

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

**MAY 2017**



**Lower Halstow Yacht Club**

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

## SERVICES AT ST. MARGARET'S IN MAY

### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May

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

### Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May

**10.00 a.m.** Morning Worship

### Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May

**10.00 a.m.** Communion

**4.00 p.m.** Evensong

### Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May ASCENSION DAY

**7.30 p.m.** Reflective Communion

### Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May

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

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

### ALTAR FLOWER ROTA

**May:** 7<sup>th</sup> Georgina Kindred; 14<sup>th</sup> Liz Mouland;  
21<sup>st</sup> Yvonne Quigley; 28<sup>th</sup> Ann Smith.

**June:** 4<sup>th</sup> Jackie Swift & Joan Mustoo.

## **THE DEADLINE FOR THE JUNE VILLAGE NEWS IS NOON ON FRIDAY 12<sup>th</sup> MAY.**

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

### **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK: 14<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> MAY**

Once again you will find a Christian Aid envelope enclosed with this Village News. Christian Aid is a safe way in which we can donate to those in desperate need somewhere in the world. This year it is, of course, those suffering terrible deprivation from war.

The following has been taken directly from the Christian Aid website:

It's better to die in a refugee camp than to die in a war. To risk your children's lives in a plastic dinghy. And to leave everything you know behind.

When the alternative is terror, bombs and bullets, almost anything is better.

This is the terrible choice facing tens of millions of people worldwide - fleeing conflict and disaster, making dangerous journeys in search of safety.

Christian Aid Week was set up 60 years ago to support our work with refugees in Europe following the Second World War.

Let's act again now, to help relieve suffering and build a world where everyone has a safe place to call home.'

St. Margaret's Annual Meeting hasn't yet taken place, so we don't know who the new officials, with whom you may leave your envelopes, will be, but they can be left with Jackie Swift at 48 School Lane, Pauline Stevens at Elm Farm or in the church where they will be gratefully received.

**VILLAGE DIARY FOR MAY** and other dates for your diary.

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May** **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 5<sup>th</sup> May** **GAMES AFTERNOON** at the **Memorial Hall, 2.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.**  
Games include euchre, scrabble, rummucub, whist and many card and board games. Cost £1.50 includes a cup of tea/coffee, biscuits and a very warm welcome.

**UpARA** (Upchurch Active Retirement Association)

**Monthly Meeting/ A.G.M: Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2.00 p.m.**

**Birthday Party: Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May 7.00 p.m.**

**Coffee Morning : Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 9.30 a.m.**

**Ten Pin Bowling: Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 10.00 a.m.**

**Table Tennis: Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May and Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2.00 p.m.**

**Bat & Trap: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2.00 p.m.**

**Petanque: Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2.00p.m.**

**Walks: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays - Village Hall 10.00 a.m.**

**Kurling: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> and Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2.00 p.m.**

**Line dancing: Wednesdays 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> May 10.30 a.m.**

**Outing: Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May Royal Philharmonic**

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May** **SEA SHANTY CONCERT** with 'Swinging the Lead', **7.30 p.m. at The Criterion Blue Town**, 69 High St, Sheerness ME12 1RW. Box Office: 01795 662981 Email: cbtboxoffice@btconnect.com.

The resident Shanty singers on the famous Cutty Sark have dropped anchor in Sheerness to perform rousing Sea Shanties together with traditional and contemporary Songs of the Sea.

If in the past you have enjoyed the Sea Shanty concerts on the Edith May and perhaps last year in the Memorial Hall, why not come along this event – it will be splendid to see you.

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May** Scout Group **QUIZ NIGHT in the Memorial Hall, 8.00 p.m. start.** A fun and friendly fundraising quiz presented by Michael "pub quiz" van der Straaten in support of the Scout Group. Bring your own drink and nibbles. Book your table (6 people @ £5 a head payable on the night) with Mick on 842587.

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May** **LOWER HALSTOW GARDENING CLUB - YVONNE'S PLANT SALE in front of the Memorial Hall 10.00 a.m. - 12 noon.**

A variety of floral bedding delights and many other offerings. Come along and buy your plants for the summer season. We look forward to seeing you there!

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May** **WHIST DRIVE in the Memorial Hall at 7.30 p.m.** Entry £3.00, includes refreshments and a raffle ticket. Everyone welcome.

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September** **Lower Halstow Gardening Club Visit to RHS Wisley**

Our trip this year will be to the **25<sup>th</sup> Annual Flower Show at Wisley**. There will be 50+ nurseries selling a variety of plants and also stalls selling garden equipment etc. In the marquees will be displays by the Dahlia Society and also flower arrangements by the local group. Around the garden will be items of sculpture for sale!

The cost of the trip will be £11 inclusive, as entrance to the garden is free to club members and guests. A deposit of £5 is required to reserve a seat. The coach will leave the village at 9.00 a.m. and leave Wisley for the return journey at 4.30 p.m. Please contact Yvonne on 01795 844294.

## **REGULAR DATES**

**Ladies Do-It-Yourself Keep Fit** We meet regularly on a Monday evening in the village; for six weeks we will be having a movement and dance teacher for Medau sessions. These are lots of fun, fantastic music and a great way to increase fitness. These sessions will cost £5 per person and places are limited. When we are not having a medau evening, sessions are £2 and in the summer they are free! If anyone is interested in joining us, please contact Liz on 07730893747 / 01795 842272.

## **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 and 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.

**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 LETTER**

*In the absence of a Pastoral this month here is a story supplied by Hilary. It is an Easter story, but there was no room to include it last month:*

**THE RAGMAN – An Easter story told by Father Kevin.**

The Lord has risen. He has risen indeed! I think I can safely say that all of us have heard the Easter story many times. Since we have heard it so often, perhaps its message doesn't affect us much any more. I'd like to re-tell the Easter story. Some of you may be familiar with this re-telling but we may get a new perspective about how Christ took our sins and sufferings, our pains and disappointments, our anger and disillusionments and infused them with his love and hope and, most of all, with eternal life. The story is called The Ragman.

Early before dawn one Friday morning, I noticed a young man, very handsome and strong, walking through the alleys of our city. He was pulling an old cart filled with bright and beautiful new clothes. As he pulled the cart, he called out, “Rags. Rags. New rags for old. I'll take your old tired rags.”

I thought to myself, "How can this be?" This man looked very healthy and intelligent. Couldn't he find a better job than this – a ragman in the inner city? I decided to follow him just out of curiosity. And I wasn't disappointed.

Pretty soon, the ragman saw a woman sitting by herself and sobbing heavily into a handkerchief. She was crying 1000 tears. Her heart was breaking. The ragman stopped his cart and quietly walked over to the woman. "Give me your rag", he said, "and I'll give you another". Gently he took the handkerchief from her eyes and laid another clean linen cloth in her hands. The new cloth was so bright that it shone. Then, he left her and began to pull his cart again. As he did this, a strange thing happened. He put the woman's stained handkerchief up to his own face and then he began to cry exactly as did the woman. The woman, however, was left without a tear. This is really something, I thought to myself, and I continued to follow the ragman. "Rags. Rags. New rags for old".

In a little while the ragman came upon a little girl whose head was wrapped in a bandage and whose eyes were empty. Blood soaked her bandage and blood was dripping down her cheek. As the ragman looked down on her with pity, he drew a lovely yellow bonnet out of his cart. "Give me your rags" he said, "and I'll give you mine". The child could only gaze at him as he removed her bloody bandage and tied it on his own head. He put the bonnet on hers and I gasped at what I saw, for with the bandage went her wound. Against his own forehead a stream of blood came pouring out of his own!

"Rags. Rags. New rags for old", cried the sobbing and bleeding ragman.

He then approached a street person and asked him if he was going to work. The man said "no" because he didn't have a job. "Who would hire a man with only one arm?" as he showed the ragman an empty sleeve. "So", said the ragman, "give me your coat and I'll give you mine". The one-armed man took off his coat and so did the ragman. I trembled at what I saw because the ragman's arm stayed in the sleeve and when the other man put it on he had two good arms just as muscular as the ragman – but the ragman had only one. "Go to work", said the ragman.

After that he found a drunk, covered with an old army blanket lying unconscious in the street. He was obviously very sick. The ragman took the blanket and replaced it with new clothes. The ragman wrapped the blanket around himself. The ragman was now weeping uncontrollably and bleeding from the head and pulling his cart with only one arm. He looked drunk but he was still going forward. I hurt to see his sorrow but I still continued to follow him and see what drove him.

Well, he finally came to a landfill full of rubbish. I wanted to help him but I stayed back, hiding. He climbed a hill and then he sighed. He laid down and put his head on the jacket and handkerchief and covered himself with the army blanket. And then he died.

I cried terribly to witness that death. I cried as one who had no hope because I had come to love the ragman. I cried myself to sleep in an abandoned car. I didn't know – how could I know? - that I had slept through Friday night, all day and night Saturday. On Sunday morning I was awakened by a violent light – a light so bright that I couldn't look straight at it.

I could see, however, a miracle had taken place. There was the ragman folding the blanket. He was alive with only a scar on his forehead. And, besides that, he was healthy again. There was absolutely no sign of sorrow or age and all the rags he gathered shone in cleanliness. Well, I lowered my head in awe at all I had seen I got out of the abandoned car and walked over to the ragman. I told him my name with shame because I was some sorry figure next to him. Then I took off all my clothes and said to him with a yearning in my voice. "Dress me. Make me new again."

He did dress me, my Lord. He put new rags on me and I am a wonder beside Him – the Ragman.

"The Ragman. The Christ. The risen Christ?"

So, have we let Christ put new clothes on us? Or, are we letting the world, the flesh and the devil clothe us? Let Jesus, our light, our life and our Saviour clothe us in His new clothes of salvation. He suffered and died for us.

*He is risen. He is risen, indeed. Alleluia! Thanks be to God!*

### **WANTED .... MUSICIANS FOR ST. MARGARET'S.**

*From Pauline Stevens ....* My days of playing the organ for the morning services at St. Margaret's have come to an end and so I retired at the end of April. We are looking for those who have the welfare of St. Margaret's at heart and would be willing to play the organ, piano, keyboard or guitar at any of

the 10.00 a.m. morning services. If you feel you could help out either on a regular or occasional basis we would be grateful if you would get in touch with the Rev. Julian on 01795 227329 ([julian.staniforth@gmail.com](mailto:julian.staniforth@gmail.com)) or the Rev. Mark on 01634 360794 ([curatewiththesix@gmail.com](mailto:curatewiththesix@gmail.com)).

**PICK-YOUR-OWN DAFFODILS AT ELM FARM** It is always a pleasure to see the enjoyment others get from picking daffodils here in the orchard, especially the children, and this year the total sum donated is a record £225. Thank you so much for your generosity. St. Margaret's Flower Fund will receive £50 and £175 will go to St. Margaret's Heating Fund.

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

**Best front Garden Competition** Following the success of last year, the Parish Council plans to hold another Best Front Garden Competition, and now is the time to start planning on how to make your own front garden a 2017 winner! As with last year, judging will take place throughout July and prizes will be awarded in August by members of the Parish Council. Again, we will be presenting Dobbies vouchers worth £50, £25 and £10 to the best three. Every front garden in the parish, large or small, will be automatically entered, provided it can be clearly seen from a public road or path. That little extra effort could well be worth your while and will certainly give pleasure to those passing by, while making our village a more beautiful place in which to live. Happy gardening! Sue Hartfree.

**Alison Blackburn of Alison's Alterations** is moving out of the area, so will not be accepting any more work requests. She would like to thank everyone who has supported her over the last 9 years.

**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.

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Contact me on 07824 392342 or

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

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

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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 ne

## 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

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.gordondhendersonmp.org.uk](http://www.gordondhendersonmp.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 JUNE VILLAGE NEWS IS NOON ON FRIDAY 12<sup>th</sup> MAY.**

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!