>Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December at 10.00 a.m.</b>

*Compiled, edited and published for the village by*  
**St. MARGARET'S CHURCH**

## **SERVICES AT ST. MARGARET'S IN DECEMBER**

### **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December**

11.00 a.m. Ordination of the Rev. Mark Ham & Communion  
by Bishop Trevor at Newington.

### **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

10.30 a.m. Family Communion  
3.00 p.m. **CHRISTINGLE & TOY SERVICE**

### **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December**

10.00 a.m. for 10.30 a.m. Christmas Family Time  
3.00 p.m. **CAROL SERVICE**

### **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December CHRISTMAS EVE**

5.30 p.m. **CRIB SERVICE**  
11.30 p.m. **MIDNIGHT COMMUNION**

### **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December CHRISTMAS DAY**

10.00 a.m. Family Communion

### **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December**

10.30 a.m. Family Service for the benefice at Halstow

### **ALTAR FLOWER ROTA**

December 6<sup>th</sup> Ursula Aylward; 13<sup>th</sup> Denise & Faye Balban;  
20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> Christmas.  
January 3<sup>rd</sup> Georgina Kindred

### **THE DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY VILLAGE NEWS IS NOON ON THURSDAY 10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER.**

Items for inclusion to Pauline at Elm Farm (842028)  
or [pauline.elmfarm@btconnect.com](mailto:pauline.elmfarm@btconnect.com)

*HERE IS NO NEED TO WAIT FOR THE DEADLINE BEFORE YOU  
SEND YOUR NEWS. IT HELPS TO SEND IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.*

## **VILLAGE DIARY FOR DECEMBER and other dates for your diary.**

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** in the **MEMORIAL HALL**. Parish Council meetings commence at **7.00 p.m.** for a public open time, followed by the Parish Council business.

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December CHRISTMAS GAMES AFTERNOON** at the **Memorial Hall** between **2.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m.** There will be mince pies/biscuits and tea/coffee all included in a lovely warm atmosphere, whilst playing Euchre, Rummy, Whist and Scrabble. Just £1.50 each and with no joining fee.

The Lower Halstow Memorial Hall Trustees all send their good wishes for 2016.

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December DEADLINE for the JANUARY VILLAGE NEWS.** Please note the earlier date. This is so that we can print before Christmas week.

**UpARA** (Upchurch Active Retirement Association)

**Monthly Meeting: Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December** (Christmas Special) **2.00 p.m.** Members free; Guests £2

**Coffee Morning: Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December** (Christmas Special) **9.30 a.m.** Members £1.50;

Guests £2

**Ten Pin Bowling: Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December** (KentARA Tournament Gravesend) 9.45 am

**Events: Christmas Party - Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 6.45 p.m.**

**Outing: Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2016 Sikh Guru Nanak, Gravesend**

**Walks 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays - Village Hall 9.30 am**

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December CHRISTINGLE AND TOY SERVICE** at **3.00 p.m. in St. Margaret's church**. This is a Christmas Service for all ages. Come and join in the carol singing and receive a candle-lit orange which symbolises Jesus, the light of the world. Children as well as adults receive a Christingle so we ask you to keep a close watch please on the children as lighted candles are used. We invite you to bring along a new toy for the Salvation Army to distribute locally in Swale. It can be for any age. Even teens' gifts are gratefully received, as they, too, long to receive. There are many needy people, right on our doorsteps.

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December Candle-lit COFFEE AND CAROLS** in the **Memorial Hall at 7.30 p.m.** Come and help to choose and sing carols, hear some Christmas tales and enjoy hot mince pies and coffee at half time. Children and adults all very welcome. A collection will be taken for the Children's Society.

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December CAROL SERVICE** in **St. Margaret's Church at 3.00 p.m.** This is an informal service to which all are welcome, particularly children. It lasts for just an hour. As usual the Christmas story will be told and carols will be sung. There will be a children's nativity tableau and we have plenty of costumes in all sizes for those who would like to take part. Come and join us in celebrating the birthday of Jesus with our special cake.

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December CRIB SERVICE** in **St. Margaret's church at 5.30 p.m.** with the Rev. Mark. This is another informal service especially for children, candle-lit with carols.

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December THE BRIDGE COFFEE STOP** There will be no Coffee Stop in December or January. We will look forward to welcoming you when we reopen on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February, weather permitting. Thank you to all our faithful customers who visit throughout the year, and to all those who bake for us. We really appreciate you all! May we wish you all a very happy Christmas and we look forward to seeing you again in the New Year. Love from the Coffee Stop Team.

**Christmas Eve - 24<sup>th</sup> December 'A TIME FOR QUIET'** **2.30 pm to 3.30 pm.** at **St. Margaret's**

## **church.**

The church will be open for anyone who might like to call in for an opportunity of some quiet before the joyous hustle and bustle of Christmas Day. Please feel free to come along to spend some time in the quiet space of St. Margaret's to either just be still for a moment or two, to light a candle for a loved one or simply to share a tea or coffee with us. Please note this is not a formal service and you are welcome to come in at anytime during the hour.

**Saturday 9th January** *The Memorial Hall Committee* are holding a **FAMILY BARN DANCE**, first dance beginning at 7.30pm. **The tickets cost £5.00 per adult and £3.00 per young folk** 16 years old and below. Please be aware that already the tickets for this event are going like hot cakes and there is a limit on the number of dancers.

## **REGULAR DATES**

**Every Monday 10.00 a.m.** Free **HEALTH WALKS** starting from the main entrance to The Brick Fields. A brisk walk of up to two hours on mainly flat ground. Sturdy shoes and a rain coat recommended.

**Every Monday 1.00 p.m.** **THE LIBRARY VAN** calls at **Lower Halstow** outside the **Memorial Hall**.

**Every Monday** **SHORT MAT BOWLS 2.00 – 4.00 p.m.** in the **Memorial Hall**

**Every Wednesday** **SHORT MAT BOWLS 7.30 – 9.30 p.m.** in the **Memorial Hall**

**Every first Wednesday of the month** **QUIZ NIGHT** at **The Three Tuns**.

**Not quite a regular date** – Usually every fourth Tuesday of January, February March, April, July, September and October **Gardening Club** meets in the **Memorial Hall** at **7.30 p.m.** We have speakers who come to the Hall and give a talk on a variety of topics. These will always be published beforehand in the Newsletter and visitors are always very welcome.

**The fourth Thursday of every month** **THE BRIDGE COFFEE STOP** in **St. MARGARET'S CHURCH, 9.30 – 11.30 a.m.**

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**REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY** Sincere thanks to each and everyone for your contribution and work in making our unique Service a fitting tribute and remembrance. We shall be forwarding, from the collection at the service, a cheque for £300 to SSAFA for use locally. Thank you. Alan Swift.

**THANK YOU** from St. Margarets.

Lower Halstow is a real community - a busy village, with many activities going on and Village News keeps us up to date with all we need to know.

At St. Margaret's church, November was a busy month. Our Remembrance Sunday service proved how many care about those lost or deeply troubled or maimed in wars. At the time of writing the Craft and Produce Sale on the 28<sup>th</sup> is still to come. On that day the Three Tuns will have had their popular pre - Christmas weekend and the Parish Council will have lit the Christmas tree, with carols, mince pies and mulled wine. Then there is the barge, Edith May, which is such an asset to the village and with which the church enjoys a rapport. Altogether it will be a real community weekend.

Following that, we have a busy list of services coming up for December, which we hope will cater for us all.

This is the time to thank all those who gave items for the Salvation Army, especially the lovely knitted baby clothes, also the Blythswood Shoe Boxes, filled with items all thoughtfully selected for those who have nothing. Thank you to all who have contributed in any way.

We look forward to the new year when changes are on the way. As from January, Village News will be printed in Lower Halstow. which is a real bonus. Pauline has been the editor for the Village News for a long time, working hard to get all the news in, so keep reading the Village News, and supporting your village. Jackie – church warden.

*Editor: At the time of writing Jackie was unaware that My Village Trades would be sending a cheque to St. Margaret's Village News – see below .....*

### **MY VILLAGE TRADES**

We are delighted to announce we have launched a companion website to the quarterly directory delivered with the Newsletter. Not surprisingly, you can find us at [myvillagetrades.co.uk](http://myvillagetrades.co.uk) ! We will gradually add more information about your village traders as well as a growing gallery of photos of the village. We are also pleased to say we have made a small profit this year, despite our set up costs, and we have been able to make a donation of £96 towards the running costs of Village News. If you are a trader living in or connected to Lower Halstow, whether it's full time, part time or a hobby, please join us in 2016. Just email [myvillagetrades@outlook.com](mailto:myvillagetrades@outlook.com)

**From the Editor:** Thank you so much to all who produce My Village Trades for a very generous and unexpected donation. Those of us who produce Village News give our time freely, and such a kind gesture makes all our efforts worthwhile. We are pleased to distribute the MVT leaflets together with Village News, and it underlines what Jackie has already said about our village being a real community and support to one another.

**MOBILITY AIDS** St. Margaret's has items in excellent condition, i.e. wheelchairs, commode, etc. These are available for emergency borrowing, We are always pleased when the church can help in the community. Please contact Tricia 01795 842419, Jackie 01795 842749 or Ursula 01795 842924.

### **PARISH COUNCIL**

**Parish Clerk** Christine Fordham, 18 Cumberland Drive, Lower Halstow. Tel: 01795 844060, or email [clerk.lhpc@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.lhpc@gmail.com)

**Burial Ground** Parishioners will have noticed that the old hedge has been removed from the eastern side of the burial ground. The hedge consisted mainly of old tree stumps covered with ivy and these were becoming very dangerous; one stump had already collapsed into the road and could have hurt someone or caused an accident. New beech hedging will be planted as soon as the weather conditions are suitable, and the bank will be secured with ground cover netting and sown with wild flowers. The hedge to the west of the gate will be trimmed back to match the height of the new hedge. The Council is seeking permission to trim back the two holly trees and the conifer within the burial ground itself. The trees are overgrowing the graves and shading out the grass and flowers underneath.

**Litter** The Council has noted with concern that parents are dropping cigarette ends, drink cans and bottles at the junction of School Lane and Cumberland Drive whilst taking their children to or from school. Littering is a criminal offence and as such is liable to a fixed penalty notice of £80; Swale Borough Council Wardens will be visiting the area to ensure that the law is complied with. Please set a good example and keep our village clean by taking your litter home or deposit it in a village litter bin.

**KCC Budget Consultation** KCC are currently consulting on their budget plans for 2016/17. The outcome of this consultation may influence how much you pay in Council Tax! The details can be found at <http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/have-your-say/budget-consultation> if you wish to contribute to the deliberations.

The Parish Council would like to wish all residents a happy and peaceful Christmas.

**Public Access Defibrillator** The Parish Council are pleased to announce that a defibrillator has now been installed at the Three Tuns. The unit is on the wall of the smoking shelter, adjacent to the car park. To enable the defibrillator be accessed at any time and to reduce the likelihood of vandalism the unit has been placed in a locked cabinet on the outside of the building. Anyone needing to use the defibrillator in an emergency will be advised of the code to unlock the cabinet by the 999 service. No training is required to use the defibrillator as the machine talks the operator through procedure but there is the possibility of running a short training course on how to use the unit and if anyone is interested please contact the Parish Clerk. The Parish Council would like to thank Carol and Chris for allowing them to site the unit at the pub.

**CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING** Greening Lower Halstow has arranged for Shaun of Treecraft to kindly chip and reuse on the Brickfields. **Bring real Christmas Trees to the playing field beside the Memorial Hall by Wednesday 6th January.**

### **MEMORIAL WOOD UPDATE**

For those that haven't been able to visit the Memorial Wood in the Brickfields recently, we have at last been able to secure and mount the plaque recording the names of those who gave their lives in the two World Wars. We hope you'll agree it looks very smart, and is a fitting tribute. We also secured a grant of a second batch of trees from the Woodland Trust which have been planted; filling in some of the gaps from casualties over the last year, as well as planting 15 holly bushes around the plinth itself. Can we ask everyone to help us look out for these little trees and replant stakes if knocked over and remove grass from within the guards if you spot it.

**LOWER HALSTOW 100 years ago** - notes from the East Kent Gazette.

December 18<sup>th</sup> : A working party had been held at the Vicarage when slippers were made for wounded soldiers and sailors in hospital. These were sent to the War Supply Depot at The Cedars in Sittingbourne.

**Other notable December dates in history** compiled by Bill.

- 1900 14<sup>th</sup> The Quantum Theory was presented by Max Planck
- 1905 6<sup>th</sup> Amundsen completed 2 ½ years transit of the North West Passage including locating the magnetic pole.
- 1915 20<sup>th</sup> Completion of the evacuation from Gallipoli of British and Allied troops.
- 1920 5<sup>th</sup> Scots voted against prohibition.
- 1930 15<sup>th</sup> A draft Highway Code was issued.
- 1935 17<sup>th</sup> The Douglas DC3 made its maiden flight.
- 1940 9<sup>th</sup> Launch of the British attack against the Italians in the Western Desert.
- 1945 21<sup>st</sup> Death of General George Patton in Germany.
- 1950 25<sup>th</sup> The Stone of Scone was taken from Westminster Abbey.
- 1960 31<sup>st</sup> The last National Service conscripts received their call-up papers.
- 1965 27<sup>th</sup> British Petroleum's oilrig collapsed in the North Sea 40 miles east of Grimsby.
- 1970 2<sup>nd</sup> Members of Parliament voted not to keep summer-time through the winter.
- 1980 8<sup>th</sup> John Lennon was shot in New York.

**FOR SALE** – Cox 22' motor boat. New 13.5bhp Beta Marine engine. Moored at Lower Halstow Yacht Club, 2 berths, a galley with a 2 ring hob and grill, separate flushing toilet cubicle and a large 4 person cockpit. The boat was used for local fishing trips and family days out, but a health condition means that we can no longer make use of the boat. £7,500. Photos available. For more information and to view call Will Ransley on 01795 843871, or 07889 600677 or email [ransleyprojects@gmail.com](mailto:ransleyprojects@gmail.com)

**GUITAR TUITION:** For all levels and styles in a relaxed atmosphere. Call Jeremy on 01795 842620.

**DO YOU NEED AN EXPERIENCED, RELIABLE BUILDER?** I'm available for small and medium jobs - repairs, alterations and refurbishments, from hanging a door to fitting a new kitchen or bathroom. Contact Bill Ransley on 07889 600677 or 01795 843871.

**AVON CALLING** For your new brochure call Kay on 07941681244.

**MR. DIG-IT'S GARDEN SERVICE** (formerly Lower Halstow) For one-off or regular visits call Peter on 01634 574676 or 07787 813 512.

**ALAN'S GARDENING SERVICES** No job too small. Ring 01634 371832 or 07715292991.

**ALISON'S ALTERATIONS** If it can be sewn, I'll sew it! Fix, alter, replace, zips, buttons, rips, linings, badges, smaller or larger (if possible), clothing bags, soft furnishings and house-hold linens. email: [thestitchistsews@gmail.com](mailto:thestitchistsews@gmail.com), text/phone my mob: 07813084051 phone: 01795 555853 Also WANTED – vintage clothing and textiles.

**COUNSELLING SERVICE** Fully qualified BACP registered local Counsellor (including depression and anxiety). Concession fees available. Home visits may be possible after initial assessment. Contact Jodie Sturges **07950 487 560** or email [Jodie.sturges@btinternet.com](mailto:Jodie.sturges@btinternet.com)

**MOBILE GELLUX NAIL TECHNICIAN** fully trained and insured. Gel nails/toenails will last up to 15 days - over 20 colours! Please call Hayley to book an appointment 07411686090. Special offer at the moment £15 first set (normally £20).

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**ENJOY RIVERSIDE VIEWS**, homemade cake and light lunches at award-winning Gallery & Tearoom. December exhibition; Affordable Art & Craft Fair. Open 10am – 4pm, Tuesdays - Sundays, Sun Pier House, Medway Street, Chatham, ME4 4HF. Free parking for Tearoom customers. No disabled access. For further information please contact us 01634 812 805

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Contact me on 07824 392342 or

Email : [michael.vanderstraaten@sjpg.co.uk](mailto:michael.vanderstraaten@sjpg.co.uk)

Website : [www.michaelvanderstraaten.co.uk](http://www.michaelvanderstraaten.co.uk)

**Advertising rates:** £1 per line for those which are for personal gain, but at the same time constitute news or provide a service for villagers. £2 per line for other commercial adverts. The P.C.C. reserves the right to exclude adverts if they appear unsuitable.

**Please note that the editor is not responsible for any inaccuracies which may occur in reports and news from contributors.** Contributions are printed (usually with only minor adjustments and corrections if necessary) as handed in. The editor has to assume that contributors have checked their facts and that the news is correct. If you have any queries or complaints please contact the relevant organisation direct – telephone numbers are listed on the back page.

#### **USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

(01795 unless otherwise stated)

*If you find that any of these numbers is no longer in use*

*please let Pauline know on 842028*

The Rev. Julian Staniforth 227329

Jackie Swift (churchwarden) 842749

Pauline Stevens (PCC secretary) 842028

Memorial Hall (chairman) Keith Howard Challis 844408 [lowerhalstowhall@gmail.com](mailto:lowerhalstowhall@gmail.com)

Memorial Hall new bookings (Jill Peters) 844054  
The school 842344  
The Three Tuns 842840  
Short Mat Bowls (John Mustoo) 843681  
Cricket Club (Mark Stevens) 842090  
Beaver Cub Scout Group (Dave Giles) 843193 [1stlowerhalstowscouts@gmail.com](mailto:1stlowerhalstowscouts@gmail.com)  
Playgroup (Heather Salisbury) 01634 233182  
Yacht Club (Dave Quigley) 01795 841242  
Judo Club (Jon) 07944755036.  
The Parish Clerk (Christine Fordham) 844060  
PCSO 57932 Matthew Link, Lower Halstow & Iwade,  
101 or 01795 419116 [matthew.link@kent.pnn.police.uk](mailto:matthew.link@kent.pnn.police.uk)  
Crime Stoppers 0800 555111  
Swale Borough Council (Main office) 424341  
Swale Borough Councillors for Bobbing, Lower Halstow & Iwade  
Ben Stokes 476979 [benstokes@swale.gov.uk](mailto:benstokes@swale.gov.uk)  
Duncan Dewar-Whalley 07889 808871 [duncandewar-whalley@swale.gov.uk](mailto:duncandewar-whalley@swale.gov.uk)  
County Councillor Roger Truelove 425445 [roger.truelove@kent.gov.uk](mailto:roger.truelove@kent.gov.uk)  
County Councillor Lee Burgess [LeeBurgess@kent.gov.uk](mailto:LeeBurgess@kent.gov.uk)  
M.P. Gordon Henderson 423199 [www.gordonhendersonmp.org.uk](http://www.gordonhendersonmp.org.uk)  
Citizen's Advice Bureau 0870 1212105  
Police (general enquiries) 01622 690690  
Neighbourhood Watch (John Haddaway) 01634 792131  
Dog Warden 077952 37479  
Noise nuisance 417850 (out-of-hours 07881817601)  
N.H.S. 111  
Parish Council Website: [www.lowerhalstowpc.kentparishes.gov.uk](http://www.lowerhalstowpc.kentparishes.gov.uk).

If you would like your name and number added, or you would like to suggest another useful number, please contact Pauline Stevens on 842028.

**If any number changes, or you are no longer a contact person, please let Pauline know.**

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Items for inclusion to Pauline at Elm Farm (842028)  
or [pauline.elmfarm@btconnect.com](mailto:pauline.elmfarm@btconnect.com)

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