

LOWER HALSTOW VILLAGE NEWS July 2021



Photo of St Margaret's interior kindly provided by Dawn Drury

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH

St. Margaret's Church is everyone's church. An invitation from our clergy to ensure St.Margaret's remains at the heart of our village community, a church open and available for all occasions

The church building of St Margaret of Antioch speaks of the presence of God in this community for about a thousand years. It is a place of worship and prayer, its walls echoing with the history of this land over those centuries, soaked with the prayers of many through the challenges of life that such times have brought. It is a place where many speak of finding and being embraced by love, welcome, peace, grace and so giving hope for life and living. It is a place where celebrations of great joy as well as those of great sadness have been marked. It might be described as a 'thin 'place' between heaven and earth.

Whilst the church community gathers there for worship, we do not see that this space belongs to the church community, but to the whole village community. We may have a role as stewards in each generation, so that each generation will be able to experience this space as a place of blessing. As a community we also want to be "the people who bless" our community. As we look ahead as the church community, our desire is to see the church building more widely seen as a resource for the community. The forthcoming Poetry Festival is one example. We would like the church building to be open every day as a 'breathing space' for any who find they just need somewhere to be when life has become especially challenging. We know several who have spoken of this in recent times.

We cannot do all this on our own. We rely on volunteers, who willingly give of their time and funds to keep this place alive. Some are part of the church community; some are not but are happy to help. Every contribution helps, however big or small. So we invite you to partner with us in securing the future of this much-loved centre in this village. So will you join with us? Will you consider how you can help, in terms of practical and financial support for the upkeep of this beautiful, ancient building so that it may continue to serve all in this village community?

We look forward to hearing from you and working with you.

Every blessing

Rev Julian Staniforth & Rev Amanda Lane on behalf of St Margaret's Church"

If anyone would like to donate on a regular or one-off basis, please pay direct from your bank account to the below account.

Bank details below:

HSBC

S/C : 40-38-01

A/C : 80545228

Lower Halstow Parochial Church

Reference: Name of person making donation / contribution

If parishioners are eligible, please can they complete a Gift Aid form which can be found on the HMRC webpage, and send a copy to:

LowerHalstowChurch@outlook.com

It would also be helpful if parishioners could email the

LowerHalstowChurch@outlook.com

about their donations to enable bank reconciliation, i.e. if it's a regular donation or if it's a one-off donation.

Treasurer Needed for St.Margaret's

You will need to be confident at:

- 1) Working with spreadsheets
- 2) Completing various returns to the Diocese (monthly)
- 3) Paying in money
- 4) Paying St. Margarets invoices via Internet banking
- 5) Claiming Gift Aid

- 6) Bank statements reconciliation
- 7) Year-end report and Diocese Returns
- 8) Attending and reporting at monthly Parochial Church Council meetings (covid rules permitting) (min 2 hours)
- 9) Attending and presenting at Annual Parochial General meetings
- 10) Provide financial forecasts when requested
- 11) Dealing with emails
- 12) Keeping tidy paper records

If you are interested or would like some more information please email Susan via the below email:

LowerHalstowChurch@outlook.com

July Services at St Margaret's

- 4 July - no service (only at Newington)
- 11 July - 10am, Family Worship
- 18 July - 10am, Family Communion
- 25 July - 10am, Family Worship

Altar Flower Rota

- 4 July - Cheyenne
- 11 July - Eileen
- 18 July - Gillian
- 25 July - Rebecca

VILLAGE YARD SALE/GARDEN SAFARI

Thank you very much to everyone who took part in the village yard sale/ garden safari. It was lovely to see you all and all funds raised from the event will go towards this summer's Poetry Festival.

LOWER HALSTOW POETRY FESTIVAL

Saturday 21 August at St Margaret's Church, 10am to 4pm

Free Admission, refreshments and cakes, children's workshop available.

As many of you will know it was recently revealed that Samuel Taylor Coleridge, the famous romantic poet and friend of William Wordsworth, sailed into Lower Halstow in 1806. He is known to have given thanks in our beautiful church.

From this remarkable historical event, the idea of a poetry festival to celebrate our connection with one of the most famous poets of all time was born. Due to Covid restrictions we have thought it prudent to keep the festival fairly low key this year but we would like to expand it in the future. Please come and join us on the day for tea, cake and a little light culture. Learn about Coleridge, the village, take in the schoolchildren's artwork and poetry, explore the church and dock, watch the videos of residents reciting Kubla Khan and The Ancient Mariner and listen to our open mic session at which residents are invited to recite their favourite poem.

Most importantly, come and enjoy yourselves and meet some friends, old and new.

In the meantime, if you'd like to book a slot at the open mic session please let me know either by email or by sending a message. We'd also like to display photos of the village taken by residents so if you'd like to submit, please let us know.

Finally, we are hoping to have a poetry tree on which we can hang poems but in order to do this we need villagers to get creative! You can submit your efforts to me, anonymously if you should choose to do so. Poems can be on any subject but it would be nice if some reflected the village.

If you feel you could help in anyway or have suggestions please let us know. We will possibly need display equipment if anyone can point us in the right direction and some artistically inclined people who may be able to help decorate the church.

For more details please contact Carina Jacobs
Carina65@outlook.com, 07899 951044

LADIES DIY KEEP FIT

A friendly group of ladies meet for exercise on Monday evenings. For more information call Liz on 842272

CHARITY CRISP PACKET RECYCLING

We are collecting Crisp Packets for recycling - please drop off at 34 Crouch Hill Court. All brands accepted, preferably flat. Plastic Free Lower Halstow

MEDICINE BLISTER PACKS AND PENS RECYCLING

Lynne Morris has now put a plastic collection box outside 1 Curlew Avenue for clean and dry used pens and medication blister packs (please make sure there are no personal details on the packs). Money raised from the blister packs will go to Parkinson's UK and pens will go to Terracycle and be recycled.

MEMORIAL HALL - TREASURER NEEDED

The hall is in need of a Treasurer. Only one to two hours per week plus a monthly meeting (once the hall re-opens). The hall is run by volunteers and Trustees and not by the Parish Council.

If interested please email lowerhalstowhall@gmail.com or phone Keith Howard-Challis on 844408.

SWALE FOODBANK DONATIONS

Swale Food Bank is supported by the Trussell Trust which provides food and toiletries in Swale and surrounding areas. This is run in partnership with local churches including St. Margarets of Lower Halstow part of "The Six". The aim is to provide 3 days emergency food and support to local people referred to the Food Bank in a crisis.

The collection point in Lower Halstow is 34 Crouch Hill Court. Please place any food/toiletry items in grey box by garage, or if money in an envelope marked "Food Bank" into letter box

HEALTH WALKS

We start at 10.00 am every Monday, including Bank Holidays, from the end of Lapwing Drive, by the Brick Fields, and there are usually three walks on offer; a leisurely 1 hour walk, a leisurely 1.5 hour walk, and a brisk 2 hour walk. Sturdy walking shoes/boots and a waterproof jacket are recommended. Please phone Margaret on 843927 for more information.

ABOUT LOWER HALSTOW PARISH COUNCIL

Lower Halstow Parish Council normally meet on the first Tuesday of the month in the Memorial Hall, with the exception of August when there is not a meeting. There is a public session for a defined period of 15 minutes when parishioners of Lower Halstow are welcome to address the meeting during this time. Any other person wishing to address the Parish Council must make a written request to the Clerk.

What does your parish council do?

Planning, highways, transport and traffic community safety, street lighting, allotments, the burial ground, recreation ground, upkeep of the dock, manage the brickfields, litter, seats, rights of way – these are some of the issues that concern parish government.

Lower Halstow's website is a wealth of information -

<https://www.hugofox.com/community/lower-halstow-parish-council-17855/home/?preview=e3277b7cbc194cee8dd5580b9b87877b>

You will find the agendas, minutes, standing orders and financial regulations set out there and amongst other items, planning applications and local road closures. Routine business is set out in the agenda, which is published at least 3 working days prior to the meeting.

Decisions are recorded in the minutes.

We aim to keep the public updated on Parish Council business via the website. We will occasionally link to the village Facebook page but this is not our primary means of communication, nor should it be. We have no powers to run 'mini-referendums' on our decisions via Facebook polls or similar; any parishioners who wish to make representations to the Parish Council should do so by contacting the Clerk, in writing, at least a week in advance of the meeting.

Your council is an elected body in the first tier of local government. Councillors (who are not paid) are elected or co-opted if insufficient candidates are proposed for seats at an election, or to fill a casual vacancy. An ordinary election occurs every four years – would you consider standing for election next time around?

MOBILE LIBRARY

The library van is visiting the village once a month 1.50pm to 2.30pm on Thursdays. The next dates are Thursdays 1 and 29 July 2021.

MOBILITY AIDS

The church keep a selection of items to loan out, sometimes in emergencies. Please contact Jackie on 842749.

Also please let Jackie know if you have got a spare corner in your garage or shed, as more storage space is required.

20MPH ZONE

The Parish Council would like to ask whether you, the residents of Lower Halstow village, would take part in a survey, (which will be run by KCC Highways) regarding a 20mph zone throughout the village. We are awaiting to see if this is feasible with a KCC officer. Your feedback via email(clerk.lhpc@gmail.com) or to: 11 Cumberland Drive, Lower Halstow, would be greatly appreciated.
Keith Howard-Challis, Chairman

LOWER HALSTOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

It was a sporty term at Lower Halstow as things continued to get back to normal and the weather finally began to brighten up.



The children from Year R – 4 had a special visit from George at Upchurch Cricket Club, each class got to participate in a session where they learnt some key cricket skills as well as having great fun. Some children have since decided to sign up and join a cricket club based on their taster session with George.

For those pupils who prefer football rather than cricket, taking part in the National Football Week activities was spot on. Year 1 – 6 pupils were able to take part in daily mini tournaments as well as practise skills in class lessons. At the end of the week two children in each class were awarded sports person of the week certificates.

As a school we celebrated St Georges' Day in style by coming dressed in the uniforms from clubs that we attend outside of school, some children even brought in items they use at their club. The theme was 'Belonging' and each child then had the opportunity to talk about their club to the rest of the class. A wide range of clubs were represented which included Scouts and Cubs, rugby, badminton, football, karate, ballet, horse riding and many more.

As well as continuing to work very hard in English and maths to fill any gaps from lockdown, we have been getting creative this term. We have had so much high-quality artwork completed that we have had to extend our art gallery using donated frames. Our new approach to teaching art skills and studying artists has revealed some real talent across all ages. We are always on the look out for more frames, in any style or material, so if you have any unwanted frames please drop them into our school office, we will be very grateful

Update provided by Miss Crowe, Head of School

PASTORAL LETTER

Dear Friends - Connections. We all long for connections – to our families, friends, neighbours – to communities, colleagues, social life. This past year our connections have been under severe pressure. Sometimes they have been suspended or limited or taken new, unfamiliar forms. In all of this, how have we changed in ourselves? With all that has changed, are we different from who we were so many months ago?

So we may think we've fallen off, but we get back on. We go back and find that we can still keep our balance on the bike. The 'All Clear' sounds, and we emerge back into sunlight. Life may be feeling like all of these things at the moment, but we may still hesitate. Is it really time? Can we start reweaving all the webs we live by?

With the answers to these questions still being uncertain, what can we be sure of? Can our own determination keep carrying us through?

But if all that we are and love is treasured beyond ourselves, then so much is lifted off our own shoulders. Uncertainties there may be, but that one certainty remains. We are always secure in the love of God, all the good that we love in life and in others, God also loves and preserves. God's love can sustain us under pressure, can keep us afloat in the current, and can set us on firm ground in the end. When times are uncertain, we need to keep that one certainty in mind. We need to hold firmly to that one source of security and let ourselves be held up. May the love of God heal, strengthen and guide us through all we are passing through.

With best wishes and prayer for God's blessing,
Ron Partridge, curate and chaplain (retired), Lower Halstow

LOWER HALSTOW NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWS – JUNE 2021

A STRONG COMMUNITY
UNITED TOGETHER



WELCOMING YOUR ROAD REPRESENTATIVES

Breach Lane	Diane Harris, Michael Porter
Burntwick Drive	Amy Lundie
Crouch Hill Court	Tony Roberts
Cumberland Drive	Glenda Tress, Chris Mayes
Curlew Avenue	Richard Asbury
Heron Close	Peter Fullalove
Landrail Road	Dave Giles
Lapwing Drive	Lynne Morris
School Lane	Clare Jane, Dawn Nickolls, Audrey Robins
Sheerness Road	Liz Moulard
The Street	Cheyenne Hayward
Vicarage Lane	Rachel Parker
Wardwell Lane	Keith Howard Challis
Westmoreland Drive	Kerry Ward

What LHNW are doing:

- The Scheme is registered on ourwatch.org.uk , please register as an individual and join the scheme.
- A closed Facebook group has been formed to provide assistance, support and advice.
- A village wide network of resident surveillance is available to provide evidence if required. More than 1 in 3 homes on our database have it.
- Stickers for Residents and signage are on order. Please contact the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator to get yours.
- A monthly meeting will be held to address the concerns of residents and to report any on-going issues. Minutes will be available on the Facebook group or by contacting your road representative.

Headline News

- A meeting has been held with our PCSO to raise the current issues and identify solutions to resolve.
- The PCSO Team visit the village daily as part of their patrols.
- The Local Team has increased from 4 in 2018 to 10 today.
- Out of 150 reports for the local villages in May, only 6 were for Lower Halstow.
- Those 6 reports have been investigated and closed in the majority, although some are still under investigation.
- At the time of meeting 10/6/21, there have been no reported incidents in June.

USEFUL CONTACTS

EMERGENCY SERVICES		999
NON EMERGENCY POLICE		101
PCSO	Lee Fennell Lee.Fennell@kent.police.uk	07929 376822
RURAL TASK FORCE	rural.task.force@kent.police.uk Inspector Dave Smith Rural Sergeant Darren Walshaw Rural Crime Co-ordinator Doug Robertson	07528 989095 07800 675376 07870 252185 07972 004587
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CO-ORDINATOR	Richard Asbury LHNWatch1@gmail.com	07894 792802
FACEBOOK Search -	Lower Halstow Neighbourhood Watch	

CONTACTS

(Telephone numbers are 01795 unless otherwise stated)

Some details may be out of date, if anything has changed, or you would like something else included, please let Gill know on ransleyfamily@gmail.com or call 843871

Borough Councillors for Bobbing, Lower Halstow & Iwade

Corrie Woodford, corriewoodford@swale.gov.uk

Roger Clark, 430324, rogerclark@swale.gov.uk

Citizens Advice

0800 144 8848, citizensadvice.org.uk

Cricket Club

Mark Stevens, 842090

Dog Warden

Daytime 417850

Out of hours 07795 237479

Flood Wardens

Kay Howard-Challis, 844404, kayhelen2017@outlook.com

Abbie Dowell abbie_mcdowell@hotmail.com

Judo Club

Jon 07944 755036

KCC Potholes

03000 418187

Kent County Councillor

Mike Baldock, 471139, 07522 442964, mike.baldock@kent.gov.uk

Member of Parliament

Gordon Henderson, 423199, www.gordonhendersonmp.org.uk

Memorial Hall

Chairman, Keith Howard-Challis, 844408, lowerhalstowhall@gmail.com

Bookings, Kay Howard-Challis, 844408

Neighbourhood Watch

Co-ordinator, Richard Asbury, LHNWatch1@gmail.com, 07894 792802,
Facebook - Search Lower Halstow Neighbourhood Watch

NHS

111

Noise nuisance

Daytime 417850

Out of hours 07881 817601

Parish Council

Parish Clerk, Ann Smith, 842908, clerk.lhpc@gmail.com
<https://www.hugofox.com/community/lower-halstow-parish-council-17855/home>

PCSO

Lee Fennell, 07929 376822, lee.fennell@kent.police.uk

Playgroup

Heather Salisbury, 07984 613532

Police

General enquiries, 01622 690690, kent.police.uk

Neighbourhood Watch 01634 792131

School

842344, <http://www.lowerhalstowandnewington.org.uk/>

Scouts, Cubs and Beavers

Lisa Joiner, lisa1hardwick@btinternet.com

Short Mat Bowls

John Mustoo, 843681

Neville, 842117

St Margaret's Church

Rev. Julian Staniforth, 227329

PCC Secretary, Dawn Drury, 842688

Church Enquiries, Jackie Swift, 842749

Email: LowerHalstowChurch@outlook.com

Swale Borough Council

Main office, 424341

The Three Tuns

842840, www.thethreetunsrestaurant.co.uk,

info@thethreetunsrestaurant.co.uk

Village News

Distribution, Glenda Tress, 843757

Yacht Club

Dave Quigley, 841242

The deadline for the August 2021 Village News is noon on 12 July
Please email items for inclusion as early as possible to
ransleyfamily@gmail.com

Advertising rates: £2 per one for adverts for personal gain but which also constitute news or provide a service to villagers. £3 per line for other commercial adverts. The PCC 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 items from contributors. Contributions are printed (usually with only minor adjustments or corrections if necessary) as submitted. The editor has to assume that the contributors have checked their facts. If you have any queries or complaints please contact the relevant organisation direct.

UNIQUELY YOURS FLOWERS AND MORE

A village based flower arranging business offering flowers and crafts for all occasions, tailored to meet your needs.

No job too small. Find me on Facebook or at <https://www.uniquelyyoursflowers.co.uk> or call Liz on 07730 893747

MIDKENT IT SOLUTIONS

Local village IT engineer available to help with all your IT needs, including PC/laptop repairs, wifi/network issues, printers, software, anti-virus, office 365 licenses, Windows 10 upgrades and much more.

www.midkentit.co.uk, 01634 912105/07542795078,
enquiries@midkentit.co.uk

Experienced Financial Adviser offering Pension and
Investment Planning & Mortgages

Michael van der Straaten
Chartered Financial Planner
Edenwood Wealth Management

19 The Street, Lower Halstow
Contact me on 07824 392342 or
Email: edenwood@sjpp.co.uk
Website: www.edenwoodwealth.com

Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up
repayments on your Mortgage