

**LOWER HALSTOW  
VILLAGE NEWS**

**MAY 2016**



**Jackie Swift, our churchwarden, with  
the Archbishop of Canterbury**  
(see page 5)

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

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

### **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May**

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

### **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May**

**10.00 a.m.** Morning Worship

### **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May PENTECOST**

**10.30 a.m.** Benefice Open-air Communion at Newington

### **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May**

**10.00 a.m.** Family Time with refreshments  
The service starts at **10.15 a.m.**

### **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May**

**10.00 a.m.** Communion

**6.30 p.m.** Evensong

### **ALTAR FLOWER ROTA**

**May:** 1<sup>st</sup> Jackie Swift & Joan Mustoo; 8<sup>th</sup> Ursula Aylward  
15<sup>th</sup> Georgina Kindred; 22<sup>nd</sup> Maggie Mills & Fiona Harrington;  
29<sup>th</sup> Liz Moulard.

**June:** 5<sup>th</sup> Yvonne Quigley

## **THE DEADLINE FOR THE JUNE VILLAGE NEWS**

**IS NOON ON THURSDAY 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.*

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

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</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 6<sup>th</sup> May** **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 7<sup>th</sup> May** **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).

### **LOWER HALSTOW CRAFTERS**

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. and 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](mailto:sue.e.mumford@btinternet.com) or Margaret on 843100

Dates for May are:

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May** - another chance to play at decopatch.

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May** - 'cheating' stained glass.

**UpARA** (Upchurch Active Retirement Association)

**Monthly Meeting: Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2.00 p.m.** Members free; Guests £2

**A.G.M. Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May 3.30 p.m.**

**Birthday Party: Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May 7.00 p.m.**

**Coffee Morning : Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 9.30 a.m.** Members £1.50; Guests £2

**Ten Pin Bowling: Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 9.45 am**

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

**Boules: Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2.00 p.m.**

**Kurling: Monday 9<sup>th</sup> and Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2.00 p.m.**

**Outing: Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May BBC Broadcasting House**

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May** The **GARDENING CLUB PLANT SALE** will be held at the **Memorial Hall, School Lane, 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 a.m.** Please note the new venue and a big thank you to Joyce for hosting it in previous years.

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May** **YOUTH GROUP - ST.MARGARET'S CHURCH, 5.30 – 7.00 p.m.**

Join us at our second meeting - still time to help shape what you would like. What's on offer - variety of activities, DVDs and, of course, refreshments! And all for free..... For more information call or text Liz on 07730893747. The Youth Group Team.

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May GARDENING CLUB at 7.30 p.m. in the Memorial Hall.** The talk this month is '**Asters - history and propagation**' and our guest speaker is Jacqueline Aviolet. Please come and join us if you can. Visitors always welcome. Cost £1 plus refreshments at 50p.

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May 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 28<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 12th June AFTERNOON TEA to celebrate the 90th birthday of Her Majesty the Queen at St Margaret's, 2.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.**

During the afternoon, we will be entertained by Chris and Denise, known as "Those Women". You may remember them singing when we had the 1st World War weekend in the church in 2014. At the end of the afternoon, there will be a short thanksgiving service at 5.00pm, similar to that which closed our 1<sup>st</sup> World War weekend. Everyone welcome.

**Sunday 3rd July 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? 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.

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July Memorial Hall Committee 5<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL NOVELTY DOG SHOW.**  
**Registration at 10.00 a.m. on the day. Judging begins at 11.00 a.m.**

The Show includes fancy dress, the happiest dog/bitch, most handsome dog, prettiest bitch, owner and dog/bitch look-alike. Agility course and new dog races. Rosettes for all 1sts, 2nds and 3rds and trophies for over-all winners.

We will also be having a fund-raising Bring & Buy stall for the PDSA., and the monies collected will go to the Over 60s Christmas function.

**Saturday 20th August** The Lower Halstow Memorial Hall Committee is hosting a **JAZZ NIGHT** with '**DR. JAZZ**', The **Swinging Traditional Dixieland Jazz Band**. **Opening 7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m. Tickets £9.00 each.** Please bring your own beverage. To order your tickets call Kay on 01795 844409

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September FAMILY BARN DANCE in the Memorial Hall, 7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m. Dancing begins at 7.30 p.m. Tickets £5.00 each for adults. Under 14-year-olds £3.00 each.** Bring your own beverage and supper. For tickets call Kay on 01795 844408.

**Saturday 22nd October QUIZ NIGHT in the Memorial Hall, 7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.** Quiz begins at 7.30 p.m. **Tables of 6 - £5.00 per person**, which includes a Ploughman's Supper. Please bring your own beverage. To book call Kay on 01795 844408

**Saturday November 26th Grand CHRISTMAS MARKET, 11.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. to be opened by ??? Big Secret!!!** (More information nearer the time).

## **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**

I wonder how many of you enjoy being surprised. And I wonder how you might define being surprised – or even what examples you might want to remember or share from your own experience. According to the dictionary a surprise “catches a person unprepared” and is “an emotion that causes astonishment”. Perhaps how we think and feel about being surprised has something to do with our character – some of us may relish the “wow” factor while others may hate not being in control. But I think there are times when we need to be surprised – times when we need to surrender ourselves to being amazed. And I think these are the times when God wants to catch our attention and reveal something of himself to us.

I am writing this at the end of March just after our celebrations of Holy Week and Easter. That first Easter morning is surely the greatest example of a Godly surprise. Think about those disciples. They knew that Jesus had died on the cross. They knew that his body had been placed in the tomb. They were devastated by grief. And then ..... They find that Jesus is risen from the dead. They are truly surprised – astounded - and their attention is caught. They see Jesus and they talk to him. They know he is alive.

God's surprise turns their lives upside down. They are blessed by God's love. They are given hope at a time of fear and confusion.

Then at Pentecost those disciples are filled with God's Holy Spirit and begin telling the world about Jesus.

But this was not a once only moment. Since that time people have continued to be surprised, to have their lives changed, and to share the good news of Jesus. Jesus remains alive and God continues to love and to bless lives and to offer hope.

Have you been – or would you like to be - surprised by God? Why not come and be part of our celebration of Pentecost this year. Come and join in the service on 15<sup>th</sup> May at 10.30 in the orchard next to St Mary's Church, Newington.

My hope and prayer is that God will catch your attention and amaze you.

Lis Willmet. Lay Reader

## **BREAKFAST WITH THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY** ... from Jackie Swift.

Recently I had the privilege of having breakfast with the Archbishop of Canterbury, along with about fifty people from the Sittingbourne Deanery. There was a condition that I invited someone who is on the "fringe" of church, so I asked a lady from the village, who helps in several ways behind the scenes and at times has supported me.

How do we address this very important man? When he was asked, he said “Justin. That is my name. Or, more officially, ‘Your Grace’ ”, so Justin it was. He had arrived on his own, having driven from Canterbury, and managed to fit in a little breakfast whilst trying to chat to people. Then, after

breakfast, he gave a talk out-lining his life. He mentioned his dysfunctional family and his travels around the world, especially the troubled parts. He was asked about the death of his baby daughter in a tragic accident in France. I don't think he has a proper answer to tragedies. He just said, "God knows". About becoming Archbishop, "the job" as he put it, he said he was unsure before he undertook such a mammoth task. I asked him what he did to relax, and he said it was sailing, but most of all to be with his family. He is now a grandfather.

His presence came over very strongly, as thoroughly down-to-earth, honest and with a twinkle. His devotion to God was overwhelming. Whilst answering my question on relaxation, he said "I only work the same as our clergy". I said, "Well that is a lot". Then he looked at me and smiled.

**THELMA TRESS**, who lived with her husband Ken in the village for 47 years before moving to Newington in 1987, passed away peacefully in the Wisdom Hospice on 29<sup>th</sup> March. Angela and I would like to give our thanks to everyone, who has expressed their sympathy, it has been greatly appreciated. Tony Russell

**PICK-YOUR-OWN DAFFODILS** The donations to church funds have reached over £190 so far, with more to come because, at the time of writing, daffodils are still being picked. The church flower fund will receive £70 and the heating fund over £100. Thank you so much to all who came and picked.

**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)

**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.

**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** 24' Trident sailing boat, inboard engine, 4 berth, cradle & boat cover. Moored in Lower Halstow. £5,500 ono. Contact Lou on 01795 843927 or email [loutrident1@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:loutrident1@yahoo.co.uk)

**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.

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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 56826 Matthew Link, Lower Halstow & Iwade,  
Tel: 101 or email [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 JUNE VILLAGE NEWS IS NOON ON THURSDAY 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!