

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

**DECEMBER 2016**

**CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS**

at St. Margaret's church

<b>Christingle service</b>	<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 3.00 p.m.</b>
<b>Carol Service</b>	<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 3.00 p.m.</b>
<b>Crib Service</b>	<b>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 5.30 p.m.</b>
<b>Midnight Communion</b>	<b>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 11.30 p.m.</b>
<b>Family Communion</b>	<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December at 10.00 a.m.</b>

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

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

### **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December**

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

### **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December**

**10.00 a.m.** Morning Worship

**3.00 p.m.** **CHRISTINGLE & TOY SERVICE**

### **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December**

**10.00 a.m.** Communion

**3.00 p.m.** **CAROL SERVICE**

### **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

**5.30 p.m.** **CRIB SERVICE**

**11.30 p.m.** **MIDNIGHT COMMUNION**

### **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December**

**10.00 a.m.** **FAMILY CHRISTMAS COMMUNION**

### **ALTAR FLOWER ROTA**

**November:** 6<sup>th</sup> Georgina Kindred; 13<sup>th</sup> Liz Moulard;  
20<sup>th</sup> Yvonne Quigley; 27<sup>th</sup> Ann Smith.

**December:** 4<sup>th</sup> Jackie Swift & Joan Mustoo; 11<sup>th</sup> Ursula Aylward  
18<sup>th</sup> CHRISTMAS; 25<sup>th</sup> Georgina Kindred.

**January:** 1<sup>st</sup> Liz Moulard.

## **THE DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY VILLAGE NEWS IS NOON ON MONDAY 12<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**

*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 DECEMBER** and other dates for your diary.

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December** *Memorial Hall Committee* - **Christmas Special GAMES AFTERNOON**, 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. Do join us.

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December** **The CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY** will be held at **6.15 p.m.** on the **Village Green**, with mince pies and mulled wine. Everyone welcome.

### **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.

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December** **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.

**UpARA** (Upchurch Active Retirement Association)

**Monthly Meeting: Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2.00 p.m.** Members free; Guests £2

**Coffee Morning : Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 9.30 a.m.** Members £1.00; Guests £2

**Ten Pin Bowling: Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 9.45 a.m.**

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

**Boules: Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 1.00 p.m.**

**Kurling: Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2.00 p.m.**

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2.00 p.m.**

### **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December St. MARGARET'S CHURCH YOUTH GROUP**

Now that the nights are drawing in and the colder evenings are upon us, the youth group will be meeting in the Memorial Hall. This month we will meet on December 9<sup>th</sup>. We meet at **5.30 p.m.** for an hour and a half. We have a variety of games and craft activities, refreshments and a DVD on the go! The group is open to 11 years and up. For more information call Liz on 07730893747. St Margaret's Youth Group Team

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December** **CHRISTINGLE SERVICE** at St. Margaret's church, **3.00 p.m.**, a Christmas Service for all ages. Come and join in the carol singing and receive a candle-lit orange which symbolises Jesus, the light of the world. Children as well as adults receive a Christingle so we ask you to keep a close watch please on the children as lighted candles are used.

We invite you to bring along a new toy, unwrapped, for the Salvation Army to distribute locally in Swale. It can be for any age. Even teens' gifts are gratefully received, as they, too, long to receive. There are many needy people, right on our doorsteps. Stay for mince pies and mulled wine afterwards.

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December** **'CAFE CHURCH' FOR CHRISTMAS FOR CHRISTMAS**, at St. Margaret's, **9.30 a.m. - 12 noon**. There will be coffee and refreshments in the church, and all are welcome to come and meet up with friends old and new. The back of the church will be set up with tables and chairs to enable us to sit round and enjoy a break from the Christmas rush and bustle and, if

you wish, to reflect a little on the deeper meaning of the nativity. There will be tea and coffee and homemade sausage rolls, cakes, mince pies and other goodies. So please come along and join us to have a jolly morning together. We look forward to seeing you there.

P.S. If we could find some help we could have regular monthly Coffee Mornings again. Please think about it and let us know if you could help.

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December COFFEE AND CAROLS in the Memorial Hall at 7.30 p.m.** when we choose carols to sing, hear some Christmas tales and enjoy hot mince pies and coffee at half time. Children and adults all very welcome. A collection will be taken for the Children's Society.

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December CAROL SERVICE in St. Margaret's church at 3.00 p.m.**

This is an informal service to which all are welcome, particularly children. It lasts for just an hour. As usual the Christmas story will be told and carols will be sung. Children are invited to take part in the nativity tableau and we have plenty of costumes in all sizes. Come and join us in celebrating the birthday of Jesus.

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December 'A TIME FOR QUIET', 3.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m. at St. Margaret's.**

The church will be open for anyone who might like to call in for an opportunity of some quiet before the joyous hustle and bustle of Christmas Day. Please feel free to pop along to spend some time in the quiet space of St. Margaret's to either just be still for a moment or two, to light a candle for a loved one or simply to share a tea or coffee with us. Please note this is not a formal service and you are welcome to pop in at anytime during the hour.

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December CRIB SERVICE, 5.30 p.m. in St. Margaret's church** with the Rev.

Mark. This is another informal service especially for children, candle-lit with the Christmas story and carols.

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> January CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING.** Shaun from Treecraft has volunteered to recycle our real Christmas trees. Arranged by Greening Lower Halstow who will be on hand to assist, **bring trees to playing field by 2.00 p.m.**

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January WHIST DRIVE in the Memorial Hall at 7.30 p.m.** Entry £3.00, includes refreshments and a raffle ticket. Everyone welcome. (There will be no whist drive in December)

### **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.

### **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2016**

Over 100, together with the Scout Troop, attended the Service led by Alan Swift and Revd. Mark Ham, at the Church on Remembrance Sunday. In this anniversary year, focus was on the Somme and the men of the Great War. At the beginning of the service Alan told us that 130 from the village went, of whom 23 did not return. He went on to give much local detail reminding that as well as those on

active service, there were, at home, the families fearing bad news who should also be remembered. Almost every house had someone involved. He also pointed out that those returning after the Armistice, as again those from the Second World War and later conflicts, went back to their lives, without acclaim, coping so often with after effects, never speaking of the horrors of their experiences. He suggested that contrary to today's usage of the word, they were truly Heroes. When the Roll of Honour was read, included was their age, where they lived and family detail, so that they are just not names. As part of the Service, the Scouts read some poignant poems, well received by the congregation. The collection, which totalled £326.78, is all being donated to Ghurkhas and families, recognizing them serving for over 200 years alongside British Troops fighting for our freedom. Alan would like to thank all those, in particular Jackie, who helped him in putting on the Service, and those of us who were there would like to thank Alan for arranging such a moving and impressive service.

**THANK YOU** to all those kind people who took the time and trouble to donate shoeboxes to the Blythswood annual shoebox appeal. Things that we take for granted can be luxuries for people living in desperate poverty. The shoe boxes will bring so much joy and hope to them this Christmas. Thank you again for your generosity. It will be so much appreciated.

### **GIVING.**

This month of December is when our thoughts turn to giving. Could you possibly give some thought to the future of our church and social life at St. Margaret's, because we really do need you.

Three members of our Parochial Church Council, Tricia, Pauline and Alan, are now in our eighties and the end of our time on the P.C.C. is approaching. Mobility problems have meant that we three are unable to lend a hand when organising events as we did in the past, and this means that the responsibility falls on the few who already have a full schedule. Could you and would you be prepared to commit a little of your time to lending a hand? We already have a small but devoted group of ladies who care for the fabric of the church and keep it looking good. We also have the Friends of St. Margaret who lend a hand when we have organised various events, but we haven't a group who we can call on to help with our decision making which is the main purpose of a P.C.C. It wouldn't mean committing yourself to coming to church **every** Sunday, but it would mean a reasonably regular attendance. It would be such an encouragement to know that someone (or two) is prepared to help. . I have been a member of St. Margaret's since before I was married, having come from Newington to lend a hand in playing the organ when I was fifteen in 1950. I have never regretted it. I was made so welcome and made many friends through coming here, including Les Stevens, who I later married, Elm Farm then becoming my home. These past three years have seen me having to give up lending a hand, apart from playing the organ. It would be great to know that someone is waiting to replace me – and Tricia and Alan. Pauline Stevens.

**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)

**Funton brickworks** (Application 15/502681/OUT). An update on the planning application for approximately 55 houses etc. This was refused by Swale Borough Council, however a planning appeal is going to be heard over 3 days starting on December 20<sup>th</sup>.

**ACTION FORUM** is a free monthly news and events magazine for Rainham and surrounding areas. A distributor is required for part of the village. The role is unpaid but a good way to exercise and chat to people as you walk around the village. If interested please email [af@thenet.uk.net](mailto:af@thenet.uk.net) or phone 01634 310011 (mention action forum).

## **FRIENDS OF THE BRICKFIELD**

Who are we? A very small group of volunteers who have agreed to manage the Brickfields on behalf of the Parish Council. Our primary responsibility is to keep the paths open in summer but we also carry out whatever conservation projects we can. So far, we have fund raised and worked to clear the trees from the middle of the reed bed, a valued and relatively rare habitat locally. We have organised path widening and flattening where possible, worked on behalf of the Parish Council to source trees and then organised a community planting session on the Bean Field, then watered them as necessary during the drought last summer. We planted additional trees last autumn and this autumn we hope to finish the hedgerow along the west side with a variety of other suitable species. Two of our members designed and built the memorial on behalf of the Parish Council and we acquired the plaque for it. Long term we hope to improve the path along the western side of the site which will also help to retain the water in the reed bed and we will continue to manage the reed bed by rotational cutting as and when we have enough people to help. We hope to improve other paths where they are muddy as funds and time become available. To this end we raise funds by various means from Quiz nights to music evenings, supplying food at the recent village fete, running a Treasure Hunt, etc., etc.. Please watch out for our advertising and support our events as much as you can. We would like to thank Edith May Trading for their generous donations of their time and venue for many of our fund raising activities. If you would like to help us manage the Brickfield please come to our autumn and winter work parties or simply take a pair of secateurs or garden shears out with you and do some pruning when you walk on the Brickie. Just ten minutes of your time would make an enormous difference. If you would like to become more involved and would like to join the Friends Group please contact Judy Telford on 01795 844058.

## **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  
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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

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 (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 (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 JANUARY VILLAGE NEWS IS NOON ON MONDAY 12<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER.**

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!