

Saxonwell Group Parish News

February 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 1st (Candlemas)		
Allington	10.00	Holy Communion
Stubton	10.30	Holy Communion
LB	10.30	Covenant Service at Methodist Chapel
Sunday 8th (2nd Before Lent)		
Allington	10.00	Morning Worship
LB	10.30	Holy Communion
Claypole	6.00pm	Evening Holy Communion
Sunday 15th (1st Before Lent)		
Claypole	10.30	Holy Communion
LB	10.30	Morning Worship
Foston	3.00pm	Holy Communion
Weds 18 th	6.30pm	Ash Wednesday Service at LB
Sunday 22nd (Lent 1)		
LB	10.30	Holy Communion
Dry Doddington	6.00pm	Holy Communion

Please go to link below to see previous issues:

<https://www.saxonwellchurches.org.uk/>

The above services are for **EVERYONE** living in our parish of West Loveden. This 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!!) If you know of neighbours who are without transport, kindly offer a lift too!

Contacts for the Magazine

Advertising , Counting and Distribution Manager
Joy Jordan- joy.g.jordan@icloud.com / 01400 281355
Treasurer - Stephen Peck – tel: 07831 545462
email: Stephen.peckmain@gmail.com

EMAIL ADDRESS FOR ARTICLES:
Sgpnmag23@gmail.com

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

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?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81065711379?pwd=djBjbHZuc2UwSjRmUEZEMEx1dlhQUT09)

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ADVERTISING - IN THE PARISH MAG

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Donations to Magazine

The magazine is produced mainly by volunteers and is paid for from adverts and donations. If you would like to donate, you can use any of the methods below:

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

Cheque to SGPN posted to SGPN Treasurer, Mr Stephen Peck, 81 Main Road, Long Bennington, NG23 5DJ

Hand to any church or PCC member

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

**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 EVENTS OR OTHER
CHURCH EVENTS PLEASE GET IN TOUCH. 07907451595**

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 (Winter timings)

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

Zumba: Thursday 6.00-6.45pm

Yoga: Thursday 7.15-8.15 (NEW)

Yoga: Friday 10.00-11.00am

Social Afternoon: Friday 1.30-4.00pm. (Winter timings) 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.

ALLINGTON VILLAGE HALL CHRISTMAS EVENTS 2025

With the Christmas bunting and the tree up in the hall, the first themed event was the Christmas Market on the 22nd November, which again proved to be a huge success. The hall was once again full of stalls selling a variety of goods, along with games, a raffle and tombola. There was a steady stream of shoppers throughout the afternoon and in between browsing they were able to sit and enjoy a hot drink with a mince pie. The fairs prove to be very popular with the stall holders, as twenty stalls are already booked for the next one. The market was followed by a Christmas Quiz on the 6th December, with well over 70 people attending in teams of eight. More than a few ended up scratching their heads for inspiration, especially when it was the picture rounds to name the celebrities. Everyone tucked into a tasty buffet half way through the evening, before tackling another round of questions in the second half. Due to its popularity, there will be another quiz later on this year. To finish off the Christmas festivities at the hall, the Winter Singers entertained everyone on the 13th December. As with previous concerts, this was a combined fundraising event between the Village Hall and Holy Trinity Church. As well as Christmas Carols, the choir sang some songs from well-known shows, as well as some that were new to the audience. A raffle was held and during the interval hot beverages and mince pies were served.

SATURDAY 31st JANUARY

BIG BRUNCH: 9.30am-12 noon, last orders 11.00am. Drinks and Cake only will be served after 11.00am. On the menu will be a full English breakfast, with bacon, sausage, hash brown, fried egg, grilled tomato and beans. (Optional black pudding.) Or if you're extra hungry you can order a large breakfast. Toast and marmalade available to follow.

Tea/coffee and orange will also be served along with a variety of cakes. A £3 deposit is required for special dietary orders so please message Jackie in advance to order a special diet, on eventsatallingtonvillagehall@gmail.com.

VIEW FROM THE PEW - HOLY TRINITY CHURCH ALLINGTON

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

We had a very successful Christmas Tree Festival weekend 13/14 December. The response from the village was wonderful and overwhelming. We had 16 trees on display. 11/12 December were set up days and it amazed us to see the range of talents displayed. It was a very happy couple of days – all in the spirit of Christmas.

We would like to say an ENORMOUS THANK YOU to all who took part in any way and contributed to the success of the event.

Included in the weekend was another wonderful sell out Christmas concert from the Winter Singers who performed with their usual professionalism and entertained everyone -they will return early in the New Year.

The many visitors to the Festival voted for their favourite tree – the School tree came out tops and the prize was presented at the Carol Service.

The weekend was rounded off by a family carol service at 4pm on Sunday 14th. A packed Church enjoyed the telling of the Christmas story and we all went away with a good dose of the Christmas spirit after mulled wine and mince pies.

Many people have asked when the next Christmas Tree Festival will be – no decisions yet – we have a PCC meeting in January and will try to sort out our programme of events for next year. Will let you know in the next edition of the Parish Magazine.

CHRISTMAS MORNING SERVICE

This was a group Christmas service in our Church which was very well attended with representatives from all 9 churches in our group. A very happy occasion.

COFFEE AND CAKE

Our Coffee and Cake mornings will be held on Monday 2nd February and Monday 2nd March from 10-12 in the village hall. We look forward to seeing you all there for coffee, cake and a chat.

CHURCH CLEANING AND FLOWER ROTA

There has been a really good response to our request for volunteers for both church cleaning and flowers. Marian is now drawing up the rotas and will be in touch with everyone soon.

SERVICE PLANNING

Sunday 1st February – 10.00am – Communion
Sunday 15th February – 10.00am – to be confirmed



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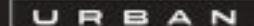


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NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2025

Allington Christmas Market – Saturday, 22nd November 2025, in the Village Hall - Despite a dismal afternoon, there was a particularly good attendance, with a lovely Christmas buzz around the Village Hall. Our stall 'Everyone a Winner', with a prize every time, was an enormous success, enjoyed by all!

Members' Evening – Making a Christmas Table Decoration

On Wednesday, 3rd December our Vice-President, led an evening where we all made a Christmas Table Decoration. It was an extremely fun evening, enjoyed by everyone, which certainly showed many different artistic talents



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Christmas Meal

Then on Friday, 5th December, we enjoyed our Christmas meal at Syston Park Farm, Grantham - a delicious meal, complete with crackers and getting into the Christmas spirit!



Church Christmas Tree Festival

On Saturday, 13th and Sunday, 14th December Allington Church held a Christmas Tree Festival – the theme was ‘What Christmas means to you.’ There was a prize for the best dressed tree, judged by those visiting the event. Entries were invited both from individuals and organisations. Allington WI took part and we decorated our Christmas Tree with hand-made Christmas cards – Christmas is a time when we remember both family and friends near and far, especially remembering those who are no longer with us.



Future Meetings

2026

***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 Empty Blister Packets

The recycling of empty blister packs, Boots are now accepting them and from the 1st November the recycling bins were back in Allington Village Hall where everyone has started filling them again, which is great. However, remember, should you prefer to take your empty blister packs to Boots yourself, then you can claim extra points on your Boots Advantage Card, if you have one! If you have a small amount of blister packs you can put them through the slot on the display stand, but if you have a lot, then there is a door that you can open and just tip your blister packs in.

There will be two recycling bins at the Village Hall – one in the servery and the other in the Annex (where the Post Office comes).

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 Lees on 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

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:

15th February - 3pm - Holy Communion

Mother's Day - 15th March - 3pm

19th April - 3pm - Holy Communion

Many other Services take place across the Group throughout the month – look at the schedule at the beginning of the magazine for all services available. 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

We are currently in the process of creating the events Calendar for 2026 so look out in the next edition for what is planned!



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: 4th February 4th March 1st April

Looking back

Christmas seems a long time ago as we head into February 2026 however it would be remiss not to look back and celebrate the wonderful times we had in the village! At the beginning of the month we had our Christmas Joy event – an open Church decorated beautifully including a number of Christmas trees which had been created by various village groups. Various crafts were also available children (and adults!) to enjoy and it was a good start for getting us all in the festive spirit. Long Bennington Rotary Club provided their annual Santa's Sleigh and seeing the joy on so many children's faces was just delightful! Many thanks to all the Santa Elves who helped collect the kind cash contributions from everyone, and huge thanks to the Rotary Club who opted to donate all contributions to St Peter's Church – the event raised over £300 for us! Our Carol Service on 21st December made sure we were in the festive spirit, and the congregation enjoyed warm mince pies and hot drinks after the service. The festive celebrations culminated with our Christingle Service and final Advent Window (aka the porch) on Christmas Eve. It was magical experiencing the candle-lit Christingles in a full church with twinkling lights outside and a beautiful nativity Advent Window welcoming all into the church. We were delighted to be able to donate £130 to The Children's Society with the collection taken at that service. And that was that as they say We hope 2026 brings good health and peace to all!



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).



FOSTON WI

On the 15th November our WI held a cake and biscuit stall, at our village Christmas fayre, all kindly donated by our members. The Fayre was well supported and started to the Christmas festivities.



On the 17th November Foston WI walked around the village, supporting the WI campaign to end Violence, both physical and mental against to Women and Girls who are at greater risk than men. Asking men to support this campaign. Those unable to attend, showed support by shining a light in their window.



28th November was our yearly wreath making, held in St Peters Church, which was most enjoyable and well supported

On the 9th December, 18 of our members met at Pauls Restaurant, in Bottesford, for our annual Christmas meal. We all chose from their specially created Christmas menu, which was filled with seasonal flavours, with a touch of indulgence. The friendly and efficient staff, helped make it perfect for celebrating and making memories, ending it with a secret Santa gift.



13th December is a very special date for our President, Eileen Ross and her husband Malcolm, as it was their 55th Wedding Anniversary. Their family organized a surprise party, in Foston village hall. Several of their friends and WI members were invited. Both were really amazed when, having been driven around, they arrived back at the hall. Neither having any idea this had been arranged. It was an enjoyable evening for an amazing couple!

13th January – Speaker Philip Braund – on A slight misunderstanding & A humorous look at 50 years in journalism



For further information please contact Eileen Ross 07710 534732 Maggi Challis Publicity – 11&1226



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 7.30- 5.00 during term time. 15 hours of Government funding is available for 2-, 3- & 4-year olds including an addition 15 hours of funding for eligible families. Our payable rate is only £6.00 an hour for any additional hours taken. For more information or to arrange a visit, please call 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.

Long Bennington Village Hall Events Schedule February '26

When	Class/ Meeting	Time	Hall	
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 Mon Mthly	Rotary Club	19:00 – 20:00	Bar	hello@lbrotary.co.uk
Tues weekly	Bennington Art Group	10:00 – 12:00	Foyer	Margaret Butcher 07484 140914 margaretbutcher98@gmail.com
1 st Tues mthly	WI	19:30 – 21:00	Main	Margaret Butcher 07484 140914 margaretbutcher98@gmail.com
4 th Tue mthly	Gardening Club	19:30 – 21:00	Main	Amy Hodson amyhodson4@gmail.com
Wednesdays	Post Office	09:00 – 12:00	Foyer	
Thursdays	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 Fri mthly	WI craft group	1030 - 12:30	Bar	Sue Clarke 01400 282986
Last Fri mthly	Tea and Chat	14:00 – 16:00	Main	Hilda Owen 01400 282471 ejaneecowley@aol.com
Tues 10 th Feb	Wine Club	19.00-21.30	Bar	Raj Solenki raj@libradrinks.co.uk
Sun 1 st Feb & Sun 1 st March	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
Thurs 19 th March	Victor & Albert Musical Comedy Show	19.15 -22.00	ALL	Tickets from https://www.longbenningtonvillagehall.org/events/

LONG BENNINGTON ART CLUB EXHIBITION AND SALE

SATURDAY 23 MAY 2026

LONG BENNINGTON VILLAGE HALL

10.30 AM TO 3.30 PM

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

PLEASE JOIN US TO SEE THE WORK OF OUR VILLAGE ARTISTS

LONG BENNINGTON MEDICAL CENTRE

Wellbeing Walks – Continue in 2026.

Our free Wellbeing Walks take place on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 10:00am, starting and ending at the Medical Centre.

NEW for 2026 – Both shorter walks and longer walks will be available, so don't' worry about your fitness level we have a walk to suit everyone.

Our next walks are on the 21st January & 18th February 2026 – we hope to see you there.



LONG BENNINGTON
Medical Centre



Exciting News - We are expanding in 2026.

We are expanding in 2026 ...There will be some changes in 2026 to include a new additional Clinical room, a Confidential Health Kiosk booth, and a much larger Dispensary. The work is starting on the 21st January and we aim to complete by the 2nd March. We will remain open whilst this work is carried out. We would like to thank our patients in advance for their co-operation and patience whilst these improvements are happening.



Community Book Exchange

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LONG BENNINGTON NEWS FROM THE PEWS

A Happy New Year to all and best wishes for 2026 from the St Swithun's Church congregation. Although 2025 is now well behind us, we still wanted to share some memories of events we held in the run up to Christmas.

A lovely Tea 'n Chat Christmas Lunch was held at Whittakers on 4th December - enjoyed by the regular attendees of Tea 'n Chat. Later in December, those attending the Orston Choir Christmas concert on December 14th appreciated the wonderful singing, and joined in with a few audience participation songs as well as savouring delicious refreshments afterwards. In the following week, we were thrilled to welcome the KS2 children from Long Bennington C of E Academy. Their end of term 'Carols in Church' was attended by lots of family members, and it was great to see the church so packed. The children read passages from the Bible that told the Christmas story so beautifully and gave thoughtful and confident performances of Christmas carols and songs. Rev Jon encouraged the children to join in with his Christmas quiz and explained the benefits of being curious.

Our final Sunday service before Christmas was based around the story of the Fourth Wise Man, which captivated the congregation and prompted thoughts about using our gifts to help others. Thank you to James White who played the organ so expertly at this service.

With the year ending, the St Swithun's PCC decided to make several charitable donations; the main recipients being: Beaumont House Hospice, Newark Salvation Army, Newark Womens' Refuge, and the Grantham Food Bank – see pictures. These donations were from church funds and also included our church's share of the donations from the Santa's Sleigh. Overall, around £1750 was raised by Santa's tour of the Long Bennington and this was split between Rotary, LB Pre-School and St Swithun's church. A big thank-you to all those who supported and contributed to the visits of Santa.



Looking forward now to the run up to Easter we have:

A combined Covenant Service at the Methodist Chapel at 10.30 am on Sunday 1st February. Please note that there is no morning service at St Swithun's Church on that Sunday.

An Ash Wednesday service on 18th February at 6.30 pm at St Swithun's Church. Mothering Sunday on 15th March – details in the March magazine. Easter Week events and services, including a Good Friday Walk between our churches. Details in the March magazine.

Our regular Tea-n-Chat get togethers in St James' Village Hall on the last Friday of the month from 2-3.45 pm. Everyone is welcome to come along.

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



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Long Bennington Gardening Club (Village Produce Association)

We hope everyone is looking forward to the longer days and more gardening!

Our next event will be our AGM and Gardening Quiz on 24 February at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. If you are a member of the Club you should have your Notice of AGM by now - if not just give me a ring or send a text - numbers below and I will get one to you. If you are currently not a member but would like to join for the forthcoming year contact me as below or just come along on the evening and join in the fun. At the AGM we will get through the general AGM business fairly quickly and then move on to the quiz with teams competing for the much prized Dove trophy!

Lots of other information about the Club is available on our website at longbenningtongardeningclub.com

Bev Gledhill - Secretary
01400 282239/07753 709513

LONG BENNINGTON WI

Unfortunately, due to adverse weather conditions, our first meeting for the New Year was cancelled. Our speaker, from Baby Basics, will be re-scheduled for later in the year.

At our last meeting in December, it was a song-filled evening courtesy of musicians Nigel and Terri, who entertained us with their beautiful harmonising voices, along with a few stories and some traditional Christmas songs.

After our entertainment we had home-made mince pies along with Prosecco, during which a raffle was held, along with Secret Santa – always great fun.

The previous Saturday had been our village lights switch-on, with a Christmas Fayre held in the village hall, where the WI had a cake and craft stall, along with a “Guess the Cocktail” cake, ingeniously made by Pearl Scott.

We have also met up for lunch at Whittaker's and had an outing to Floral Media in late November where members enjoyed a special lunch and talk from the owner, who raffled off a beautiful bouquet in aid of Beaumont House.

Let's hope the weather improves for our February 3rd meeting, which is our Resolutions Night.
For more information about our friendly WI, please contact Margaret Butcher on 07484 140914 or margaretbutcher98@gmail.com
Elaine Walton – Publicity

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From the Methodist Chapel

Answered Prayer and Growing Faith

You may remember news coverage of the Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer over the Christmas/New Year break (Sky News, New Year's Day - which seems an age ago now!). This will be a Christian monument built to highlight thousands of personal testimonies of answered prayer. The vision is for each brick to tell its own story - with a means by which visitors can see how prayer has impacted each person who contributes. What strikes me most is not the scale of the monument, but the honesty of the stories behind it. People naming moments where they have known God's help, strength, or presence.



That matters. Testimony always has.

At Long Bennington Methodist Church I am mindful that whilst we are a small chapel, there is nonetheless a depth of prayer and faith. I also know that many people pray, but do not attend church. This can vary over one's lifetime but as a reminder, please know that you will always find a warm welcome here.

Belief is not always easy. It is not something we switch on at will. But belief does give stability and stickability in life, especially when things are hard. Prayer sits right at the heart of that.

I notice a recurring desire across our churches to reinvigorate our prayer life. That is encouraging, but also challenging. Prayer is not always easy to invite people into, partly because we do not always talk clearly about what prayer is, how to pray, or how to talk to God. Sometimes speaking out loud in private can help. Sometimes silence is the prayer. Sometimes prayer is simply allowing space for God to be present.

I once saw an old Methodist Plan where there were more early morning prayer services than preaching services. Rather than seeing that as a religious burden, I wonder what it was about prayer that drew people together so faithfully. Perhaps they knew something we are in danger of forgetting.

For me, prayer is about centering my life on God and God's purposes rather than my own timetable. Yes, I believe God answers prayer. But prayer is also about presence. Knowing that whatever I go through, I do not face it alone. God does not promise a fairy tale ending, but he does promise that he will not leave us. The early apostles knew that truth deeply.

Following a period where people may have set New Year's Resolutions, and possibly have failed them by now(!) please do not forget that the opportunity always stands for you to become part of our worshipping congregation. Perhaps you have reached a point where the time is now right to take a step of faith where you can be strengthened by others, and where they might strengthen you. And if you would value a conversation about faith, please do not hesitate to reach out. I would be delighted to listen and share with you.

Every blessing Langley

<https://news.sky.com/story/mothers-answered-prayers-form-part-of-new-40m-christian-monument-13484863>

Rev Dr Langley Mackrell-Hey

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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.

Covenant Service - Please join us on Sunday 1st February at 10:30am for our annual Covenant Service when everyone will be welcome. The covenant service, is at the heart of Methodists' devotion and discipleship, and their dedication in working for social justice. In the service the Church joyfully celebrates God's gracious offer that "I will be their God and they shall be my people".

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 21st February, 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 £3.00 for bottomless tea or coffee and plenty of biscuits.

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.

SEDGEBROOK SOCIAL 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 2026 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.



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ST LAWRENCE, SEDGE BROOK 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

The church is open every day for give everyone 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.



It was so good to see a packed church for both the White House Farm Nursery and Allington with Sedgebrook Primary School nativity services Both hugely enjoyable and full of the Christmas spirit.

Due to atrocious weather Carols Round the Tree was moved to the Church and our grateful thanks to the Wade Family and helpers for making sure the illuminated tractor and Santa and his sleigh were able to call by, and also to erect and light the tree on the Green. They deserve a medal! Thanks to those who provided mince pies, mulled wine and the incredible array of traditional German biscuits.

This year saw a wonderful array of Christmas trees in church from local organisations including the social club and gardening club, nursery, brownies and rainbows, and knit and natter.

Christmas festivities concluded with a well attended service of lessons and carols. There are no services scheduled for February.





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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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 - 1stfostonbrowines20@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
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