

Saxonwell Group Parish News

December 25/January 26



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saxonwellchurches

www.saxonwellchurches.org.uk

The Saxonwell Group Parish News (SGPN) magazine is distributed to every household in Allington (Red), Foston (Green), Long Bennington (Blue) and Sedgebrook (Yellow).

West Loveden Monthly Services Pattern

Sunday 7th December		
Allington	10.00	Holy Communion
Claypole	10.30	Holy Communion
L B	10.30	Morning Worship
Sunday 14th December		
Allington	4pm	Family Carol Service
Dry Doddington	7pm	Carol Service
L B	10.30	Holy Communion
Stubton	6pm	Evening Holy Communion
Sunday 21 st December		
Claypole	10.30	Holy Communion Service
Fenton	6pm	Christmas Joy in Words & Music
Foston	3pm	Communion with Carols
L B	10.30	Family Christmas service with the Story of the Fourth Wise Man
Tuesday 23 rd December		
Stubton	10.30	Carol Service
Wednesday 24 th December CHRISTMAS EVE		
Foston	4pm	Christingle Service
Claypole	3pm	Christingle Service
	11.30	Midnight Mass
Sedgebrook	7pm	Service of Readings and Carols
Thursday 25 th December CHRISTMAS DAY		
Allington	10.00	Loveden West Christmas Morning service
Sunday 28 th December		
L B	10.30	Holy Communion

Sunday 4 th January		
Allington	10.00	Holy Communion
Claypole	10.30	Holy Communion
L B	10.30	Morning Worship
Sunday 11 th January		
L B	10.30	Holy Communion
Stubton	6pm	Holy Communion
Sunday 18 th January		
Claypole	10.30	Holy Communion
Foston	3pm	Holy Communion
L B	10.30	Morning Worship
Sunday 25 th January		
L B	10.30	Holy Communion

The services listed are for EVERYONE living in our parish of West Loveden. This now includes Dry Doddington, Stubton, Fenton, Westborough, Sedgebrook, Foston, Allington, Claypole and Long Bennington.

Everybody is WELCOME to any of the services and we encourage you to attend services in other villages if there isn't a service in your church.

Please join us for worship & fellowship (tea, coffee & biscuits included!!) you and your family will be warmly welcomed. If you know of neighbours who are without transport, kindly offer a lift too!

Contacts for the Magazine

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Sgpnmag23@gmail.com

Copy Deadline for the Feb '26 issue is 12 Jan 2026 at 5pm



The poster features a festive design with a red and white striped border. At the top, the word "Christmas" is written in a large, elegant, cursive green font. Below it, "ST. NICHOLAS' WORKSHOP" is written in bold, red, block letters. The text "A FUN, FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT, MAKING CRAFTS TO DELIVER TO OUR NEIGHBOURS IN THE LOCAL VILLAGES." is in green, block letters. At the bottom, the date and time "DECEMBER 7TH 1-4PM" are in red, block letters. The location "ST. PETER'S CHURCH, CLAYPOLE" is in white, block letters on a green background. The poster is decorated with red reindeer, snowflakes, stars, and an angel.

Christmas

ST. NICHOLAS' WORKSHOP

**A FUN, FAMILY FRIENDLY
EVENT, MAKING CRAFTS TO
DELIVER TO OUR
NEIGHBOURS IN THE LOCAL
VILLAGES.**

**DECEMBER 7TH
1-4PM**



ST. PETER'S CHURCH,
CLAYPOLE

To register please contact Linda 07980 019929

Flawless Aesthetic Clinic



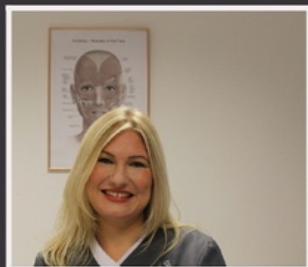
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From the Vicarage

As the nights draw in our hearts are drawn again to that festive highlight: Christmas.

The Christmas story is woven deeply into the history and identity of our British Isles. Our traditions — carols sung together, feasting, generous giving — all echo the message of the Christ child: “Peace on earth, goodwill to all.” It is remarkable how this faith, kindled so many years ago, became part of the fabric of our national identity.



Christmas and Christianity are full of symbols. And one symbol, the cross, has been painted up and down our country in the form of the St George and Union flags. How does nationalistic vandalism attach itself to a symbol of Christ's radical invitation into God's Kingdom?

Regardless of intent, these flags remind us that, however we come to share our British identity, unity is at our heart. The Union Flag unites the crosses of our United Kingdom. The St George flag connects us to the ancient and foreign lands of our brother in Christ, St George, despite him being from what is now modern-day Türkiye. These symbols remind us that our national story and our Christian heritage are intertwined, complex, beautiful and expansive.

We share a Christian heritage, one way or another. According to the census, around 60% of people locally identify as Christian. If you are one of them — or simply curious — maybe you've wanted somewhere to explore what your Christian heritage means for you. As well as all the Christmas celebrations, we're making space in January for you to join us for an Alpha Course for those who want to get a deeper sense of who they are as British, as Christian or the product of a Christian heritage and who they are as a person. We look forward to having you join us.

Join a Local Church Service on Zoom

Compline each Tuesday at 7.15pm.

Login using:- Meeting ID: 810 6571 1379 Passcode: 744328

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

LOVEDEN WEST GROUP

CHRISTMAS *Services and Events*

Join us this Christmas as we celebrate the true reason for the season. We will have something for every age, including Christingle, Carol Services, Midnight Service and Holy Communion.



5 Dec - 6.30pm	St Lawrence, Sedgebrook - Carols around the Tree
6 Dec - 11am - 3.30pm	St Peter's, Foston - Christmas Crafts with Festive Refreshments
6 Dec - 10am - 4pm	St James, Dry Doddington - Christmas Tree Festival
7 Dec - 1pm	St Peter's, Claypole - St Nicholas Workshop
13 Dec - 3pm	St Swithun's, Long Bennington - Orston Choir Christmas Concert
13 Dec - 10am - 4pm	Holy Trinity, Allington - Christmas Tree Festival
14 Dec - 4pm	Holy Trinity, Allington, Family Carol Service
14 Dec - 7pm	St James, Dry Doddington - Carol Service
14 Dec - 10am - 4pm	Holy Trinity, Allington - Christmas Tree Festival
18 Dec - 7pm	St Peter's, Claypole - Carols with Newark Town Band
21 Dec - 1030am	St Peter's, Claypole - Holy Communion Mince Pies, Mulled Wine
21 Dec - 1030am	St Swithun's, Long Bennington - Family Christmas Service with Carols - "The Story of the Fourth Wise Man"
21 Dec - 3pm	St Peter's, Foston - Communion with Carols
21 Dec - 6pm	All Saints, Fenton - Christmas Joy in Words and Music
23 Dec - 6pm	St Martin's, Stubton - Carol Service
24 Dec - 3pm	St Peter's, Claypole, Christingle Service
24 Dec - 4pm	St Peter's, Foston - Christingle Service
24 Dec - 7pm	St Lawrence, Sedgebrook - Service of Readings & Carols
24 Dec - 1130pm	St Peter's, Claypole - Midnight Mass

Dec. 25th at 10.00am **Holy Trinity, Allington - Group Christmas Morning Service**

Santa's Sleigh will visit Foston on 6 December, Allington on 8 December and Long Bennington on the 13 and 14 December

ALLINGTON VILLAGE HALL REGULAR DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Craft Afternoon: Monday 1.30-4.00pm. Includes quilting, model-making, cross-stitching, knitting, sewing, card making etc.

Pilates: Monday 7.00-8.00pm (Term time and requires pre-booking).

Tai Chi: Tuesday 10.00-11.00am. To reserve a place email: rebtpeacock@gmail.com

New Age Kurling: Tuesday 1.30-4.00pm.

Viking Squares: Tuesday 7.00-10.00pm. Come and try Social Square Dancing – beginners welcome.

Zumba: Thursday 6.00-6.45pm.

Yoga: From Thursday 15 January 7.15-8.15pm (new session).

Yoga: Friday 10.00-11.00am.

Social Afternoon: Friday 2.00-4.30pm. Open to all for conversation and games.

Church Coffee & Cake: Monday 10.00am-12 noon (Monthly).

Allington WI: First Wednesday of the month, 7.30 for 7.45pm start. Visitors always welcome – £5.

Sound Bath: 3rd Saturday 10.30-11.30am (See www.bookwhen.com/shola or just turn up.)

Carpet Bowls: Alternate Sundays 2.00-5.00pm (September – April).

For further details on the above contact David Smedley on

chair.allingtonvhmc@gmail.com.

For Viking Squares contact Judy Grummitt on 01400 281497.

SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER- CHRISTMAS QUIZ

6.30 for 7.00pm. Our brilliant quizmaster, Alan, will be returning to test our grey matter once again with another of his very entertaining quizzes based on a Christmas theme.

Once more there will be a scrumptious buffet, just bring your own drink. At £10 a

Ticket it will be a night not to be missed. Tickets on sale from Jackie on:

eventsatallingtonvillagehall@gmail.com and David on chair.allingtonvhmc@gmail.com

SATURDAY 13TH DECEMBER- WINTER SINGERS CONCERT

7.00 for 7.30pm. We are pleased to welcome back the choir to entertain us with another musical evening of songs old and new. As previously the evening is being organised jointly

between the Village Hall and Holy Trinity Church, with the profits being divided. If you

haven't been to a previous concert, the singers are a close harmony mixed choir, who

have performed both around the UK and abroad. They have also won several

competitions and performed in the BBC Choir of the Year Competition. Tickets £8

includes tea/coffee, mince pies and a free raffle ticket with the entrance ticket. To

purchase contact either Jackie or David as above or Marian Hubbard from the Church.

SATURDAY 24TH JANUARY - BIG BRUNCH

9.30am to 12 noon. You are invited to join us for our first Big Brunch of 2026. As previously the menu will consist of a full English breakfast with a large serving if you're extra hungry. Last orders for breakfast 11.00am. Coffee/tea and cake only served between 11.00am and 12 noon.



**SANTA IS VISITING ALLINGTON
WITH HIS SLEIGH ON MONDAY 8th
DECEMBER – MORE DETAIL TO
FOLLOW AS SOON AS SANTA GIVES
US HIS TIMINGS!!**

VIEW FROM THE PEW - HOLY TRINITY CHURCH ALLINGTON

Our Coffee and Cakemornings will be held on Monday 1st December and Monday 6th January from 10-12 in the village hall. We look forward to seeing you all there for coffee, cake and a chat. Our charity coffee morning raised over £300 for Leukaemia research. A huge thank you to everyone.



CHURCHYARD CLEANUP

On 18th October a brilliant band of people turned up to help us with the Churchyard clean up. Coffee/tea/bics were enjoyed by all during the morning. We would like to thank everyone who came along to help and special thanks go to Geoff and Jane Sharp for transporting all the green rubbish up to the bonfire site. Thank you so much everyone. Our beautiful churchyard is a credit to you all.



CHURCH CLEANING AND FLOWER ROTA

Marian and Linda clean our church on a regular basis, and it looks beautiful. We have come to the point where it would be good to have other volunteers to help with the cleaning and the flower rota. Flowers look really lovely in the Church when we have services.

If you feel you have a little spare time and would like to volunteer for either the cleaning or the flower rota please contact Marian on 01400 281496 or 07795 899707.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL IN CHURCH

13/14 December with set up days 10/11 December.

WE HAVE 13 SPACES FILLED WITH SPACE FOR A FEW MORE SMALL TREES.

PLEASE LET MARY KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO TAKE PART ASAP. IF YOU HAVE BOOKED A SPACE BUT NOT YET CHOSEN YOUR SPOT - PLEASE DO SO ASAP.



On event day tea/coffee/biscuits will be available from 10-4. There will be a prize for the best dressed tree judged by those visiting the event. The theme is 'What Christmas means to you'.

The weekend will finish with our annual family Carol Service on Sunday 14th December at 4pm with mulled wine/non alcoholic drinks and mince pies.

Entries are invited both from individuals and organisations. Please contact Mary McKinlay if you would like to reserve a place in the Church bobmckinlay1@aol.com or 07968 819636.

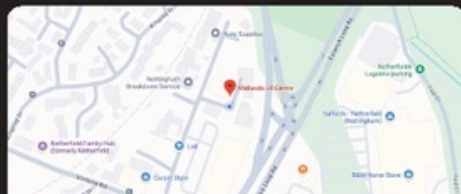
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Allington WI members who could either knit or crochet, spent hours of hard work making poppies, which were added to some made by members of Allington Craft Group and other village residents and their families. They were put on netting and added to those made last year. The display was put around the Village Cross, and the poppies looked stunning.

We have been contacted by the BBC East Yorkshire and Lincolnshire, who saw a photo of our display, and they hope to use it in their remembrance coverage, which is great news for the village!



The monthly meeting was Members' Night, and non-committee members organised a fun games night. The old favourite, 'Pass the Parcel' was first, followed by 'Stand Up Bingo.' Then after refreshments, we did a 'Music Quiz' in pairs, which made us put our thinking cap on! It was a great evening, enjoyed by everyone present.

NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, 3rd December 2025 – Liz Bailey – Christmas Table Decoration – Members only

2026 MEETINGS

January – NO Meeting

*Wednesday, 4th February The Story of The Two Crosses – the life of William H. Coltman VC (told by his great-grandson, Tim Coltman)

Wednesday, 4th March Annual Meeting followed by light entertainment – Members only

*Wednesday, 1st April Debbie Starr – Silk Painting

All meetings take place at 7.30 for a 7.45 pm start, at The Village Hall, Allington – Visitors are most welcome to attend - £5.00 visitor fee, where marked with an *

Recycling of Empty Blister Packs



Boots are now accepting empty blister packs, and as from 1st November the recycling bins will be back in Allington Village Hall. Should you still wish to support this initiative, along with Allington WI, then there will be two recycling bins - one in the servery and the other in the Annex (where the Post Office comes).



However, if you are able to take your empty blister packs to Boots yourself, then you can claim extra points on your Boots Advantage Card. Small amounts can be posted through the appropriate slot on the display stand, but if you have a lot, then there is a door that you can open and just tip them in.

For further information please email
allingtonwi@gmail.com

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Would you like to light up St Peter's Church, Foston?
In someone's memory, for a celebration or just as a welcome home!

Contact Lucy Bliss to book 07740 980689
£8 for the evening (usually 7-10pm but might
change according to time of year)



FOSTON - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Foston Parish Council Meet in the Village Hall on alternate months. A 15-minute period is set aside at the beginning of each meeting from 7.30 – 7.45pm, please note the meeting will commence at 7.30pm if no residents are present. Confirm with Christina Leeson 01400 281309.

Uniform Groups Meet at the Village Hall

1st Foston Brownies Thursdays 6.30pm - term time only.

Register interest via www.girlguiding.org.uk

Rainbows Thursday 5.00-6.00pm

Church Coffee Mornings. 10am-11.30am on the first Wednesday of the month

Foston Coffee Morning 10am-12noon on the third Wednesday of the month

Foston Neighbours

Foston Neighbours are here to lend a hand – if you need any assistance with lifts to appointments, shopping or other domestic issues, we will do what we can to help, or signpost you to other services that may be right for you. It's easy to get in touch – just call or email, details above

ST PETER'S FOSTON – NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Services at St Peter's

Here are our Services over the next couple of months for your diary:

21st December, 3pm, Communion with Carols

24th December, 4pm, Christingle Service

18th January, 3pm, Holy Communion

15th February, 3pm, Holy Communion

Many other Christmas Services are taking place across the Group – look at the schedule at the beginning of the magazine and look out for the posters going up around the village. Holy Communion is also available at Long Bennington on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month, so we hope congregations will visit other churches.

The Church remains open to all, twice a week for private prayer on Wednesday (1-4 pm) and Sunday (9.30 am - 1pm). Please feel free to use the church for quiet contemplation and prayer.

Look out for unwanted phishing emails! No one from the Church will email you asking for urgent help or finances. If you receive any emails which appear false or a scam, please report them to Action Fraud but do not click on any links or reply to them. We are aware some are around so we urge you to be alert.

Upcoming events

6th December: Christmas Joy comes to Foston!

St Peter's is open 11am – 3.30pm with Christmas Crafts available for all to do. Festive refreshments are on hand before Santa's Sleigh visits the village from 4pm.



21st December – Communion with Carols (3pm) at St Peter's Church – come and sing your heart out! Festive refreshments afterwards.

A magical start to Christmas with our regular Christingle Service—the candlelit scene is always so special. Christmas Eve, 24th December at 4pm at St Peter's Church



Coffee Morning: Come and join us for chat and homemade cake on the first Wednesday of the month. So many have been attending recently so it is clearly the place to be! Just £2.50 for all this... At the Village Hall from 10-11.30am on the following dates:

Next dates: 3rd December 7th January 4th February

Looking back

Remembrance Sunday On 9th November we had a full church for our annual Remembrance service with the local uniformed youth groups. Over 60 Rainbows, Brownies, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers paraded from Gorrie Hall to St Peter's and many of them contributed to the service with readings, prayers, and taking the collection. Their prominent roll is reading the names of the fallen to ensure we do not forget them. And a real bonus is the live brass rendition of The Last Post and The Rouse, following the two minute silence. The church looked splendid, decorated with crocheted poppies and light jars painted by the Rainbows and Brownies. Thank you to all who attended and helped raise nearly £75 for the British Legion. A big thank you must also go to the group Leaders—they give up so much of their time and energy for all these young people, ensuring they learn and experience so much.



Book Swap: Lots of books currently available so feel free to browse the books in the church porch, with more inside! Please take as many as you like as there are so many there! Peruse the inside shelves when the Church is open either Sunday mornings (9.30am-1pm) or Wednesday afternoons (1-4pm).

Regular Giving

Money makes the world go round And it certainly helps to keep the Church well maintained. Only a small proportion of our finances go to the Diocese to cover the cost of our Parish Vicar. The remainder is used to keep the Church standing, safe and open for all. If you would like to support St Peter's Church, you can set up either regular giving or one-off donations through the following website:

www.parishgiving.org.uk and search for Foston St Peter. Alternatively use this QR code:

For more details for anything listed here, please contact either Eileen Ross (tel 07710 534732) or Lucy Bliss (mobile 07740 980689, email lucyjanebliss@gmail.com).



On our 11th November meeting, we were privileged to have Shelagh Coates give us a talk on her uncle. He was John Henry "Harry" Coates, an RAF Warrant Officer and Spitfire pilot who was killed in action in Italy on March 5, 1945, when his plane was shot down. His body was not recovered until an excavation of the crash site in 2017. "Harry" was a pilot in the 111 Squadron, flying a Spitfire on a mission near Cavarzere, Italy, when his aircraft was hit by flak and exploded, disintegrating over a large area. He was declared missing in action and the first his family knew was when they received a telegram with this information. This was 2 months before V E Day, 80 years ago.

A crash site was identified by Italian aviation archaeologists in 2017, prompted by an eyewitness account. Excavation revealed human remains along with his pilot's wings and rank insignia. Forensic testing and matching the aircraft's serial number confirmed the identity of the remains as Warrant Officer John Henry Coates. Needing proof an advert was posted, requesting family to come forward.

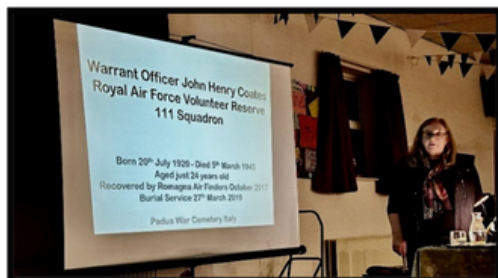
A full military funeral with honours, was held in March 2019, attended by his family and RAF personnel. He was laid to rest, in the Padua War Cemetery, Italy. On a plaque it says: The land on which this cemetery stands is the gift of the Italian people for the perpetual resting place of the Sailors, Soldier, Airmen who are honoured here.

This was a very moving and interesting talk, especially on this date.

Forthcoming events:-

9th December – WI Christmas Meal
13th January 2026 – Foston Music Group

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas & New Year from Foston WI



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Long Bennington – REGULAR DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

(Please also see Village Hall Schedule)

Mobile Library Service: Outside Long Bennington Village Hall Friday - 1330 - 1430. Enquiries to Customer Service Centre on 01522 782010 or www.lincolnshire.gov.uk
Tea-n-Chat: Started by St Swithun's church to provide a place for people to meet in warm, friendly surroundings. It is held in Long Bennington Village Hall on the last Friday of every month from 2.15 - 3.30pm. (except holiday breaks in August and December). Everyone is welcome, and tea, coffee and cakes are provided. Please feel free to join us.

Long Bennington Coffee Morning: The Reindeer every Thursday at 10.30am. Coffee/tea and biscuits £3.00. All welcome.

Methodist Coffee Morning: Please join us every 3rd Saturday in the month, in the Methodist Chapel for coffee, cake and a chat.

The Chatty Café: Meeting every Thursday afternoon 2pm- 3pm in Baker's at Sixty-Two – Main Road, Long Bennington. The Scheme is a national initiative aiming to reduce loneliness by getting people chatting. The group is hosted by two Chatty Cafe Scheme volunteers each week. Contact Mary Barlow marybarlowhello@gmail.com or tel: 07885 639091

Long Bennington Afternoon House Group: Do you enjoy meeting other Christians to chat, discuss and pray? We meet every other Monday at 2.15pm 76 Main Rd Long Bennington. For further details contact: Joy Jordan Email: joy.g.jordan@icloud.com: Tel: 01400 281355.

Book and Card/Gift Stall: Second Sunday each month there will be a stall in St Swithun's church, selling books, cards and small gifts, run by Helen Baker from Claypole. Come and have a look for that special card or an uplifting spiritual book and have a chat and coffee/biscuits around 11.30am to 12 noon (following the 10.30 service).

Long Bennington Pre-School

A registered charity offering a safe, secure and nurturing environment to educate your child. Qualified, experienced staff will support your child to reach their full potential. Based in the small hall at Long Bennington Village Hall, we are open Monday to Friday 8.30am-3.15pm during term time. 15 hours of funding is available for all 2-, 3- & 4-year-olds including an additional 15 hours Working Parents Entitlement to those that are eligible. Our payable rate is £5.50 an hour for any additional hours taken. For more information or to arrange a visit please call the Pre-school on 07816 537242 or email longbenningtonpreschool@googlemail.com

LONG BENNINGTON VILLAGE HALL NEWS

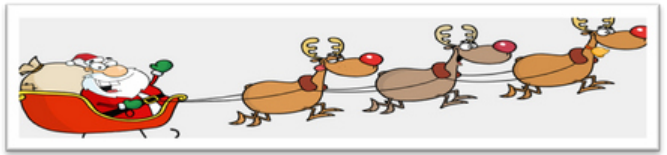
Following a very well attended live drama performance of *Dead on Cue* in October, The Village Hall Management Committee are delighted to announce our next live performance.

****SAVE THE DATE****

Thursday 19 March 2026 - Victor and Albert - an inter-active two-man variety show blending music, comedy, games and magic.



Santa is on his way to tour Long Bennington. We will knock on your door to alert you to Santa's approach:



Plse then come out and meet him:

Saturday 13th

Sharricks Fish Bar 4.30pm

Reindeer 5.00pm

Drury Park 6.15pm

The Pastures 7.00pm

Sunday 14th

Whitakers 4.30pm

Riverview 5.00pm

Motor Care 6.00pm

Manor Drive 6.45pm



Santa will also visit: Foston: Saturday 6th December, from 4.30pm. Allington: Monday 8th December from 4.30pm. A donation can be made using the buckets held by the helpers or using the 'Saxonwell Churches Just Giving' QR code here. Donations to be divided between St Swithun's Church, Long Bennington Pre-School, and Long Bennington Rotary Club.

Thank you.

LONG BENNINGTON - PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council had its last meeting on 3rd November at St James's Hall.

PLAYING FIELD AND PAVILION—the project to upgrade part of the interior of the Pavilion has now been completed and it looks great. It is hoped some further minor decorative improvements will be done soon, to enhance the facility further. There has been evidence that dogs have been on the football pitches. This is not great when children are playing on the pitches!! **REMINDER—DOGS ARE NOT ALLOWED ON THE PLAYING FIELD.**

DEFIBRILLATOR WOODS CLOSE—the defibrillator and cabinet have been replaced. The cost was £1400+VAT approx. and is from allocated Parish Council funds from the Precept.

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH—volunteers are still being sought to help with using our speedgun to deter motorists from speeding in our village. Please contact me for further information.

After 15 years in the role of Parish Clerk and after considerable thought, I have decided to step down from the job from the end of January 2026. I have been fortunate to work alongside many dedicated councillors and volunteers who care about where we live and strive to make it better. Thank everyone.

Following Parish Council meeting dates Monday 1st December 2025 and Monday 5th January 2026

WISHING EVERYONE HEALTH, HAPPINESS, AND PEACE THIS CHRISTMAS AND IN THE COMING NEW YEAR.

As always, if you have any issues or concerns you wish to raise with the Parish Council, please contact me on 01400 282716 or email parishclerk@longbenningtonparishcouncil.org
Jane Evans Parish Clerk

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Long Bennington – Village Hall

When	Class/Meeting	Time	Hall	Contact
Mon weekly	Beginner to intermediate Pilates	11:45 - 12:45	Main	Linda Brady 07850 618516
Mon Weekly	Advanced Pilates	10.30- 11.30	Main	Linda Brady 07850 618516
1 st Mon monthly	Parish Council	19:00 - 21:00	Small	Jane Evans 01400 282716
2 nd & 4 th Monday	Rotary Club	19:00 - 20:00	Bar	hello@lbrotrary.co.uk
Tues weekly	Bennington Art Group	10:00- 12:00	Foyer	Margaret Butcher 07484 140914 margaretbutcher98@gmail.com
1 st Tues monthly	WI	19:30 - 21:00	Main	Margaret Butcher 07484 140914 margaretbutcher98@gmail.com
4 th Tue monthly	Gardening Club	19:30 - 21:00	Main	Amy Hodson amyhodson4@gmail.com
Weds weekly	Post Office	09:00 - 12:00	Foyer	
Thurs weekly	Post Office	13:00 - 15:00	Foyer	
Thurs weekly	Adult Pilates Suitable for all levels	17:15 - 18:15 & 18:30 -19:30	Main	Amanda 07967387969 https://www.corestrengthpilatesuk.com
Fri weekly	Adult Pilates -all levels	09:30 - 10:30	Main	Amanda, As Above
1 st & 3 rd Fridays	WI craft group	1030 - 12:30	Bar	Sue Clarke 01400 282986
Last Fri monthly	Tea and Chat	14:00 - 16:00	Main	Hilda Owen 01400 282471 ejanecowley@aol.com
Sun 7 th Dec	Newark Makers Market	9.00- 14.00	ALL	Tina Barker newarkmakersmarket@gmail.com
Tue 9 th Dec	Wine Club	19.00- 21.30	Bar	Raj Solanki raj@libradrinks.co.uk
7/12/25 4/1/26 1/2/26	Love to Dance - Frozen	15.00- 19.00	Main	sally.picker@hotmail.co.uk
View all events and bookings on line				https://www.longbenningtonvillagehall.org bookings@longbenningtonvillagehall.org

St Swithun's Church Long Bennington

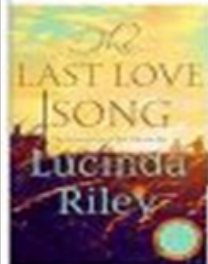
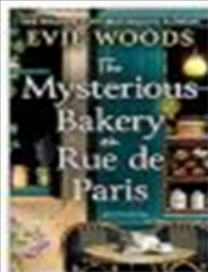
Saturday 13th
DECEMBER

ORSTON CHOIR

Starts at 3.00 PM - 4.15 PM

Interval Refreshments
 Retiring collection for church repair funds

ALL WELCOME!



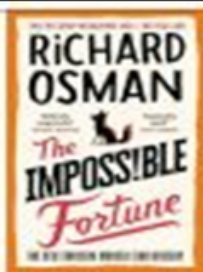
Community Book Exchange

The Rotary in partnership with Long Bennington Village Hall are setting up a book exchange in the lobby area of the village hall. (Launch Jan 2026)

Quality books required

We need your help to fill our shelves with best seller fiction, non-fiction, romance or memoir adult books.

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 07766 100762 / hello@LBRotary.co.uk
 if you have some suitable books.





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LONG BENNINGTON NEWS FROM THE PEWS

This year there's been a lot of focus on repairing the wall and window of our village church. It therefore seemed appropriate to hold a thanksgiving celebration now that these works have completed - especially since so many local people and organisations supported the repairs. So, we combined this celebration with our harvest thanksgiving service and welcomed a large congregation to church on 26th October. After the service, the gifts of food were taken to Grantham Poverty Concern ('The Passage') along with a cheque for £200 towards the valuable work they do in providing support for the homeless and vulnerable.

In November, the annual village Remembrance Commemorations took place on Sunday the 9th, and were once again blessed with fine weather. A service in the Methodist Chapel was followed by a Ceremony in the Memorial Gardens (see pictures), attended by over 200 locals, where wreaths were laid on behalf of the Armed Forces and Political and Village Groups. A retiring collection raised a total of £750 for the Royal British Legion.



These formal commemorations were followed by a Fundraising Lunch at Whittaker's Wine Bar, attended by 60 diners, where money raised included £235 for the Grantham Food Bank.

Looking forward to the run up to Christmas we have:

- Our Tea n Chat Christmas Lunch on 4th December
- Orston Choir Christmas concert on 13th December at 3pm in church – everyone is welcome to come to this event – there's no need to get tickets, just turn up! (see poster)
- Santa's Sleigh on 13th and 14th December in Long Bennington (see poster)
- A Family Christmas service with Carol on 21st December at 10.30am in church. It will be based around the Story of the Fourth Wise Man and followed by hot chocolate and festive refreshments!

Many services and events in the other churches in our group – details of which are listed in this magazine.

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Join us for a Family Christmas Service with Carols & the Story of the Fourth Wise Man

10.30am, Sunday 21st December
at St Swithun's Church, Long Bennington



...followed by festive refreshments & hot chocolate!



We also look forward to welcoming the school for their end of term Christmas Carol service in Church on 19th December.

Finally, we would like to wish everyone a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year.

If you would like to make a donation to St Swithun's church, please use the QRcode here or by online bank transfer to: Long Bennington Parochial Church Council Account Number: 501103570 Sort Code: 05-04-42





Long Bennington Twinning Association

BRAINS OF BENNINGTON

QUIZ NIGHT

Friday March 6th 2026

at
Long Bennington Village Hall

Doors 7pm for a 7.30 start

Licensed Bar & Raffle

Teams of up to 6 may enter

Tickets from: David Barnett (07752 365773), Margaret Butcher (07484 140914)

Pavillion Improvements at Playing Fields

Many of you will be aware of the success of our local village football teams in recent years, but with success came a requirement for better changing facilities for both teams and officials. The upgrade to the pavilion which has been 2 years in the planning and delivery has seen the creation of 2 enlarged, better-equipped, changing rooms for teams, as well as dedicated changing facilities for match officials and 2 large store rooms; the pavilion now also has improved access for the disabled and improvements to the kitchen equipment. The upgraded facilities, although currently in use, will be officially opened in the next few weeks by members of the Playing Field Committee and a representative of the Football Foundation that provided grant funding, though the project could not have been completed without the generous financial support received from Mr Geoff Fearn.

These pavilion improvements come on the back of additions to the playing field equipment, installed last year, and plans to develop solar power to make savings and potentially generate a small income and to install on-site facilities to house the playing field tractor. Looking to the future, the Playing Field Committee intends to turn its attention to resurfacing multi-use games area.

All this means that we once again have a fully functioning range of facilities available for hire; this can be done by contacting the bookings manager via Facebook or on mobile number 07946 176034

Last but by no means least, the Playing Field Committee wishes to acknowledge the support it receives from the Parish Council, which is essential to maintaining the existing facilities. However, the management and supervision of these requires the help from the local volunteers who serve on our Committee, and we are currently a little short of that support, we would particularly value someone who is experienced at communications and marketing so if you feel that you would like to help with the running and management of the playing field please contact either the parish council or myself at mike@manleys.plus.com

Mike Manley
Chair of Long Bennington Playing Field Management Committee



West Loveden

KIDS



UPCOMING EVENTS

**DEC
7TH**

ST. NICHOLAS' WORKSHOP.
JOIN THE ELVES TO MAKE GIFTS FOR OUR
LOCAL VILLAGES.
ST. PETER'S, CLAYPOLE , 1-4PM.

**DEC
21ST**

FAMILY CHRISTMAS
JOIN US FOR HOT CHOCOLATE, CAROLS
AND THE STORY OF THE FOURTH WISE
MAN.
ST. SWITHUN'S, LONG BENNINGTON
10:30-12:00

**FEB
17TH**

PANCAKE BONANZA. MAKE, EAT AND
CRAFT.WILL YOU BEAT THE PANCAKE
FLIPPING COMPETITION?
ST. PETER'S, CLAYPOLE, 10-12

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE EVENT OR OTHER
CHURCH EVENTS PLEASE GET IN TOUCH. 07907451595

Tuesday, 4th November, 2025 – 107th Birthday Night
Birthday Night is when the WI Committee provide food, wine and entertainment for the WI members, and this year, for our 107th anniversary, the village hall was the setting for Mistletoe Manor and a Murder Mystery Evening. The Manor's owner, Aubrey St. Clair, the best-selling detective writer, was murdered whilst hosting fellow authors at the 50th annual meeting of the Detective Club.

The Committee played the cast, kindly aided by several members and once the murder was discovered, everyone was interrogated by the police (who arrived via the Policemen's Ball) and had to prove their innocence. Clues and red herrings were there for the taking and the audience had to decide who the culprit was. Unfortunately, their pick was the innocent secretary, played by Jenny Flint, but the police, played by Margaret Butcher and Fiona Moore (complete with handcuffs and a fab moustache) arrested the murderer played by Lesley Campbell (wearing scrubs and a stethoscope) who was the devious "doctor". Other cast members were Sheila Adams, Sue Clarke, Elaine Walton, Jan Leventhall, Joy Jordan (incredibly attired as the butler), Ann Lockhart, Lorraine Gibson, Kathryn Anderson and Janet O'Dea in charge of Sound. Pearl Scott was the director and narrator.

It was a wonderful evening, full of fun and much enjoyed by all and thankfully nobody fell off the stage!

A collection was also held for the Salvation Army for gifts for needy children this Christmas.

At the end of the evening Beryl Holmes and Maureen Prothero blew out the birthday candle to a rousing chorus of Happy Birthday and we all went home with a beautifully baked and iced cupcake made by the indefatigable Pearl Scott (who hopefully can take a well-earned rest until the next meeting).

We meet again on 2nd December, where we will be entertained with traditional folk songs from Nigel and Terri.

For more information, please contact Margaret Butcher on 07484 140914 or margaretbutcher98@gmail.com Elaine Walton – Publicity





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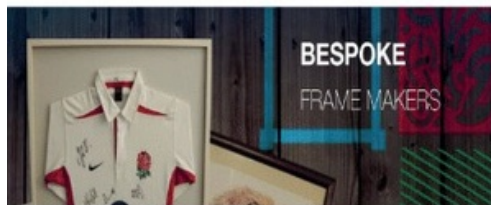


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From the Methodist Chapel

From Remembrance to Christmas: A Time to Reflect and Respond

It is a real privilege to be able to write in this magazine. As I do so, we are approaching Remembrance, and my thoughts turn both to the past and to the seasons that lie ahead.

It has been wonderful to join a Saturday coffee morning recently, and I very much look forward to the time when my diary allows me to attend the monthly puzzle afternoons too. These are not just times of friendship and fun; our church is a place where faith is celebrated and where people discover the faith that sustains us through life's challenges. It has also been uplifting to see everyone at our Church Council - and to remind ourselves that Long Benington Methodist Church is part of a wider circuit of churches who support one another by sharing resources, prayer, and encouragement.

As I write, I am preparing for Remembrance Sunday. However, my thoughts are turning toward Christmas. The two seasons are more closely linked than they first appear: both call us to remember, both invite us to look to the future with hope, and both speak into our world's continuing need for peace.

This year, perhaps more than in recent years, I am mindful of the rise in right wing ideology across the world, often fuelled by unwarranted fear, politicians who seek to capitalise on this, and by disproportionate reporting in the media. In our own country we have seen flags raised in protest against immigration (although in fairness there has never been any coherent message about what this stood for - to my mind it reflected more of a mood rather than a message). In this climate, it feels all the more important to remember that Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, was himself a refugee and an asylum seeker. Mary and Joseph were forced by the authorities to travel back to Joseph's family home, Bethlehem. They found themselves homeless (families are often complex). They benefited from the goodwill of an innkeeper - who perhaps could have done more - offering the pregnant Mary, and Joseph, the shelter of an outhouse.

Soon after, when the news of Jesus' birth reached King Herod's, his perception that there might be a threat to his throne gave rise to his waging a campaign of ethnic cleansing - a genocide of innocent male children. Hence, the Holy family fled for their lives. We hear little more of them until Jesus appears at the temple as a boy, amazing the teachers with his wisdom. But we can imagine that Joseph's role in protecting Mary and the child was crucial. His compassion and obedience, often overlooked in the Christmas story, may well have saved the family from danger. Similarly, generations before this, we read how Egyptian midwives conspired equally to resist the same order from Pharaoh who felt threatened by an increasing growth in the Hebrew population residing in Egypt.

So this Christmas, my prayer is that we might think fully through what Christmas means. One that questions the harsh realities of the story, and the attitudes we hold in our hearts. The wonder of Christmas is that Christ comes to us as a child, looking for us to embrace him with love and humility. The question is: how will we respond?

Be protective, like Mary and Joseph, of those who are vulnerable. Bewise, like the Magi, who chosen not to return to Herod, having seen the heart of evil and chosen a different path. And above all, let the light of Christ, the refugee, the Saviour, the hope of the world, guide you to respond with courage, compassion, and love - and change the way you see the world and think about those in greatest need.

RevDr Langley Mackrell-Hey

Superintendent, Newark and Southwell Circuit of Churches

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<https://www.facebook.com/langley.mackrellhey/>

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t:01636 702154 m 07525 762538 Restday Friday

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE METHODIST CHAPEL?

Sunday Services

All services can be viewed on the notice board outside the Chapel.

All our services start at 10:30am unless otherwise notified. Everyone is welcome.

Please note, there is no service at the chapel on Dec 21st when we will be joining St Swithun's for their Carol Service.

Carol Service

Please join us on Sunday 14th December at 10:30am for our annual Carol Service when everyone will be welcome. Refreshments will be served after the service.

Knitting / Craft Group

Anyone interested in knitting, sewing, embroidery etc. would be very welcome to come along on a Monday morning from 10.30am to mid-day. There is a nominal entry fee of £2.50 to cover the heating costs and refreshments.

Games Afternoon

Are you looking for a little fun, come and join us on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month when we get together to play board games and have tea (or coffee) and chat. We are always looking to welcome new participants so if you have a competitive streak we look forward to seeing you. There is a nominal entry fee of £2.50 to cover the heating costs and refreshments. Activities start at 2.00pm

Coffee Mornings

Our next Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday 13th December, starting at 10am so come along and join us when there will be homemade cakes for sale, a raffle and wonderful Nearly New Stall which is always full of exciting items and great gift opportunities. Entry costs £2.50 for bottomless tea or coffee and plenty of biscuits. The first coffee morning next year will be on Saturday 17th January.

Food Bank - Grantham

Here at Long Bennington Methodist Chapel and in conjunction with other chapels in the local circuit, we support the work of The Trussell Trust and their Food Bank initiative to 'Stop UK Hunger'.

If you would like to make a donation of non-perishable, in-date food, please bring it along to any of our monthly coffee mornings and we will be pleased to make sure it gets to those in need in the Grantham area through the local Food Bank branch. If you still wish to donate to people in the Newark area, you can make your donations at the village Co-op.

SEDGEBROOKSOCIAL CLUB REGULAR DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Rainbows/ Brownies Mondays 5.00pm/6.30pm
Grantham Canine Assoc Mondays 8.00pm-9.00pm
Knit and Natter Tuesdays 2.00pm-4.00pm
Ruff Diamonds Dog Training Tuesdays 6.00pm
Ruff Diamonds Dog Training Wednesdays 6.00pm
Pilates with Alice Thursdays 7.30pm-8.30pm
Club Bar Open to members Fridays 6.00pm-11.00pm
Ruff Diamonds Dog Training Saturdays 10.00am onwards
Club Bar Open to members Sundays 1.00pm-4.00pm

Membership fee for 2025 is £15 per person (under 18s free) We are always looking for new committee members, if you are able to help, please get in touch. The club and bar are available for hire for private parties, social gatherings and regular events. Please contact Amanda Longdon on 07849193159 or email Sedgebrooksocialclub@hotmail.co.uk Church

ST LAWRENCE, SEDGEBROOK NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Church and Museum open daily 10am-4pm
Free Church Guide

Heritage Group meets bi-monthly 4th Sunday in the Social Club 3pm
Community Library and Jigsaws, Recycling for aluminium cans and ink cartridges
Grantham Food Bank collecting point
Children's Corner

Teddy Bear's Picnic Children's Book set in St Lawrence Church available for £5 per copy

The church is open every day to give the community the opportunity to enjoy the museum, children's corner, books and jigsaws, the recycling of cans and ink cartridges, the food bank collecting point, and the opportunity for a peaceful space and private prayer.

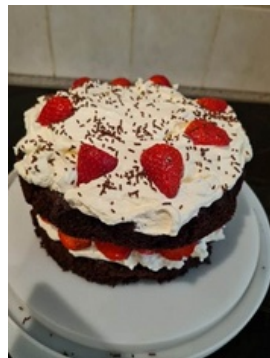
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The church looked fabulous with special thanks to the whole school for their thoughtful Remembrance display and help with setting it up. Thanks also to the Brownies and Rainbows for their contributions and for processing with their flags. As we did not lose anyone in the immediate 2nd World War, the museum display this year centred on the 4 Sedgebrook prisoners of war who came home in May 1945 and those who served on the home front. The display will remain in place until Christmas so people can drop in and spend time appreciating the information.





The final afternoon teas for the year was a huge success and 2026 afternoon teas will begin again in April



THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

December is a busy month.

We start the month with a full house on 1st with White House Farm Day Nursery nativity at 2pm. Later in the week on Friday 5th at 6.30pm we have Carols Round the Tree on the Green. As well as the home-made mince pies and mulled wine, there will also be traditional German Christmas biscuits this year with thanks to Dagmar.

Friday 19th sees Allington with Sedgebrook Cof E Primary School nativity – another full house.

Christmas Eve brings us to the service of lessons and carols at 7pm. If you would like to read a lesson and enjoy a rock star experience with the new microphones, we would love to hear from you. After the service we all repair to the Social Club for festive fun and games to lead us into Christmas Day.

Services at St Lawrence, Sedgebrook

Monday 1st December 2pm White House Farm Day Nursery nativity service

Friday 5th December 6.30pm Carols round the Tree

Friday 19th December 2pm Allington with Sedgebrook Cof E Primary School nativity service

Wednesday 24th December 7pm Traditional service of Readings and Carols

There are no services scheduled for January.



Here is the QR code for the Parish Giving Scheme. It can be used for one off payments or setting up regular donations. Once scanned it will take you through the 3 steps to enable a donation to be made.

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Beat the Scammers— Don't PayFor Their Christmas

It has been a few months since the last “Beat the Scammers” article. With the festive season only just round the corner we all become a bit less security conscious so here are a few reminders how to avoid sharing your Christmas funds with the Scammers. Fact: “December is the most successful month for Scammers.”

1. Fake Websites. Use the retailers you are familiar with. Always log directly into their websites or Apps. Don't use links from other websites.
2. Fake Appeals for help. It's great to share a bit with those less fortunate. Make your donations direct to a known charity or appeal. Check the website name when you make a payment. Again, don't click on a link from another website or a link shared on social media.
3. Phone snatching has become a significant issue. Keep your phone safe as Scammers will be happy to “snatch it out of your hand”
4. If things don't feel right, ask yourself the questions: “Why?” Remember the national campaign:
 - “STOP” Take a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information.
 - “CHALLENGE” Ask yourself, could it be fake? It's ok to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.
 - “PROTECT” Contact your bank immediately if you think you've been scammed.

Let's have an enjoyable Christmas without the pain of being scammed. Merry Christmas and happy New Year

Jacob

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Bank Transfer to SGPN, sort code 60-09-09 account 72118695

Cheque to SGPN posted to SGPN Treasurer, 36 The Pastures, Long Bennington, NG23 5EG

Hand to any church or PCC member



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Tel: 07766 486452
Lay Reader Jenny Stuart jenny.stuart@outlook.com 01949 842231
Retired Priest Rev. Stella Langdon-Davies
Authorised Lay Ministers Sylvia Andrews, Joy Jordan and Colin Sedgewick
Administrator Davina Tyler lovedenwest@gmail.com

CHURCH CONTACTS

St Swithun's, Long Bennington
Church Warden Bridget Rosewell 07836 215181
Treasurer Jane Cowley 01400 282691
Church Flowers Beryl Holmes 01400 281437
Safeguarding Officer Eileen Ross 07710 534732

St Peter's Foston
Church Warden/Treasurer Andrew Blanchard 01476 978664/ 07590652657
Safeguarding Officer Eileen Ross 07710 534732

Holy Trinity Allington
Church Warden Chris Dicken 01400 281524
Treasurer Bob McKinlay 01400 281671
Safeguarding Officer Marian Hubbard 01400 281496
Flowers Jill Storer/Linda Rycroft 283542/281516

St Lawrence Sedgebrook
Church Warden Alan Cook 07963553835
Safeguarding Officer Wendy Fowler wendyfowler@btinternet.com
mob. 07747022272.

Treasurer Ian McKay 01949 843691
Flowers Geraldine Statham glendogs@aol.com

Long Bennington Methodist Chapel
Steward Eileen Eggleston 07531 160197
Treasurer Kathryn Wood 01400 281489

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Parish Council Clerks
Jane Evans (Long Bennington) parishclerk@longbenningtonparishcouncil.org
Mon 10:30-12:30 at Village Hall Tel: 01400 282716
James Stanley (Foston) clerk@fostonpc-lincs.org 01522 889737
Kate Griffin (Allington) 6 Sedgebrook Road, Allington
Jane Bratton (Sedgebrook) clerksedgebrook@gmail.com 01476 577175
Ted Bates (Chair) Long Bennington Charities 01400 281853

Village Halls: Booking Secretaries

Allington— — Janet Jackson Bookings- bookings.allingtonvillagehall@gmail.com
Foston— Pam Fellows -07740 894605 email fostonvillagehall2023@gmail.com
or Richard Wynn 07579 779087 email fostonvillagehall2023@gmail.com
Long Bennington— bookings@longbenningtonvillagehall.org— 07816 267927
Sedgebrook— Alan Cook— 07963553835

Other Useful Contacts

Long Bennington Medical Centre- 01400 281220
Long Bennington book group— Moire Barnabas- 01400 283313
Long Bennington & Local Villages Rotary Group Secretary LBR@outlook.com
Long Bennington Girl Guides— Mon 7pm-8.30pm— www.girlguiding.org.uk
1st Foston Brownies Thursdays- 6.30pm - 1stfostonbrownies20@gmail.com
Village Hall
Rainbows Thursdays- 5-6pm 1stfostonrainbows20@gmail.com— Village Hall
Scout Group Gorrie Hall, Chapel Lane, Foston
Beaver Scouts Mondays- 6:30-7:30pm Adam Lashbrook
foston.beavers@gmail.com
Club Scouts Wednesdays— 6:30-8pm— Claire Collier 01636 626097
Scouts Thursdays— 7-9pm— Les Romans 01400 281217
Explorer Scouts -Mondays— 7:45-9:30pm— Jenny Wyn 01400 282301

Women's Institute: (each meet monthly in their local village hall)

Allington— 1st Wed 7:45pm— Margaret Dicken— 01400 281524
Foston— 2nd Tuesday 7:30pm— Carole Chandler-Barratt- 07767 657745
Long Bennington— 1st Tuesday 7:30pm— Margaret Butcher - 07484140914 Email: margaretbutcher98@gmail.com

LB Playing Fields: Booking Manager— Gemma Walker— 07946 176034

Management Committee— Mike Manley— 01400 282731
Long Bennington Toddler Group— Becca Thirtle— 07545 491267
Long Bennington Pre-School-longbenningtonpreschool@googlemail.com 07816 537242
Bowls Club— Peter Fordham— 07701059943 email nettyfordham@gmail.com
Friendship Group— Nicola Thorpe— 07904 182752
Tea n Chat -Jane Taylor - 01400 282480
Junior Football Club— Steve Rowley— 07909 857441
Twinning Association— Margaret Butcher - 07484140914
Village Produce Association— Bev Gledhill— 07753 709513
Writing Group— Shirley Lynn— 07726 334280
LB Rotary Club- hello@lbrotary.co.uk
Foston Neighbours - 07422 881448 fostonneighbours@gmail.com



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WHO WE ARE

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OUR VALUE

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OUR VISION

To raise the standard of marketing & service whilst maintaining our values and achieving our mission

01400 221100

stuart@benningtons.co.uk