

LOWER HALSTOW



VILLAGE NEWS

DECEMBER 2017

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

SERVICES AT ST. MARGARET'S IN NOVEMBER

Sunday 3rd December

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

Sunday 10th December

10 a.m Morning Worship

3.00 p.m. Christingle

Sunday 17th December

10.00 a.m. Communion

3 p.m Carol Service

Sunday 24th December

10.00 a.m NO SERVICE

5.30 p.m Crib Service

11.30 p.m Midnight Communion.

Sunday 31st December

NO SERVICE in St. Margarets There will be a joint service in Upchurch 10 a.m

ALTAR FLOWER ROTA

3rd December, Jackie and Joan. 10th December Georgina, 17th December Flower Rota Team.

24th December, Liz. 31st December Ann.

**THE DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY VILLAGE NEWS
IS NOON ON 12th DECEMBER**

Items for inclusion to Jackie at 48 School Lane (842749)

E Mail jswift48@googlemail.com

*THERE 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 1st December Memorial Hall Committee – our Christmas Special Games Afternoon, 2 – 4 pm. Do join us.

Friday 1st December.St Margarets Church **Youth Group**. For the winter period the Youth Group Will be held in the Memorial Hall, 5.30 – 7 pm. A variety of games and craft activities, refreshments and a D.V.D on the go. A good hour and half, having fun. Further information Liz 07730893747.

Saturday 2nd December CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

6.15 p.m is the time to be on **The Green** for carols, mince pies and mulled wine. A very popular time For everyone, to join in community time for the village. The hosts are Lower Halstow, Parish Council.

Sunday 3rd December 3pm Over 60's Christmas Party. All acceptances should now be in to Ursula.

Sunday 3rd December 4pm St. Mary's Church Newington.

A Memorial Carol Service will be held for the Benefice.

Tuesday 5th December Parish Council Meeting 7 p.m for any village queries, followed by the meeting at 7.30 p.m.

Thursday 7th December and Thursday 21st December 1 – 3 p.m. Parent and toddler group in the church 2 hours of relaxation for the grownups and time to play for the children. Refreshments for all. Una and Liz will be there to welcome you all. More information, Una 841425, Liz 842654.

Saturday 9th December Christmas Breakfast Club - 9.30 – 11.30 a.m.

The last Breakfast Club for 2017 at St. Margaret's Church will be on Saturday 9th December at the usual time of 9.30-11.30am.

If you attend a Primary school come along and get ready for celebrating Jesus' birth by making Christmas decorations, playing party games and dressing the church Christmas tree. Breakfast will also have some Christmas 'extras' so come and start your celebrations early! The first Breakfast Club in the New Year will be on Saturday 13th January. For more information please contact:

Liz Hadley (842654), Hilary Gates (841632) or Becky Ridley (841028).

Thursday 14th December PCSO Village Surgery 3.p.m. Memorial Hall

PCSO John Cork, will be holding another monthly surgery, for the Village Residents, to come to Talk about concerns they have, for example vandalism, theft, air guns, unruly behaviour etc ?.

Tea and biscuits will be available.

Friday 15th December Coffee and Carols in the Memorial Hall

7.30 p.m, is the time. For many, many years, our lovely Mrs Pauline Stevens, has entertained us, with carols and stories. As a legacy to Pauline, I would like to continue, everyone is invited. A very kind young man has offered to play the piano, thank you David, With Mrs Tricia Carr, amusing us with stories. A candlelit hall, with drinks hot sausage rolls and mince pies. We finish about 9 p.m. Please try to come along. Jackie.

Sunday 7th January 2018 11 am Christmas Tree Recycling

Shaun from Treecraft has volunteered again to recycle our Christmas trees. Lower Halstow, Greening Will be on hand to assist.

Wednesday 17th January 2018 3pm W.I Reminisce Tea

After a few ladies have expressed interest in meeting up to look at the album Connie Johnson, put Together. Hoping this date suits as many as possible. Jackie Swift, 48 School Lane.

Saturday 27th January Whist Drive, in the Memorial Hall at 7.30 pm. Entry £3.00., Includes refreshments and a raffle ticket. Everyone welcome

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 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.

A Reflection

One recent item that caught my eye was the news that gravitational wave ripples from the collision of two neutron stars billions of miles away, have only just reached us after a mind-boggling 130 million years. My mind is stretched to the limit as it struggles to grasp the sheer scale of these distances and the time-span involved. The questioning words of Psalm 8 came quickly to mind. *“When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers.....what are we as human beings that you are mindful of us.....that you care for us?”* Such news reminds us just how vast is the universe, just how small and insignificant this planet is that we call home, with all its joys and pains with each year recording its own litany of tragedies; Grenfell Tower, Hurricane Irma, Las Vegas to name but a few so far in 2017. The human cry for hope and significance ripples as much over time as those gravitational waves.

Yet each year, as we move into through the seasons of Advent, Christmas to the New Year, we celebrate the unequivocal response of the Lord of all, who shows in the birth of Jesus how far he was

prepared to go to show how much we as people, how much this marred creation matter. As John put it: *"The Word became flesh and dwelt amongst us"*. The Creator himself chose to come and make his home with us, to share our life as Emmanuel God with us, not just for Christmas, but in all moments of life whether they be moments of joy or pain. Such solidarity may bring hope, for it says that there is no place or human experience that is beyond the Lord's presence. Yet Jesus didn't just come to show such solidarity; he came to put it right as only the Creator can. For he said: *"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full"*, knowing that life here and now in the present not just as a future promise beyond death. We celebrate Jesus' presence amongst us, not just to know how deeply loved we are, but to know the transforming power of this love in our lives so we might become all he calls us to be as fully alive human beings.

So as we journey into the coming year, may we encounter anew the power of Jesus' grace for our own lives, ready to extend this same grace to others in our village communities, especially those with whom we may differ in some way, carrying this message of new life by who and how we are, and so being the means of enabling others to know this same transforming love for themselves in the midst of life's varied challenges.

Every blessing!
Julian

Rev Julian Staniforth, Rector of The Six benefice

WEIGHED DOWN

"Are you ready for Christmas?" It's a question we tend to get asked at this time of year. Some of us will be looking forward to Christmas and getting excited to think of the happy faces as they open their surprises, or looking forward to seeing family and friends and sharing some great food and drink, conversation and games. We may love putting up the Christmas lights and decorations and have great plans for a special Christmas dinner. Others of us may be dreading Christmas. Perhaps the happy times of the past are no more or perhaps the pressure is too much as we try to keep up with work, family, home life and other responsibilities.

"Have you done the Christmas shopping?" I remember one year going up to Bromley on the train with my daughter to get started. My first stop was Argos as I knew my nephew wanted some weights. That was a nice easy one, so it was good to tick something off on my list. What I had not taken into account was the fact that I now had to carry these weights around with me! There was no car to pop them into and there were lots of shops still to visit. We ended up taking shifts, one of us sitting with the weights while the other went shopping. It was not the best start but I did learn a valuable lesson. I haven't made that mistake again.

It is a picture though of how we can end up doing life. We get weighed down with so much stuff that it is difficult to get on with life. Jesus spoke these words to us when we are in that situation.

'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.'

So if you're feeling 'weighed down' in some way this Christmas, why not ask him to take the load off you. And maybe you will just find the hope that Christmas is supposed to bring, the joy of a new-born baby and on this occasion, one who came to lighten your load and to give you a new start so that you may live life to the full.

Rosie Liddell

Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal

St Margarets church would like to thank all the kind people, who took time to donate items for the shoeboxes. A genuine worthy appeal, donating items that we take for granted. 43 boxes were sent

to the depot for transport to grateful adults and children.

Parish Council

The Environment Agency is consulting on the Medway Estuary and Swale Strategy which manages risk from flood and coastal erosion over the next 100 years. They are proposing flood and coastal management options. To have your say on this important subject please visit:

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/ksles/medway-estuary-and-swale-strategy/>

The Parish Council conducted a litter pick in Wardwell Lane on 22nd November and are considering another litter pick on the Brickfields in the near future.

Please continue to report any anti-social behaviour to phone number 101 no matter how trivial it may seem.

Warning – Bogus People Knocking on Doors

The local PCSO, is advising to beware of un-welcome people offering their services, especially to the older folk. John Cork our local PCSO mobile No. 07772226717. Please do not hesitate to call him. Also for any unsociable behaviour.

The Village News

I am working hard to try to master what Pauline achieved by preparing the Village News, with the Great help of Tony Russell, I hope to be able to continue ?. Please forward any items to me, details At the beginning of the Village News. Thank you, Jackie Swift.

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 or Ursula 01795 842924.

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

The Christmas Tree lighting ceremony will be held at 615 pm, Saturday 2nd December, on The Village Green, with mince pies and mulled wine, everyone is welcome.

After School Arts Workshop 4 – 6 p.m

Cecilia Herrera, Wardwell Lane, Lower Halstow, a teacher with a local school. Would like to invite Children aged between 5 – 14 years. To her After School Arts Workshop. Places are limited, materials Included (or bring your own) Fee payable in advance. Further details Ceciia – 01795 841278.

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.

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USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

(01795 unless otherwise stated)

*If you find that any of these numbers is no longer in use
please let Jackie know on 842749*

The Rev. Julian Staniforth 227329

The Rev. Mark Ham 01634 360794

Chris Mayes (churchwarden) cmchwdnlh@btinternet.com 841425

David Hadley (churchwarden) david.hadley@btinternet.com 842654

Memorial Hall (chairman) Keith Howard Challis 844408 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

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

PCSO 46056708 John Cork, email 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

Duncan Dewar-Whalley 07889 808871 duncandewar-whalley@swale.gov.uk

County Councillor Mike Whiting mike.whiting@kent.gov.uk

M.P. Gordon Henderson 423199 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

If you would like your name and number added, or you would like to suggest another useful number, please contact **Jackie Swift on 842749**.

If any number changes, or you are no longer a contact person, please let Jackie know.

THE DEADLINE FOR ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THE DECEMBER VILLAGE NEWS IS NOON ON SUNDAY 12th NOVEMBER.

Items for inclusion to Jackie at 48 School Lane (842749)

or jswift48@googlemail.com

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