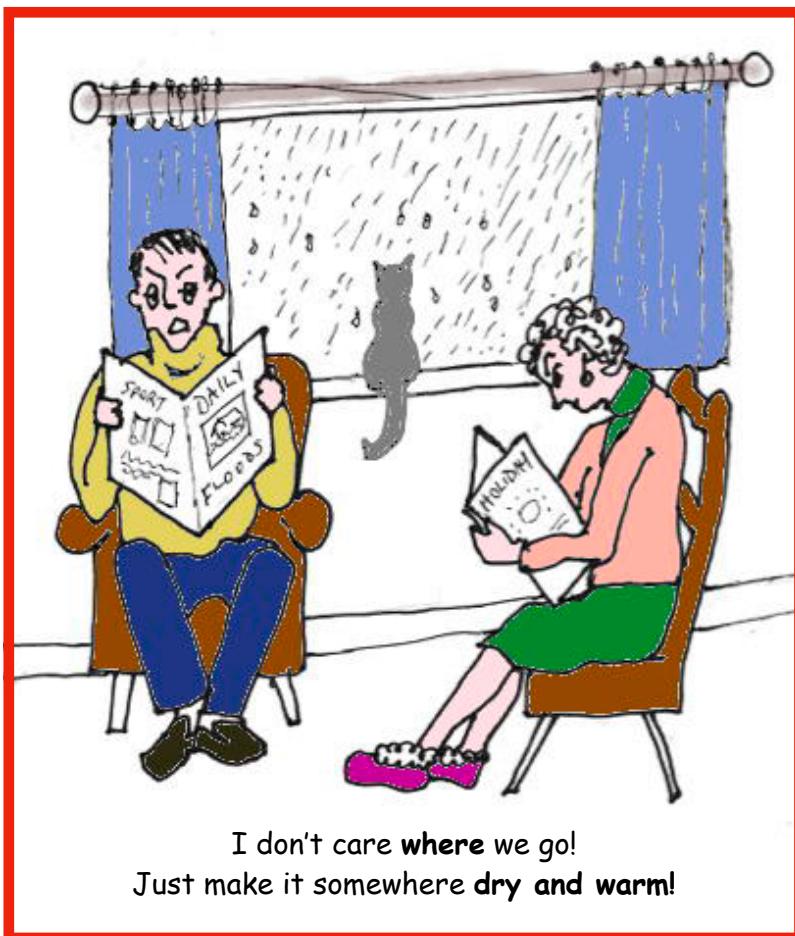


THE CLAYPOLE GROUP OF VILLAGES

CLAYPOLE, DRY DODDINGTON, FENTON, STUBTON, WESTBOROUGH

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2026



I don't care **where** we go!
Just make it somewhere **dry and warm!**

LOCAL INFORMATION

CLAYPOLE

Priest in Charge: Jon Speirs-Davies email: jon.sd@lincoln.anglican.org

Mobile: 07766 486452

Churchwardens: John Padley, 9 The Cottage, School Lane, 01636 626510
Bridget Rosewell 2 Main Street Claypole 07836 215181

Parish Council Clerk: vacancy info needed

Parish Council website: <http://parishes.lincolnshire.gov.uk/claypole>;
www.facebook.com/claypoleparishcouncil; www.facebook.com/claypoleleisurepark

Claypole C of E School: 01636 626268 www.claypoleprimary.org

Claypole Brownies- Please register at girlguiding.org.uk/joinus or contact Sarah on 07765 791882 for further details

School Hall- contact Claypole School 01636 626268

Claypole Village Hall bookings: www.claypolevillagehall.org/onlinebooking

DRY DODDINGTON Churchwarden: Dick Loynes 07899 787057

richardloynes@btinternet.com

Parish Council Clerk: <https://westborough-dry-doddington.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk/>

email: clerk@westborough-dry-doddington-pc.gov.uk

Village Hall bookings: Brian Beddows 07552 757242

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator: Mike Hine, Hazelwood, Manor House Lane. 01400 282690 email- mikehine38@hotmail.com

STUBTON Churchwarden: Mike Libby tel - 01636 626028 mglibby14@gmail.com

Parish Council Clerk: stubtonclerk@gmail.com

Village Hall bookings: stubtonvh@gmail.com

WESTBOROUGH

Churchwardens: John Lawrence, Sandalwood. Town Street 01400 281850

Mavis Arnold, Holmes Farm, Long Bennington NG23 5EB 01400 281282

Village Hall Bookings: Jane Ford 01400 281206 jane.h.ford1@gmail.com

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator: vacancy

FENTON

Parish Meeting Website www.fentonvillage.com. chair.fentonvillage@gmail.com

Chairman Parish Meeting

Clerk: Graham Doney, clerk.fentonvillage@gmail.com

Churchwarden: Libby Mason, Corner Cottage, Main Street, Fenton

01636 627178

DOCTORS: LONG BENNINGTON SURGERY 01400 281220

CAYTHORPE -SURGERY 01400 272215

L.I.V.E.S. Coordinator Linda Kingston 01400 272740 lfkingston@hotmail.co.uk
Treasurer - David Harvey david.l.harvey@btinternet.com

LOCAL POLICE: PC Mark Barr 07973 845128.

If you ring 999 state "Lincolnshire Police" or your NG postcode will get the Nottingham force and delay any response!

Letter from your Editor



Hello!

And a somewhat belated Happy New Year to you all!

We have now gained an hour of daylight since the winter solstice. I note the angle of shadows on my lawn as I pull up the kitchen blind each morning. The angle changes by the day, certainly the week! Very encouraging as it's a sign of Spring.

Did you know that that lot down south get a day that is 5 minutes longer than ours? Check it out - London sunset is approx 5 minutes later than ours! I am so used to time changing in latitude - e.g. it's 5 hours behind to New York etc, but I hadn't properly realised or thought it through that hours change by longitude as well. So I reckon that after the Equinox, the boot will be on the other foot, and our day will be 5 minutes longer than theirs as we come to high summer! (I remember Sweden in high summer, coming out of a party at 2am and it's daylight - eek!)

So now you know what occupies my mind when I am hanging out here on my own! Yes, more time alone as I can't drive yet following my shoulder operation. It will take a while. However, this is not really the time of year for much gallivanting, though I miss getting to Balderton Art Group each week. Drawing is my best "me - time" when all the rubbish in my head shuts up and I can be totally absorbed. Another advantage of being alone is that I can blast my favourite blues rock music without anyone grumbling! Apparently a sign of my age is that I hardly recognise any music since the millennium! I maintain a dignified silence when younger folks mock!

Here comes Spring!

Best wishes, *Jane*

Info for MARCH EDITION

By 16th FEBRUARY please

The Ings, Town Street, Westborough NG23 5HJ

01400 281206 email jane.h.ford1@gmail.com

From The Vicarage

This time of year often feels like a threshold. The new year is young, carrying a hope about the possibilities for the next twelve months. The unsettled state of the world is not ignored, but is set within a wider context of possibility. Yet the question remains: where do we place our hope?



The Christian faith has never pretended that life is easy. In the Bible, we meet people who faced disruption, fear, and uncertainty — and who discovered that hope is not found in having all the answers, but in walking together. Even Jesus gathered a community around him: sharing meals, listening deeply, and offering compassion and support to one another. The Church at its best has always been a people of generosity, courage, and mutual care in troubled times.

That same invitation remains open to us. Hope grows when we choose connection over isolation, curiosity over fear. Part of that curiosity may be about the Christian faith that has shaped so much of our shared heritage. Many people carry fragments of this story — half-remembered hymns, familiar prayers, a sense of somehow coming home... Exploring that heritage is not about having the “right” answers, but it’s being willing to ask questions, to learn, and to uncover surprising truths about ourselves and God.

Stepping towards a deeper spirituality takes courage. There can be a temptation to avoid a faith that seems unfamiliar in some ways. Yet, with a little trust, many who have ventured forward have discovered a generous, spacious, hopeful, and deeply human life in tune with God and our world.

One way we are making faith accessible is through our Alpha Course, where big questions are celebrated, mutual support grows, and all are enriched together. Come along to discover more about God, your community, and yourself.

Revd Jon Speirs-Davies

Join a Local Church Service on Zoom

Compline each Thursday at 7.15pm.

Log in using:- Meeting ID: 810 6571 1379 Passcode:744328

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81065711379>

Events Calendar 2025/6

December

- Tue 2 Pub Quiz Night, Stubton Village Hall, 7pm (Teams of 6, cash prize)
- Fri 5 "Die Hard" film at Claypole
- Sat 6/7 Christmas Tree festival in Dry Doddington church
- Sat 6 Christmas Wreath Workshop Claypole Village Hall
- Sat 6 Open House Claypole Village Hall
- Sun 7 Stubton Hall Christmas Market
- Tue 9 WI Christmas party Westborough
- Tue 9 Open Mic Night, Stubton Village Hall, 7:00pm
- Sat 13 Clayple OAP Christmas dinner
- Sat 13 Dry Doddington Intros Vinyl quiz night
- Thur 18 Dry Doddington coffee morning (week earlier)
- Fri 19 Good Neighbours afternoon tea at Westborough
- Sun 21 Christmas carols & music Fenton church 6.00pm
- Tue 23 Carols at St Martins, 6:00pm, mulled wine, mince pies after...

January 2026

- Thur 8 Westborough & Dry Doddington Parish Council at WB 7.30pm
- Fri 9 "The Penguin Diaries" Claypole film
- Tue 13 WI Gardening for Wildlife at Westborough
- Thur 29 Dry Doddington coffee morning

February 2026

- Tue 10 WI Moroccan magic food at Westborough
- Fri 13 :The Amateur" film at Claypole
- Thur 26 Dry Doddington coffee morning

March

- Tue 10 WI AGM

**Send your event dates as soon as available
Let's try to avoid clashes!**

SAVE YOUR CHRISTMAS STAMPS FOR THE HORSES PLEASE

**Thank you to all the kind people
who have saved stamps for us this year**

Collecting used stamps



**Please pass stamps to Mavis Arnold or Jane Ford or any WI member
Remember they raise over £11,000 for the charity last year!**

CLAYPOLE VILLAGE HALL GARDENS UPDATE!

The three new seating areas in the paddock are now complete and being well-used and loved by the community. A big **THANKYOU** to everyone involved over the past couple of years for the kind donations of materials, plants, and your expertise and time.

The gardens are gradually looking fabulous and what would really be the icing on the cake, would be to have all the railings along the front of the hall repainted!!

CAN YOU HELP US PLEASE?

We'd like to get a community group together to help with prep/painting of the railings before the plants start regrowing in spring.

Provisional dates: **Sat 28th & Sun 29th March** - to be confirmed

To find out more and join in - contact:

Laurice 07801 399155

Martin 07799 882534

Or the code for completing the form to offer help is bit.ly/.VHhelpers

CLAYPOLE VILLAGE LITTER PICK

10am, Sunday 8th March

Meet at the Village Hall

Please dress for the weather & wear sturdy footwear. All other equipment will be provided

Back up date Sunday 22nd March



Westborough & Dry Doddington Litter Pick

Sunday March 1st 10.00

Westborough meet at Bus Stop

Dry Doddington at village hall

Bring your own gloves

Bags, hoops, litter pickers supplied



Westborough Annual Quiz for the cup!

Friday 24th April

Westborough Village Hall



7.30 for 8.00 start sharp!

Teams of up to 6 — £2.00 per person.

Westborough challenges the other villages
to see if they can steal the cup out of our village!



DD's Community Cafe
10am - 12pm
Last Thursday each month

£2 - Unlimited Tea/Coffee
Slice of cake

Dry Doddington Village Hall, Main Street, Newark, NG23 5HU



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Coal, Logs etc.

EVRI Parcel Services

Any suggestions, come and see us. Tel. No. 01636 626962

Mon-Sat 7am-7pm Sunday 8am-5pm

Opening hours Summer time Mon to Fri: 7am to 8pm Sat: 7:30am to 8pm
Sun: 8am to 5pm



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Claypole Village Hall

ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY	DETAILS
MONDAY	9:30-10:30am	Giddy's Place: play session age 1-2 years	www.bookable.mysocialspace.co.uk
	11am-12:30pm	Giddy's Place: play session age 1-4 years	
	12:30-1:30pm	Crochet class with Jade	www.mymonthlymake.com
	6-7:30pm	1st Claypole Brownies	Sarah: 07765 790882
	7:45-8:45pm	HIIT with Secret Squirrel Fitness	secret.squirrel.healthandfitness@gmail.com
TUESDAY	10:30-11:30am	Plates with Inspired Fitness with Karen	www.inspiredfitnesswithkaren.co.uk
	7:30-8:30pm	Plates with Move with Char	Charlotte: movewithchar@gmail.com
WEDNESDAY	9:20-10:30am	Caterpillar Music (family class)	www.babymusic.co.uk/016288226690
	10:15-10:35am	Caterpillar Music (family class)	
THURSDAY	9:15-10:30am	Hatha Yoga with Daisy Chain Yoga	Rebel: 07822 096438 daisychainyoga2@gmail.com
	10:15-11:30am	Seated Yoga with Daisy Chain Yoga	
	7-8pm	Boxercise with Sophie's Fitness & Beauty	Sophie: 07812 790909 sophiesfitnessandbeauty@hotmail.com
FRIDAY	9:15-10am	Cardio Tone (joules) with Sophie's Fitness & Beauty	Sophie: 07812 790909 sophiesfitnessandbeauty@hotmail.com

Conaci class leaders directly for more info/
to book in



Claypole Village Hall

MOVIE

night

Fri 13th Feb
THE AMATEUR

Doors open 6:30pm
food from
George is Cooking

Fri 20th March
SHE SAID

Doors open 6:30pm
food from
Beda Pasta

Fri 17th April
BALLAD OF WALLIS

ISLAND

Doors open 6:30pm
food from Beda Pasta

Claypole Cinema Club is a 'social cinema' - seated around tables, with beer, wine, soft drinks and snacks available to buy. Membership, open to everyone (not just Claypole residents) costs just £10 per year for an individual & £25 for a family of 4 & you can attend as many screenings as you like for that price

Guest passes are also available

Join Cinema Club here:
bit.ly/ClaypoleCinema



Join us for our inaugural

ANNUAL QUIZ NIGHT



BE IN WITH A CHANCE OF WINNING
THE COULBY CUP



Saturday, 7th March 2026



doors open: 6:30pm
quiz starts: 7:30pm



Claypole Village Hall

Food available from Nathan's Kitchen Co.

SAVE THE DATE!

All teams very welcome - not just for Claypole!



The Green Page

Valentines Day is one of the most anticipated days of the whole year - a chance to spoil your partner!

However, Valentine's Day does have negative effects for the environment including overconsumption leading to waste. With all the plastic coming off of the gifts and the single use decoration, Valentines Day accumulates a lot more waste than what would occur on just an average day.

It turns out that just two years ago, the UK spent an estimated £2.1 billion on Valentine's Day.



Although, this doesn't mean that there are no ways to spoil your partner and celebrate the day. In fact, you can still have a good time without contributing to landfill.

It is always better to support small businesses than franchises who rely on importation - it costs a lot to get things here! When shopping at the small businesses, look at their ethically made items, these are a lot kinder to the world!

You also need to be careful about the packaging, traditional wrapping paper has a plastic coating which means it can't be recycled. It is also estimated that 13,500 miles of wrapping paper are used for Valentine's gifts and later ending up in landfill!

Luckily, recyclable paper has a handy label telling you that it can be recycled - so you don't need to worry too much about what you are purchasing! Just take a look!

There's also another creative option, using fabric to wrap up the gifts! Something reusable and cute! It will definitely set you apart from everyone else too!

Elizabeth



Dry Doddington Wine Tasting Friday March 6th 7:30pm start

Tasting notes and score cards provided.

*Quality wines and good company
and all for £12.*

Tickets are available from

Julieanne Oakes 07920842164

Richard Oakes 07796271601

or messaging the village hall
drydoddvillagehall@gmail.com

A BIG THANK YOU FROM LIVES

Following the messages in place of sending Christmas cards that were included in the December edition of the newsletter we have received the following from the LIVES CEO, Nicky Cook:-

"LIVES would like to offer our sincere and heartfelt thanks to everyone who responded so generously to the Christmas messages in your December newsletter.

Through your kindness, we have received donations totalling £360, and we are truly grateful for every contribution. Your support plays a vital part in helping us to continue our mission of providing fast, life-saving emergency care across our local communities.

Your generosity this Christmas will directly help ensure that our volunteers can continue to be there for those who need them most. Thank you."

Dick and Lynda Loynes

Dry Doddington's successful Christmas Tree Festival.

The Festival including the craft fair raised over £950 for the church floor repair fund.

A big thank you to Shirley Kerr for the craft fair and Dawn Broomhill who helped to organise the Christmas Trees and to everyone who gave cakes for the cafe at the craft fair. What has been really special is the support we have had for both the Harvest Supper and Christmas Trees Festival from our wonderful residents and members of our neighbouring villages. We couldn't do it without you-thank you.

Dick and Lynda Loynes

THANK YOU

A somewhat belated entry concerning Dry Doddington Harvest supper.

Apologies but family matters took over

Once again we had a very successful evening thanks to the wonderful contributions, from a large number of people, of salads and puddings. I don't think anyone should have gone hungry!

Again enormous thanks to everyone who contributed in any way whatsoever. Many hands make light work and everything is appreciated

A special thanks to the Village Hall who kindly allowed us free use of the Hall and also to Doncaster's who supplied the usual high standard of meat.

We raised the fantastic sum of £1,105.10 which will go towards the new floor

Next year's event will be on Friday 16th October. NO - tickets are NOT on sale yet, but put the date in your diary as we have now sold out 2 years running!!

Lynda Loynes

Farmyard Tails

Last year I remember us having a very good dry spring as the cows were turned out very early on. What then followed was a lovely hot albeit dry summer and a beautiful autumn, it therefore follows suit that perhaps a dry cold winter is on the horizon?

From a farming point of view this will have mixed blessings. The good points are it will keep the land firm and the covering of grass good. The overwintering sheep will not tread it up and they will keep cleaner. Barry Ram-alow and his lady's are looking well and we will top them up with hay on the field if there is a deep covering of snow. Sheep are very good at grubbing out the grass through a light covering but not if it is deep. The cattle are all back indoors (the big sheds do have an area outside, the highlands much prefer to be outside whenever possible) The dry air serves them well if they do wander indoors as this is less prone to air borne bugs.

The downside of a cold winter is frozen water pipes that feed the water troughs, frozen water (cattle need water all the time) and slippery floors.

The in-calf cows are doing a little too well. They came in fat and are maintaining their condition well eating the high sugar haylage we produced last summer. We do not want them too fat as they will lay down fat around the pelvis which could hinder calving. That said, our bull Ragnor does produce a nice size calf. When we purchase something as important as a breeding bull we research his EBV values prior to purchase along with his bloodlines to ensure there will be no in-line breeding with the cows he will be serving. EBV stands for estimated breeding values. These are listed in a document and predict the genetic likelihood of various outcomes like the ease of which his calves will be born (meaning he does not produce massive calves) it will predict how well his daughters will milk when they calve themselves and to a certain degree how calm his progeny will be. There are lots of things we can learn from the document about how his progeny will perform. This document is compiled over many years using data from the many calves born to his bloodlines.

Last years heifer calves are now in a pen together and have been weaned off their dams. They are all sold but will not be going to their new homes until the spring. I usually keep them for their first winter. I can ensure they are then well fed and so a good size for turn out in the spring. They will calm down nicely as we go in the pen twice or more a day to feed them and tidy up any mess. Nearer the time they will be halter broken before leaving the farm. This ensures a healthy, calm and happy yearling heifer.

The steers will be heading up to Hellifield soon. They usually go a little earlier but the new owner was short of fodder due to the dry summer last year and he asked if we could hang onto them a little longer. They are still with their dams and as they are still feeding it will help to keep the cows weight in check. The steers are sold by weight so us keeping them a little longer means they will weigh more so whilst they have eaten some of our hay we will get a good return as they will be worth more money.

Last years lambs will be heading to Melton livestock market in a couple of weeks also.

The barn owl who I named Beryl (but could have been a Brian!) fed for a few weeks longer. I reduced the pigeon fillets to one a day and then when she started to miss her meals I eventually stopped. We see her over the back fields by the river and sometimes see her sitting on top of the owl box.

Fingers crossed she makes it through the winter.

See you soon, Tracey



Kathleen's Kitchen

Yoghurt Potato Bake.

(All weights & measures are approximate)

For fans of Greek Yoghurt, this may appeal! I make up EasiYo, it's easy to keep in & make up any time.

Ingredients

Butter or oil for greasing

4 Large potatoes - baking potato size (peeled & finely sliced)

25g/1oz salted butter cut into small pieces (if using unsalted butter, then you may want to add a little sprinkle of salt).

Greek Yoghurt - full fat (light will alter the taste & texture) approximately 3 quarters of a large tub or half of an EasiYo tub.

Double cream (small pot)

Freshly ground black pepper

Parmesan cheese 4tbsp or any other cheese you would prefer.

Method

Preheat the oven to 180c & grease a large shallow ovenproof dish.

Dry the potato slices thoroughly & layer them in a dish & dot a bit of butter between each layer.

Whisk together the yoghurt & cream & pour over the potatoes.

Sprinkle with pepper & grated cheese, then bake in the oven for 45 mins or until tender & golden.

Serve immediately.

Note:

this recipe can be adapted by using any leftover cooked vegetables in a layer & use a bigger dish & more yoghurt if necessary.

Any herbs or spices can be added if you want to have a change of taste.

Kathleen Thomas



Our **Christmas party** was a great greedy success as always and thanks to Kathleen for her usual only slightly fiendish quiz.

In January Christine Casey gave a wide range of hints and tips for “Gardening for Wildlife” including some easy makes for ways to feed birds and also provide nesting materials which they will need at this time of year.

On February 10th Linda Hewson the artisan baker returns by popular request to spread some “Moroccan Magic” and as always, there will be samples of her creations- yum!

On Tuesday March 10th is our AGM followed by another of Kathleen's fiendish quizzes. We will need to **vote for the officers and committee**. Any proposals should be sent to Kathleen in advance please.

SUBS ARE NOW DUE: This year's sub is now £54 but our WI will subsidise all members by £10. So instead of paying £54, you will only need to pay £44. Please arrange to pay on this March evening to help Gill our treasurer. Cash or bank transfer preferred please.

On Tuesday April 14th, Tracey Ackhurst will be telling us about “Poisons and Passions”! Should be fun!

We have agreed to support the Women's Refuge all year round, not just at Christmas. We are now clearer about what is required all year round. Kathleen takes supplies usually around once a month. Please let Kathleen know of any donations you have.

Painting, Art & Craft mornings between the hours of 9.00-12.00 with Jane at Westborough Village Hall on the first Friday of every month:

Are you thinking of joining? or coming back?

The first visit, same as visitor's fee, is £4.00; we hope you will join us for lots of informal fun.

Contact President Jane Ford on 01400 281206

Secretary Kathleen Thomas 01636 626860

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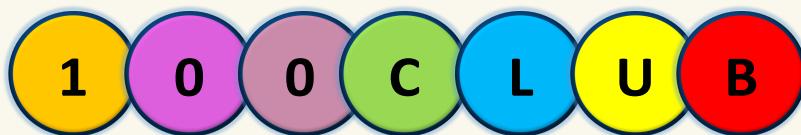
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Pancake Day
St Peter's!**

**Bring your Parents,
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and much more!

17th February 2pm Please text 07980019929

JOIN CLAYPOLE'S



Prizes of £150, £75, and £30

Next Draw March

£15 PER QUARTER. QUARTERLY CASH PRIZES.



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OR CONTACT STEVE EVERSON ON claypolepcctreasurer@gmail.com

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Half page b/w £21

Community Cuppa



At Claypole village Hall

Join us every *third Monday*

10.30—12.30

16th February

Supported by Lincolnshire Coop



Book Fair Thank You!

to all who helped in any way and for the many donations of books etc.

The total amount raised was £774.19.

The next one is 18th April 2026.

Books etc accepted at any time.

Please contact Gillian 01636 626510.



Welcoming Everyone Back

Claypole CE Primary School



It was wonderful to welcome everyone back with us for the start of the Spring Term as we look forward to another year of making a difference together.

Year 5 and Year 6 children this week learnt important first aid skills. First aid training for the children teaches essential life skills like handling bleeding, burns, bandages, choking, and CPR... and building confidence to help in emergencies.

Our Pupil Parliament (aka 'ChangeMakers') have collected Pupil Voice about playground games & activities and have been busy carefully collating the ideas and preparing an exciting proposal to 'zone' areas of our outdoor areas. Their plan is to create areas to give children different play ideas [including sports & fitness challenges, creative areas, quiet spaces and construction challenges]. It's a pleasure to watch the children lead initiatives in school, see & feel their passion and have genuine impact. We are very excited to see what they have in store for the Spring Term.

The Government's '[Compare School Performance](#)' has been updated to reflect the most recent schools' performances across the UK. We were delighted to find that out of 21,087 primary schools in the country, our 'overall achievements' is ranked in the top 3% (2.3% to be exact); and our school is listed as 5th in the whole of Lincolnshire!

These results are a reflection of every-day-excellence over seven years of primary experience.



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**The
Children's
Society**

A huge thank you to all those people who have Children Society boxes - this year we raised a very generous £529.88 for vulnerable children

Sunday Worship Times

February

Sunday 1st (Candlemas)

10:00 AM	Communion	Allington
10:30 AM	Communion	Stubton
10:30 AM	Morning Worship	Long Bennington

Sunday 8th (2 before Lent)

10:00 AM	Morning Worship	Allington
10:30 AM	Communion	Long Bennington
6:00 PM	Communion	Claypole

Sunday 15th (1 before Lent)

10:30 AM	Communion	Claypole
10:30 AM	Morning Worship	Long Bennington
3:00 PM	Communion	Foston

Sunday 22nd (Lent 1)

10:30 AM	Communion	Long Bennington
6:00 PM	Communion	Dry Doddington

Ash Wednesday 18th February 6.30pm St Swithun Long Bennington

Join a Local Church Service on Zoom

Compline each Thursday at 7.15pm.

Log in using:- Meeting ID: 810 6571 1379 Passcode: 744328

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81065711379?pwd=djBjbHZuc2UwSjRmUEZEMEx1dlhQUT09>