

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

**FEBRUARY 2017**



**St. MARGARET'S CHURCH c 1900**

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

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

### **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February**

**8.00 a.m.** Traditional B.C.P. Spoken Communion

### **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February**

**10.00 a.m.** Morning Worship

### **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February**

**10.00 a.m.** Communion

**4.00 p.m.** Evensong

### **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February**

**10.00 a.m.** Family Time with refreshments

The service starts at **10.15 a.m.**

### **ALTAR FLOWER ROTA**

**February:** 5<sup>th</sup> Georgina Kindred; 12<sup>th</sup> Liz Mouland;  
19<sup>th</sup> Yvonne Quigley; 26<sup>th</sup> Ann Smith.

**March:** 5<sup>th</sup> No flowers in Lent.

## **THE DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH VILLAGE NEWS**

**IS NOON ON SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY.**

*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 FEBRUARY** and other dates for your diary.

### **LOWER HALSTOW CRAFTERS**

We meet on the first Monday of each month and two Wednesdays in the month. Our meetings are informal and fun and open to all (including people who do not live in the village), whether you are an experienced crafter or a complete beginner. We enjoy learning new crafts and sharing ideas – recently we have experimented with ‘mock’ stained glass, remembrance poppies, decopatching vases etc, flower arranging, chicken scratch embroidery, jewellery, decorating wine bottles and gift bags, card making, creating a garden in a bottle, 10 minute block quilting, tissue pom poms. You can see photos of our achievements on our Facebook page at Lower Halstow Crafters.

Please feel welcome to come and join us. We meet between 1.30 p.m. and 4.00 p.m and charge £1 per meeting which goes towards materials. For further details of dates, topics and venues please contact Janet on 842706 or Jo on 841642.

### **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February GAMES AFTERNOON at the Memorial Hall, 2.00 p.m – 4.00 p.m.**

Games include whist, rummymcub, euchre, scrabble and most card or board games. Price of £1.50 includes a cup of tea/coffee, biscuits and a very warm welcome.

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 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.

### **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February BREAKFAST CLUB at St. Margaret’s church, 9.30 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.**

This year we shall again be meeting on the **2nd Saturday of the month**. Each session starts at 9.30 a.m. and lasts for 2 hours so children need to be collected by parents/carers at 11.30 a.m. We cater for all Primary school children, (4+ to 11 years), but we are lucky enough to have some of our now slightly older regular attenders coming along to help. The morning starts with a continental style breakfast, followed by games and activities linked to a Bible based theme. We would love to see some ‘new faces’ as well as welcoming back our ‘regulars’.

For further details contact Liz Hadley(842654), Becky Ridley (841028) or Hilary Gates (841632).

### **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February YOUTH GROUP, 5.30 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.**

All welcome, from age 11 up. This group is very informal, with a choice of things to do or not, ranging from watching a DVD, perfecting indoor putting skills, art and craft or badminton. Naturally, there are refreshments too! For more information contact the Youth Group Team: 07730893747

### **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February Lower Halstow GARDENING CLUB at 7.30 p.m. in the Memorial Hall.**

The talk this month is ‘Wistfully Yours’ (an introduction and exploration into the joy of Wisterias) and our guest speaker is Chris Lane from the Witch Hazel nursery in Newington. Please come and join us if you can. Visitors always welcome. Cost £1.50 including refreshments.

Also, looking ahead to March, on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March our speaker will be Roy Ingleton talking on ‘Crime & Punishment in Bygone Kent’.

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February WHIST DRIVE in the Memorial Hall at 7.30 p.m.** Entry £3.00, includes refreshments and a raffle ticket. Everyone welcome.

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March QUIZ NIGHT** at the **Memorial Hall, 7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m. £5.00 per person with teams of 6 or under.** Please bring your own supper and Beverage.

### **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 two weeks on THURSDAYS THE LIBRARY VAN** calls at **Lower Halstow** outside the **Memorial Hall at 12.15 p.m.** Queries to van driver or 03000 413131.

**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.

## **PASTORAL LETTERS**

### **A message from the Rev. Julian**

St Margaret's is here for the people of Lower Halstow village, here to express and extend the Lord's love and grace to everyone in the village. In every generation, across the centuries God has called people from within this community to gather to worship, to serve the wider village community and to make St Margaret's such a place of welcome for visitors, for those who come for christenings, for those who come to be married there. However this doesn't just happen on its own, as there is a faithful team of volunteers who make that this reality, often quietly behind the scene. This year some of those, realising that age is catching up on them are needing to step back from the PCC; people such as Pauline, Alan and Jackie as Churchwarden. So there are now vacancies on the PCC, opportunities for new people to come forward to serve and shape the life of St Margaret's for the present and the future so that this church can continue to fulfil its calling; in particular there is the need for someone to be willing to serve as a Churchwarden. Yet there are so many different ways that people can serve the life of the church so that it can continue to serve the village. So even if you may think the PCC is not for you, there are still other opportunities to serve and help; there is so much more that we believe God is calling us to be and do to serve the needs of this community but we can't do this alone. How is God calling you at this time? What can you offer in some way, however small so that St Margaret's, your church may continue to serve this village and flourish in these coming years? Do think, do pray at this time and feel free to speak with either myself or Rev Mark. Every blessing. Rev. Julian.

### **A message from the Rev. Mark**

Fancy trying something different on Sunday morning? St Margaret's Church is open to all every Sunday and offers a variety of services for all tastes BUT if you have never really tried church before and feel like exploring something new in 2017 why don't you come to one of our Morning Worship or Family Time services on the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays each month at 10am? The services are friendly and informal. We offer our thanks to God but we also explore together how God is relating to us now in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. And we share time together too after each service getting to know one another over coffee and cake. If you have been to church in the past and not been for a while or if you have never stepped into a church at all before why don't you come and see?

*The January Village News was printed before Christmas so we couldn't include the following from Jackie Swift:*

**At our service for Christmas Eve**, Midnight Communion, there was a little problem. We had no organist, so we were having to use C.D.s, which were not problem, but I needed someone to put them on at the appropriate time. Well, funny things happen. I met two young men in the car park at Hempstead Valley, and we were talking about the "Midnight". They said they were coming, so I asked them if they would work the music system. They kindly said O.K. Then in the pub, I came across another young man, talking again about the "Midnight". This was Mitchell. I asked if he would do a reading and he said he would, so we typed out the reading. He read very clearly, and was a delight. So St. Margaret's were blessed by the kindness of three young men, Ed and George Mannering, and Mitchell Spree, who won't mind me giving their names. Strange things happen, and thank you.

**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.

**Greening Lower Halstow** would like to thank Shaun Branchett for recycling around 50 Christmas Trees for the village.

### **PARISH COUNCIL**

**Parish Clerk** Mrs Ann Smith, 11 Cumberland Drive, Tel: 01795 842908  
email [clerk.lhpc@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.lhpc@gmail.com)

A firebreak has been created on the Brickfield site and this has resulted in a large amount of debris and dangerous material coming to the surface. This area has been taped off and the Parish Council ask that everyone keeps clear of it for safety reasons.

**VILLAGE SPRING CLEAN** The Parish Council were very impressed with parishioners efforts in the "Best Kept Garden Competition" last year, when everyone's efforts contributed to a beautiful village setting. As a follow-on the Parish Council wish to sponsor a "Village Spring Clean", and invite villagers to participate in two ways. Firstly to identify any areas which could be "smartened-up"/ improved. Please notify the Parish Council if you have any ideas. Secondly the Parish Council wish to encourage all householders to carry out their own front garden spring clean, so that whole village benefits, as with the Best Kept Garden exercise last year, when the villagers pride shone through!

### **December 20th - 22nd PUBLIC INQUIRY**

A few residents attended much of the three day hearing held at Swale House just days before Christmas, regarding the proposed change of use and development at Funton. The inspector visited the site and went on a circular walk the day before the inquiry started and so was familiar with the busyness of the road and the beauty of the landscape.

Within the three areas of discussion, planning, traffic and environment, the barrister for KCC argued that the site is inappropriate for such intensive housing as it lacks key links to any nearby settlement, they argued that the roads are unsuitable for such an increase in traffic that domestic residences bring and they pointed out that the area is of significant landscape value. The barrister for Nightingale Holdings, the developers, argued that because the road is not at capacity it is acceptable to put more traffic on it and because the trip count showed traffic does not speed (e.g. not travel in excess of 60 mph as there are no speed restrictions on the Sheerness Road) and that there is no data recording accidents on Bassar Hill, then the roads must be safe. We will now have to wait for the outcome; however there are pressures on the Council to build on brown field land so we have to continue to be vigilant about applications for developments like this which will negatively impact the village and road users, not just drivers but walkers, cyclists and horse-riders.

### **VINYL RECORDS, CDs, AND CASSETTE TAPES URGENTLY REQUIRED**

The Fenner Frost Foundation is a newly-formed charity (1167049) that will be opening a record shop in Sittingbourne High Street. The purpose of the shop is to advance the skills and education of young adults with a learning disability. Here they will be involved in all aspects of running a shop. They will be assisted to identify and source stock, serve customers, handle money and undertake general shop duties. If you have any records, tapes, or CD's that you would be willing to donate please contact Alison on 01795 843357 or 07881278689 for collection.

**SUN PIER HOUSE** - Enjoy riverside views, homemade cake and light lunches at this award-winning Gallery & Tearoom. 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

**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.

**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), phone: 01795 555853  
Also WANTED – vintage clothing and textiles.

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01634 352318

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**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

The Rev. Mark Ham 01634 360794

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 (Kay Howard Challis) 844408

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 (Ann Smith) 842908 email [clerk.lhpc@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.lhpc@gmail.com)

PCSO 46056708 John Cork, email [john.cork@kent.pnn.police.uk](mailto:john.cork@kent.pnn.police.uk) Telephone: 101

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 (Erin Scott) 01634 792131

Dog Warden 077952 37479

Noise nuisance 417850 (out-of-hours 07881817601)

K.C.C. Highways potholes 03000 418187

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.**

**THE DEADLINE FOR ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THE MARCH VILLAGE NEWS IS NOON ON SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY**

Items for inclusion to Pauline at Elm Farm (842028)

or [pauline.elmfarm@btconnect.com](mailto:pauline.elmfarm@btconnect.com)

Please remember – if we don't receive your news, we can't print it!