

LOWER HALSTOW VILLAGE NEWS MAY 2021



*The wonderful Easter Bunnies
with a happy looking Leia*

St. MARGARET'S CHURCH

Pentecost Sunday the day commemorating the coming of the Holy Spirit to the first disciples in Jerusalem. If you go back and read the Old Testament, you will discover that Pentecost was one of the three major Jewish feasts, along with the Passover and the Feast of Tabernacles. Only they didn't call it Pentecost. That's the Greek name. The Jews called it the Feast of Weeks which occurred fifty days after Passover. The first fruits of the harvest would be offered to the Lord and left in the Temple Sanctuary. It was a joyous festival attracting thousands of pilgrims to Jerusalem.

Turn the clock back by ten days, and you would recall that Jesus had left his disciples, telling them not to leave Jerusalem, till they received the promised gift from God the Father. So, they waited in Jerusalem as Jesus had said, praying all the time. Whilst they were there they chose Matthias, who had been with them since Jesus' baptism, to fill the gap in the "twelve" left by Judas

Then suddenly it happened. The account in Acts uses vivid picture language - the sound of wind; lights like flames; a torrent of words. When they heard this sound, a crowd gathered and the apostles began speaking in other languages. Then Peter stood up and preached the first sermon of the Apostolic Church: a sermon which set the agenda for the testimony and witness of the first stage of the mission. He challenged his audience to recognise that this was the baptism of the Spirit foretold by the prophet Joel. He then went on to proclaim that Jesus of Nazareth was the promised Messiah. The One who was to bring the promised kingdom to Israel, who had been crucified by those He came to save but had been raised from the dead.

The response of the listening crowd was simple and direct "What are we to do?" Peter's reply was equally direct. Peter urged them to turn their lives around and be baptised in the name of Jesus and they would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. About 3,000 people were converted and baptized that day and the new church began and went in to action.

Peter's first sermon should still speak to us now just as loudly as it did to the first hearers. It asks the Church, it asks us, the important question, as to whether we give the proclamation of the Risen Christ and the call to repent, a true place within the life and mission of the church. Those Apostles believed that people needed repentance and forgiveness, within a spiritually and physically sustaining fellowship. Is that the picture of the Christian Church today?

Consider evangelism. Personally, I think we have become a little shy, reserved, very hesitant about evangelism. For some, evangelism captures that image of a person standing with a mega phone in a busy shopping centre declaring God's truths; The thought of standing up on a small platform is quite frightening. Yet it does not need to be that way, instead I would like to encourage us to follow the model of the early church.

After the coming of the Holy Spirit, the compulsion to witness was strong in Peter, John, and the other apostles. The apostles began their preaching and defence from what they themselves had seen and heard. They cared about people - old and young; rich and poor; male and female; Jew and Gentile - and wanted these people to know the joy of the Resurrection and the power of the new life in Christ. And so communication of the Gospel starts from personal experience. Sharing our story and journey can be one of the most powerful things we can do, especially if it is shared with someone who is going through the same experiences. We are living proof of what God has done for us, through Christ. All true evangelism has to start from this point. So, I encourage you to look for opportunities to speak about your personal faith, they will arise if you are willing to be available for God to use you.

But communication of the Gospel has to be more than mere talk. There is a phrase that goes something like this "actions speak louder than words". Faith expressed only in speech is no faith at all, as someone once said "The hungry need feeding, not preaching. The oppressed need justice, not debate". What I am trying to say is that we need to live out the gospel as this gives credence to our words. We need to look for ways to serve while bearing good witness for Christ. As a wise

theologian once said “we can talk as much as we like, we can quote verses of scripture, but unless corresponding actions are also taken, our words are, according to Paul in 1 Corinthians 13, just noisy gongs and clanging cymbals”. On Pentecost the power of the Holy Spirit so filled those first Christians in Jerusalem that the Church was truly on fire. With enthusiasm they became not just a talk shop but a work shop and through word and deed the Gospel of Jesus Christ was proclaimed. And so today, Pentecost reminds us that Evangelism encompasses not only our words but our actions. The question is, are we, and the Church prepared to show that same eagerness? Are we ready to be led by the Holy Spirit, to be messengers for Christ in word and deed?

Rev Robin Selmes

CHURCH PATH

Thank you to everyone who has taken part in decorating the railings outside the church for Christmas, Valentines and Easter. It has definitely made lots of people smile and raised spirits during the strange times we have all been living in for this last year. The bunches of Elm Farm daffodils for anyone to take on Easter Sunday were just lovely.

VISITS FROM THE EASTER BUNNIES

The Easter Bunnies brought lots of smiles and chocolate all round the village over the Easter weekend. Thank you very much Kerry and all your helpers.

POETRY FESTIVAL

On April 12th, to coincide with the relaxation of lockdown rules, a meeting headed by Councillor Mike Baldock was scheduled at the Three Tuns with the intention to form a steering committee who will then endeavour to start to plan the Lower Halstow Poetry Festival.

Thank you to everyone who has responded so encouragingly and we will be in touch once we have more details. Please feel free to contact me by email at carinaj65@outlook.com if you have any ideas or comments regarding this potentially very exciting project.

UPDATE - *the church has been booked for 21 August 2021, more details in the June Village News and on the Facebook Page - The Lower Halstow Poetry Festival*

CRISP PACKET RECYCLING - PLASTIC FREE LOWER HALSTOW

We are collecting Crisp Packets for recycling - please drop off at 34 Crouch Hill Court. All brands accepted, preferably flat. All proceeds go to Demelza House.

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

Lower Halstow Health walks have re-started. Because we are an organised and official walking group we are exempt from the Rule of Six, but we have to keep social distance and refrain from walking if showing any signs of the COVID infection. 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.

LADIES DIY KEEP FIT

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

PARISH COUNCIL

The parish council has not submitted a piece again this month. There is a wealth of information on it's website
<https://www.hugofox.com/community/lower-halstow-parish-council-17855/home>

THE THREE TUNS

Following a very difficult 12 months, we would like to thank all of our customers that have supported us through purchasing takeaways, gift vouchers and by putting up with the sometimes inclement weather after reopening in the garden area on April 12th.

On April 13th we celebrated being at the Three Tuns for 11 years. We have spent our time during lockdown tidying and decorating the pub and garden, and we have fitted a solid roof to the decking area to ward off the rain. All things going to plan, we expect to open inside again on May 17th – all be it with social distancing, rule of 6 and table service only still in place.

We will still be offering our takeaway food and drink, 7 days a week, with a 20% discount off our main menu pricing. Please phone 842840 to order and collect from the garden entrance.

Big thanks once again, stay safe and we hope to see you soon.

Chris & Carol

MOBILE LIBRARY

The library van is back and is visiting the village once a month 1.50pm to 2.30pm on Thursdays. The next dates are Thursdays 6 May and 3 June 2021.

MOBILITY AIDS

Has anyone got a spare corner in their garage or shed? The church keep a selection of items to loan out, sometimes in emergencies. Please contact Jackie on 842749.

LOWER HALSTOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

It has been a busy 4 weeks back in school for the pupils of Lower Halstow. They have fully immersed themselves back in learning and enjoyed being back with their friends as well as the school staff. It has been lovely experiencing the buzz and noise around school as things slowly return to normal.



Here are a few highlights from the four weeks:

The whole school helped raise money for Comic Relief with a Crazy Hair day! The children wore their eco-friendly red noses and came with some very crazy hair. Some children came with hair in a variety of colours whilst others created birds' nests and cupcake styles. The school raised £300.16 for Comic Relief.

Several year groups have enjoyed sessions from MFSE sports coaching where they focused on tennis, netball, dodge ball and multi-skills. The children are very much looking forward to clubs starting after the Easter break

One highlight of the last week of term was a visit from the Easter bunny, aka Teddy the school dog (dressed in a rabbit's costume), where every child received an Easter egg courtesy of the PTA. The children were able to enjoy a cuddle with Teddy – he certainly brought a smile to everyone's face.

We are all looking forward to the Easter holidays but are equally excited to come back in Term 5 for more exciting learning and enjoyable experiences in school. Hopefully the weather will be getting warmer and we will be able to get back onto the school field ready for summer activities and sports fun, if we can evict the rabbits who have taken up residence during the lockdown period!

Update provided by Miss Crowe, Head of School

LITTER PICKING

Sadly, despite the Parish Council litter picker regularly picking up litter, there is still a lot of rubbish at times around the village roads, at the playground and at the Brickfields. It would be great if everyone took their wrappers, bottles, drinks cans etc. etc. home with them/put it in the bins around the village. However, that does not always seem to happen, so thanks are due to the volunteer litter pickers who give up their spare time to make our village a nicer place to live. It is particularly impressive to hear about children who have been keen to get involved too.

SPARE CHINA PLATES

The church have lots of spare dinner and tea plates. Please call Jackie on 842749 if you would like some.

USEFUL 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

Organisation	Role	Name	Phone number	Email or website
Borough Councillors for Bobbing, Lower Halstow & Iwade		Corrie Woodford		corriewoodford@swale.gov.uk
Borough Councillors for Bobbing, Lower Halstow & Iwade		Roger Clark	430324	rogerclark@swale.gov.uk
Citizens Advice	Adviceline		0800 144 8848	citizensadvice.org.uk
Cricket Club		Mark Stevens	842090	
Dog Warden	Out of hours		07795 237479	
Dog Warden	Daytime		417850	
Judo Club		Jon	07944 755036	
KCC Potholes			03000 418187	
Kent County Councillor		Mike Whiting		mike.whiting@kent.gov.uk
Member of Parliament		Gordon Henderson	423199	www.gordonhendersonmp.org.uk

Organisation	Role	Name	Phone number	Email or website
Memorial Hall	Chairman	Keith Howard-Challis	844408	lowerhalstowhall@gmail.com
Memorial Hall	Bookings	Kay Howard-Challis	844408	
NHS			111	
Noise nuisance	Daytime		417850	
Noise nuisance	Out of hours		07881 817601	
Parish Council	Parish Clerk	Ann Smith	842908	email 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
Police	Neighbourhood Watch		01634 792131	

Organisation	Role	Name	Phone number	Email or website
School			842344	http://www.lowerhalstowandnewington.org.uk/
Scouts Cubs and Beavers		Lisa Joiner		lisa1hardwick@btinternet.com
Short Mat Bowls		John Mustoo Neville	843681 842117	
St Margaret's Church	PCC Secretary	Dawn Drury	842688	
St Margaret's Church	Church Enquiries	Jackie Swift	842749	
St Margaret's Church		Rev. Julian Staniforth	227329	
Swale Borough Council	Main office		424341	
The Three Tuns			842840	
Yacht Club		Dave Quigley	841242	

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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 07720893747

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

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

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