

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

**APRIL 2016**



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

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

### **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April**

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

### **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April**

**10.00 a.m.** Morning Worship

### **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April**

**10.00 a.m.** Family Communion

**6.30 p.m.** Evensong

**N.B. Please note change of time**

### **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April 6.00 a.m.**

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

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

### **ALTAR FLOWER ROTA**

**April:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Georgina Kindred; 10<sup>th</sup> Maggie Mills & Fiona Harrington;  
17<sup>th</sup> Liz Mouland; 24<sup>th</sup> Yvonne Quigley.

**May:** 1<sup>st</sup> Jackie Swift & Joan Mustoo.

## **THE DEADLINE FOR THE MAY VILLAGE NEWS**

**IS NOON ON TUESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> APRIL.**

*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 APRIL** and other dates for your diary.

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April** **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, and a very warm welcome. Only £1.50 which includes a cup of tea/coffee and biscuits (no joining fee).

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April** **WHIST DRIVE** in the Memorial Hall at **7.30 p.m.** Entry **£3.00**, includes Refreshments and raffle ticket. Everyone welcome. **\*\***(Note later date of March whist drive due to Easter)\*\*

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April** **PARISH COUNCIL THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** will be held at **7.00 p.m.** in the Memorial Hall, School Lane. The meeting will include a report on the activities of the Council in the last year as well as an update on the Emergency Plan. There will also be the opportunity for residents to ask questions; all are welcome.

**Before the meeting, at 6.30 p.m., the Group leading the proposals for the South East area of the new long distance walking route around the whole of the English Coast will be giving a short presentation.** This is an opportunity to hear about possible routes for the path from Iwade to Grain, as well as to give your thoughts on the proposals.

**UpARA** (Upchurch Active Retirement Association)

**Monthly Meeting: Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2.00 p.m.** Members free; Guests £2

**Coffee Morning : Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 9.30 a.m.** Members £1.50; Guests £2

**Ten Pin Bowling: Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 9.45 am**

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

**Boules: Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2.00 p.m.**

**Kurling: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> and Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2.00 p.m.**

**Outing: Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April Marlowe Theatre 'Hairspray'**

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April** **SPRING CRAFT FAIR** at St. Margaret's Church, **2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.**

We are delighted to be holding our first sale of the year and look forward to welcoming old friends and new. Do join us for a wide selection of local crafts at possibly the prettiest location around. Refreshments available.

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April** **YOUTH GROUP** at ST.MARGARET'S CHURCH **5.30 p.m. – 7.00 p.m.**

**Come along to our first meeting and help plan your youth group.** We think some games, a dvd and, of course, refreshments might be a good start. Come and tell us what you like. See you there.....The Youth Group Team. For more information call or text Liz on 07730893747

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April** **WESTMORELAND TRUST**

The HLF bid is now gathering pace and a decision is expected on the outcome during the summer months. A meeting will be held on board SB Edith May, Friday 15th April, 7.30 p.m. to report on progress and we cordially invite any person interested to attend. For further information and details of how to become a 'Friend of the Westmoreland' see [www.westmorelandtrust.co.uk](http://www.westmorelandtrust.co.uk)

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April** **Greening Lower Halstow** will be at **The Gibbs (off Westmoreland Drive)** at **11.00 a.m** to finish tidying the path edging. All volunteers welcome. Bring edging tool, shovel, and gloves, or just yourself. A big thank you to everyone who came along to help last time. Steve 01795 841632

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April** ... a special **LIVE MUSIC EVENT** in St. Margaret's church at **4.00 p.m.** featuring singer/songwriter **Rebekah Vyce**. **Tickets: £6.00** from Jackie Swift, 48 School Lane, 842749, or Andrea Staniforth at Newington Vicarage, [amstaniforth@gmail.com](mailto:amstaniforth@gmail.com). Refreshments available. Rebekah is a very talented Christian singer and will be launching her debut album "Breath and Dust". You can hear her tracks on itunes and her website is [www.rebekahvyce.com](http://www.rebekahvyce.com).

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April** The **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING** will be held in **St. Margaret's church at 8.00 p.m.** This is our Annual Meeting and anyone is welcome to come along and find out what we have been doing in the past year – how the money has been spent or saved, what we have been doing to keep the church in good repair and how the social life of the church has progressed. Unless you are involved in the day-to-day running of the church you are probably unaware of what keeps St. Margaret's here for us all, and this is an opportunity to ask questions and find out what goes on behind the scenes. It is, of course, the meeting when elections take place – churchwardens, Parochial Church Council etc. We know that this doesn't help to attract a good attendance, but we promise you won't be coerced into helping to run the church unless you feel you would like to – we are not a closed shop. Please do come along out of interest. You will be most welcome.

We have a short Communion service before the meeting and this starts at 7.15 p.m. You are most welcome to join us.

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April** **GARDENING CLUB** at **7.30 p.m. in the Memorial Hall.** The talk this month is '**Gardening To Save The Planet**' and our guest speaker is Maureen Rainey from Kent Wildlife. Please come and join us if you can. Visitors always welcome. Cost £1 plus refreshments at 50p.

**KNEBWORTH HOUSE AND GARDENS** a treat not to be missed! Why not join the Gardening Club on their summer trip to Knebworth House and Gardens on **Sunday 3rd July 2016?** Cost **£25** per person including coach fare (**£5 deposit** per person required). The coach will leave Lower Halstow at **9.00 a.m.**, leaving Knebworth at **4:30 p.m.** Pick up points available from Lower Halstow Village Green and opposite the Fish and Chip shop in Upchurch. Please contact Yvonne on 844294 to reserve your seat. These outings are always good fun and you are most welcome to join us.

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April** **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.

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April** **WHIST DRIVE** in the **Memorial Hall at 7.30 p.m.** Entry £3.00, includes refreshments and raffle ticket. Everyone welcome.

**LOWER HALSTOW MEMORIAL HALL – forthcoming dates for your diaries:**

**Jazz Night, Family Barn Dance and Quiz Night** (dates and times in the May Village News)

**Saturday November 26<sup>th</sup>** **Grand Christmas Market** opened by **Father Christmas - 11.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.** (More information nearer the time)

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July** *Memorial Hall Committee* **ANNUAL NOVELTY DOG SHOW.** Registration at **10.00 a.m.**

The Show includes: For all dogs – fancy dress; the happiest dog; dog races; a timed agility event.

Also: The most handsome dog; the prettiest bitch; the dog and dog owner look-alike.

We will also be having a fund-raising Bring & Buy stall for the PDSA.

### **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.**

### **PASTORAL LETTER**

As I begin to write this we are just coming to the end of Passion Sunday and we look forward to the journey through Holy Week and Easter. By the time you read this we will be shouting the Alleluias of Easter.

I have spent a lot of time this Lent considering the very basis of my Lent and Holy Week walk, going back to the time I began my faith walk in earnest and asking myself the hard questions. Why do you do it this way? How could it be different? Is this still as full of meaning and bringing me closer to God as I travel?

Today we heard the story of Mary anointing the feet of Jesus and being admonished by Judas. She gave up a lot to buy the perfume to anoint him as you would someone who was dying or had died. We are all called to give up everything to allow Jesus to take control of our lives. I've been working with someone who is convinced that God is calling him, but can't make that step to give up everything to turn to him. It's a concept I struggled with for years (Those of you who know me well, know I like to be in control!) But it is a step we must all take.

In the prison we are looking forward to welcoming Archbishop Justin who has asked to come in to take a service of foot washing. While welcoming this news, quite a few of my men were horrified at what the Archbishop was planning and I have had real difficulty persuading men to take part. While they would be happy to wash his feet, they do not feel worthy to allow him to wash their feet. Having turned around their lives and turned to Christ they still can't fully let go and let Jesus heal them from their demons.

As we approach Palm Sunday and Holy Week we need to really consider what Jesus did for each one of us on the Cross and to then enter into the glory of Easter morning with joyful thankful hearts, ready to follow wherever He leads us, putting aside all that has gone before.

May God's blessing be on you all this Easter.

Rev Liz Cox.

**PICK-YOUR-OWN DAFFODILS** The daffodils in the orchard in front of Elm Farm house (no-through-road off Vicarage Lane) are 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](mailto:clerk.lhpc@gmail.com)

**Queen's 90th Birthday** The Parish Council are planning a celebration event on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June from 3.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. on the Recreation Ground to mark the Queen's Official 90th birthday. The event will include live music and a bar. Put the date in your diary now to join in the fun.

**Parish Clerk –Vacancy** There will shortly be a vacancy for a new Parish Clerk. The Clerk is the Proper Officer of the Council dealing with the administration and finances of the Council. This is a part-time position working approximately 35 hours per month from home. Salary is between £9.20 and £10.52 per hour, depending on experience. Please contact the Clerk for full details of the position. Closing date for applications is Monday 18 April.

**Workmen Scam** The Council are aware that there have been some tradesmen charging inflated prices and recommending work that is not needed. If you have any concerns about any tradesman do contact Citizens Advice for help on 03454 04 05 06.

**Allotment Rent** Allotment rent is now due and should be sent to the Parish Clerk at 18 Cumberland Drive before the end of April. Following a review by the Council new annual rents are now payable: Memorial Hall site £21, Tutts Allotments £11 and Westfield Allotments £17 . Cheques should be made payable to Lower Halstow Parish Council.

**BEST FRONT GARDEN COMPETITION** This summer the Parish Council will be holding a competition to find the most attractive and pleasant front garden in the parish. Throughout July, councillors will be looking at all front gardens, from the smallest to the largest, which can be seen from the public path/road. They will select, in their opinion, the best three and will award Dobbies vouchers of £50, £25 and £10 as prizes, so it could be well worth a little extra effort to make your front garden the best! At the same time, you will be making the parish a more beautiful place and giving pleasure to those passing by. Sue Hartfree.

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## **NEWS FROM UPCHURCH**

**UPCHURCH COLTS FOOTBALL CLUB** Players wanted for next seasons under 9's (Current school year 3). We are currently looking for some new players to expand our two teams ready for the new season when they become 7 a side. If your child is interested in playing football, why not come along and support your local club where we play and train on our own private ground. All children are welcome along to our fun and friendly training sessions which are held at Upchurch Cricket Club. For further information please contact Rob Croome on 07909688456 - Facebook Page: Upchurch Colts FC.

## **New Age Kurling Gargantuan Contest In The Village Hall**

Some forty or more contestants and supporters met in Upchurch village hall to battle out the bragging rights over the best local kurling team, Upchurch took on the might of Hempstead our local rivals. Three lanes had been set out with each team having four players making a total of twelve players on each side. The contest consisted of each team playing eight legs, with three rounds of eight making up the match in total.

The first round saw Upchurch falling just behind drawing one leg and down in the other two, the net result being a just four point deficit. Round two saw Upchurch initially claw back three points with a clear win, however narrow defeats from the other two lanes resulted in no overall gains for Upchurch. The last round taken after a tea break was a tense affair; all involved knew the significance of the final three legs. Upchurch recorded an admirable draw in lane one, but nerves and the pressures of the afternoon combined against our team, losing the last two legs five, three and eight two. Such are the pressures of village contests.

For those of you wondering what New Age Kurling is all about, let me explain what it is not. It is not connected with new age hippies, although some of the players may well have embraced the concept first time round, and it is nothing to do with over large lumps of granite sliding across an ice rink.

**AFTERNOON TEA DANCE** to be held at Upchurch Village Hall on Monday 25th April 2.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m. to help with the refurbishment of Upchurch Village Hall. Tea, coffee, sandwiches and cakes provided. There will be ballroom dancing, and a raffle. £3 each or £5 per couple.



For tickets please ring Beryl 01634 363174 or Julia 01634 373723

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**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

**FOR SALE** Bosch ALR 9000 lawn-raker (scarifier). Almost new (used twice). Excellent condition. Half price! £55. 01795 843488.

**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.

**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.

**FABULOUS FINGERTIPS** Manicures, pedicures, gel polish, gel nail extensions. Fully insured. Call Tanya on 843362 or 07876 458021 [www.fabulousfingertips.co.uk](http://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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Website : [www.michaelvanderstraaten.co.uk](http://www.michaelvanderstraaten.co.uk)

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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](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.**

**THE DEADLINE FOR ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THE MAY VILLAGE NEWS IS NOON ON TUESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> APRIL.**

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!