

LOWER HALSTOW
VILLAGE NEWS

MARCH 2016



Celebrate Easter at St. Margaret's church
Details on page 2.

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

SERVICES AT ST. MARGARET'S IN MARCH

Sunday 6th March

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

10.00 a.m. **MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE**

Sunday 13th March

10.00 a.m. Morning Worship

Sunday 20th March PALM SUNDAY

10.00 a.m. Family Communion

4.00 p.m. Evensong

HOLY WEEK

Monday 21st March

7.30 p.m. Reflective Communion at Newington

Tuesday 22nd March

7.30 p.m. Reflective Communion at Stockbury

Wednesday 23rd March

7.30 p.m. Quiet contemplative service at Lower Halstow

Thursday 24th March MAUNDY THURSDAY

7.30 p.m. Passover meal at Newington

8.00 p.m. Communion with washed feet at Upchurch

Friday 25th March GOOD FRIDAY

9.30 a.m. Walk of witness from Upchurch to Halstow

10.30 a.m. All-age service

At some time during the day there is an invitation to join a Walk of Witness in Sittingbourne and also to join the Archbishop of Canterbury in a Vigil Service at Harty church on the Isle of Sheppey. Details will be announced later this month.

Saturday 26th March EASTER EVE

7.30 p.m. 'Light the fire' service

Sunday 27th March EASTER DAY

6.00 a.m. Sunrise Service followed by Communion

10.00 a.m. Family Time with refreshments

10.15 a.m. Family Easter Communion

ALTAR FLOWER ROTA

NO FLOWERS IN LENT

March 27th: Easter. April 3rd: Georgina Kindred

**THE DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL VILLAGE NEWS
IS NOON ON SATURDAY 12th MARCH.**

*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 MARCH and other dates for your diary.

Tuesday 1st March 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 4th March GAMES AFTERNOON at the Memorial Hall between **2.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m.** Games include Rummikub, Whist, Euchre, Dominos and many other board or card games for only £1.50 which includes a cup of tea/coffee and biscuits (no joining fee).

Saturday 5th March Calling all Primary School Children (4+ to 11years). BREAKFAST CLUB at St. Margaret's Church between **9.30 a.m. and 11.30 a.m.** Come along and enjoy a breakfast of waffles, pancakes and toast accompanied by fresh apple or orange juice.

Following a lively introduction, you can take part in a variety of games and activities linked to the morning's Bible based theme. The session concludes with a time when we share our achievements, celebrate birthdays and pray for those we love, before gathering all the things made to take home. Children need to be accompanied to and from the church by a responsible adult but are well supervised by a sufficient number of adults while there.

All involved look forward to greeting our 'regulars' but newcomers are always welcome.

Any queries to Liz Hadley (842654), Becky Ridley or Hilary Gates, (841632).

Saturday 5th March CLEAN FOR THE QUEEN at **10.00 a.m.** Greening Lower Halstow will be at The Gibbs to tidy the path edging. All volunteers welcome. Bring edging spade or similar, and gloves. Steve 01795 841632

Sunday 6th March MOTHERING SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE at **10.00 a.m. at St. Margaret's church.** This is a short, informal service for all of us, young and old, to say thank you for our mothers and those who care for us. We welcome everyone, especially families and children, but please don't feel excluded if you are not part of a family group and have no children to bring with you. This is a one-off yearly service when you can feel free to come along and meet us without feeling any obligation to join us regularly, and it gives us a chance to meet villagers who we wouldn't otherwise get to know. We sing well-known hymns and encourage 'audience participation'. In the past we have been highly entertained by stories children have told us about their mothers. Adults are not excluded, and if you have a story to tell please feel free to do so. The service won't last longer than an hour, and there will be a cup of tea/coffee and refreshments afterwards. Do come and join us. We promise you a warm welcome.

LOWER HALSTOW CRAFTERS

Monday 7th March – Crochet – if you would like to know how come along, or if you already know how just bring whatever you are working on at present.

Wednesday 16th March – Making covers for catheter bags for the hospital.

Wednesday 30th March – to be confirmed.

Our meetings are informal and fun and open to all, whether you are an experienced crafter or a complete beginner. We enjoy learning new crafts and sharing ideas. Please feel welcome to come and join us. We meet between 1.30 p.m. – 4.00 p.m. and charge £1 per meeting which goes towards

materials. You can see photos of our achievements on our Facebook page at Lower Halstow Crafters. For further details and venues contact Sue on 841730 or email sue.e.mumford@btinternet.com or Margaret on 843100

Friday 11th March *Scout group* **RACE NIGHT in the Memorial Hall. Doors open at 7.00p.m.** Join us for a fun family evening and help raise funds for the Scout Group. Bring your own drinks and snacks. To book, phone Mick on 842587- only £1 per person (£2 on the door). Your support is appreciated.

UpARA (Upchurch Active Retirement Association)

Monthly Meeting: Friday 11th March 2.00 p.m. Members free; Guests £2

Coffee Morning : Tuesday 22nd March 9.30 a.m. Members £1.50; Guests £2

Ten Pin Bowling: Tuesday 8th March 9.45 am

Walks: 1st & 3rd Fridays - Village Hall 9.30 am

Boules: Tuesday 15th March 1.00 p.m.

KentARA Quiz: Wednesday 23rd March Ditton 2.00 p.m.

Tuesday, 22nd March GARDENING CLUB at 7.30 p.m. in the Memorial Hall. The talk this month is 'In the Footsteps of Paddington Bear' by our guest speaker Sue Shaw. Not so much the actual Bear but the flowers from Peru. Visitors always very welcome. Cost £1, plus refreshments at 50p.

Thursday 24th March THE BRIDGE COFFEE STOP in St Margaret's Church. 9.30 - 11.30 a.m. (and every fourth Thursday in the month). We serve hot or cold drinks, cakes, toasted sandwiches and home-made savouries etc. at very reasonable prices, in the beautiful setting of our ancient village church. Everyone welcome.

LOWER HALSTOW MEMORIAL HALL – forthcoming dates for your diaries:

Saturday 9th April QUIZ NIGHT 7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m. Details next month.

Novelty Dog Show in July (date and time to be confirmed)

Family Barn Dance in September (date and time to be confirmed)

Quiz Night in October (date and time to be confirmed)

Saturday November 26th Grand Christmas Market 11.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. (More information nearer the time)

Saturday 16th April ... a special live music event from singer/songwriter Rebekah Vyce in **St. Margaret's church.** Rebekah is a very talented Christian singer. £6. Refreshments available. Further details in the April Village News.

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.**

Looking at the Diary and Regular Events it is evident that Halstow village life is busy. There is plenty of social life on offer, all organised by volunteers without whom the calendar would be much less varied. It all looks so easy on the surface, but there are times when one or other of our social groups is in trouble because of lack of help.

St. Margaret's church offers the village various events and also produces this Village News of which I am editor, but, looking to the not-so-distant future, things will change. I am well over retiring age but am able to carry on as editor until inevitably age will become a deciding factor. **However, we have**

another much more immediate age-related problem:

ST. MARGARET'S DESPERATELY NEEDS SOMEONE TO HELP. Last year we advertised for a volunteer to take over as church treasurer from Alan Swift, who has done an excellent job for many years but who, like me, is well past retiring age. Irene Jeffery very kindly offered her help, but she has a full-time job, family commitments and little in the way of spare time, and she has asked if we could find someone else. It would need to be someone who has knowledge of financial book-keeping, because we have to admit that this job isn't easy with all the Diocesan requirements to consider. We are hoping that there is someone in the village who is unknown to us but cares enough about the welfare of St. Margaret's to be able to volunteer their help. You wouldn't have to commit yourself to attending church services on a Sunday, although it helps considerably to know how the church operates. Alan is available to give plenty of assistance to start with, but if we can't find someone it will leave St. Margaret's in a very precarious position. The churchwardens, of whom there should be two, are responsible for the running of the church, and the burden of financial care rests on them in the absence of a treasurer. Unfortunately we haven't got two churchwardens. Did you know that we have had only one churchwarden for several years? We've managed so far with very many thanks and gratitude to Jackie Swift, but she can't take on all the responsibility, including the financial one, alone. If she calls it a day, and she has every reason to do so, then the outlook for St. Margaret's is not good. Please give this some serious thought. If you feel you can help in any way, or have any suggestions, please do get in touch with Alan or Jackie at 48 School Lane, tel: 842749. Your help would be very much appreciated by us all at St. Margaret's. Pauline Stevens.

PASTORAL LETTER

As I write, younger members of my family are in the exciting – and nerve-wracking – position of setting up home independently. Inevitably, they don't have a lot of money to spend, and have been trawling EBay and FaceBay and asking around for things they need. And what has amazed me is the amount of stuff people just chuck out! Perfectly good furnishings and equipment being disposed of just because someone fancies a change of colour in the kitchen, or has decorated a room! When did we become so blasé about 'stuff' that we just get rid of those things we are bored with?

And within walking distance of my house there is currently a chest freezer at the side of the road and a sofa and chair nearby, just dumped, not to mention the five sacks of waste dumped over the weekend. Meanwhile, many in this area are forced to rely on foodbanks to feed their families, and thousands of refugees live in the appalling squalor of refugee camps only a short distance from us around the French channel ports.

We seem to live in a society that is constantly in pursuit of the new, the latest, the shiniest and best, and we are urged to clear out, tidy up and keep up with our neighbours, ignoring those in need and with little thought to the consequences of our selfishness and wastefulness. And yet we cannot fail to be aware of the problems facing our world with the way we are using up natural resources, running out of places to dump our refuse and generally damaging the beautiful world God gave us while we largely ignore those in need.

God made us in His image and gave us the glories of creation to sustain and nourish us. Our task is to be stewards of that creation, not destroyers, caring for the world and making the best use of its resources. There is more than enough for everyone if we care for it and act responsibly. Perhaps each of us needs to examine ourselves to see what we can do to live a little more simply and care for our neighbours just a little more. Amanda Lane, Lay reader.

DR. KEN WOOLACOTT 13th November 1933 – 17th January 2016

Those of us who remember Ken, from the time when he moved into the village in the early 1980s with his wife, Shirley, were saddened to learn that he had died.

After they had 'down-sized' and moved away to Upchurch we didn't see so much of Ken, but we knew he had not been well for some time. He had taken part in Halstow village life with enthusiasm soon after moving here, becoming a member (later vice-chairman and then chairman) of the Parish Council, and also a member of the congregation of St. Margaret's church and Gardening Club. He was responsible for the committee which successfully organised the village's Millennium celebrations with the midnight firework display on the recreation ground and parties for both young people and pensioners.

You will have read in the February Village News that printing equipment, which was offered to St. Margaret's by Cyril Berry at the Gillingham Methodist's church's printing centre, was installed in our church in January. Ken was keenly interested in this as he and Shirley knew Cyril, having had connections with Gillingham Methodist church when they lived in Gillingham before moving to Halstow, and he paid for this equipment in memory of Shirley who died in September 2014. Sadly he didn't live to see the February edition on Village News which was printed here, but it will remind us of Ken – generous, kind and enthusiastic. We extend our sympathy to his family.

JAMES 'JIM' BISHENDEN 19th March 1931 – 20th January 2016

Although Jim didn't live in Halstow, having lived all his life at Breach Farm, Upchurch, he was well known to many of us here in the village through his interest in boats and fishing, by the use of his land for those who kept horses and through the various agricultural work he undertook with his beloved tractor, which was a familiar sight around and about in the village. Jim was a remarkable character, having contracted polio when he was three years old and from then coping with life with one useless leg supported by an iron contraption. He will be sadly missed by those of us who knew him.

PICK-YOUR-OWN DAFFODILS The daffodils in the orchard in front of Elm Farm house (no-through-road off Vicarage Lane) are an old, late-flowering variety but they should be in bloom by the end of March when they will be available to anyone who would like to support church funds by posting a donation in Elm Farm house front door letter box. This year the first £50 will be donated to St. Margaret's Flower Fund and the rest to the church Heating Fund. Pick as many daffodils as you like, but, as always, remember that there may be poorly sheep and lambs in this orchard, so we ask that you shut the gate if you find it closed, keep children away from sheep and lambs and please don't bring dogs into the orchard.

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

Council Vacancy There will shortly be a vacancy on Lower Halstow Parish Council. Anyone interested in applying should send their details to the Clerk with a short CV including a brief statement of the skills and interests you feel you could contribute to the work of the Council. If you require any further information or wish to apply for the position please contact the clerk at clerk.lhpc@gmail.com telephone 01795 844060. Closing date for application is 31 March 2016.

Emergency Plan The Parish Council are finalising the new Community Emergency Plan. Normally emergency situations are dealt with by the emergency services. However, there may be circumstances, such as widespread flooding, heavy snow or severe storm damage, where the arrival of the emergency services and other responders could be delayed, or when essential utilities and highways access may be compromised. The Community Plan is designed to enable the village to help itself until the emergency services arrive. The Parish Council are particularly keen to hear from members of our community who

have resources, equipment or skills (e.g. 4x4 vehicles, tractors, chain saws, trained medical staff), but any assistance you can offer would be gratefully received. If you would like to volunteer your services or equipment please contact the Clerk at clerk.lhpc@gmail.com or telephone 01795 844060 with details of the help you would like to offer.

Additionally, one of the priorities will be to provide whatever support the Council can to those members of our community who may be more vulnerable than others and who may need additional assistance in an emergency. With this in mind, we are looking to maintain a list of 'Vulnerable Persons/Groups' in our Community Emergency Plan. If you wish your details to be included then please contact the Clerk for a form at clerk.lhpc@gmail.com or telephone 01795 844060. Forms can also be obtained from the Church.

Mobile Library KCC are proposing to make changes to the mobile library service. The proposal is that Lower Halstow will retain the mobile library service, but it will be fortnightly instead of weekly and the day will change to Thursday. Comments are invited from the public and details can be found at <http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/mobilelibraries/consultationHome>. The closing date for replies is Friday 4 March.

Parish Council Burial Ground Residents will be aware that the Council are making various improvements to the Burial Ground. As part of this project the Council would like to set up a working party to help tidy up the areas between the graves and clear back path edges. If you interested in taking part in an occasional working party please contact the Clerk at clerk.lhpc@gmail.com or telephone 01795 844060.

Flood Warden Would you like to help the village to be prepared for flooding, and play a vital role in our response before, during, and after a flood? The Parish Council are seeking a volunteer Flood Warden (or two) for the village. Full training is given free of charge. If you are interested please contact the Parish Clerk for further details clerk.lhpc@gmail.com or telephone 01795 844060

SUN PIER HOUSE - Enjoy riverside views, homemade cake and light lunches at this award-winning Gallery & Tearoom. March exhibition; National award winning artist, Bartosz Beda. 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

FOR SALE Westerly 21/Warwick. Kittiwake. This has been a great boat for me to learn the art of sailing. She is a safe, reliable and tidy sailer. Totally dry. New foresail roller reefing. Raymarine autohelm, Lowrance chart plotter, Nasa sounder and DSC radio. Johnson 5hp outboard motor with long range tank and battery charging. Gimble two ring cooker, sink and drainer. Portaloo. Ashore and paid for until 2nd April. Phone 01795 844294. Many Yacht Club recommendations. Lots of medals. Friendly Yacht Club membership may be available. £3500 ono. Summer nearly here.

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

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, text/phone my mob: 07813084051 phone: 01795 555853 Also WANTED – vintage clothing and textiles.

FABULOUS FINGERTIPS Manicures, pedicures, gel polish, gel nail extensions. Fully insured. Call Tanya on 843362 or 07876 458021 www.fabulousfingertips.co.uk

WANTED Workshop and outside Space. Village-based small business looking for workshop and outside space for storage. 01795 842612 / 07795 174707.

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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

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

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
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
Duncan Dewar-Whalley 07889 808871 duncandewar-whalley@swale.gov.uk
County Councillor Roger Truelove 425445 roger.truelove@kent.gov.uk
County Councillor Lee Burgess LeeBurgess@kent.gov.uk
M.P. Gordon Henderson 423199 www.gordondhendersonmp.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.

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 APRIL VILLAGE NEWS IS NOON ON SATURDAY 12th MARCH.

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

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