

Saxonwell Group Parish News

June 26



50p where sold



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		
Allington	10.00	Holy Communion
Claypole	10.30	Holy Communion
L B	10.30	Morning Worship
Sunday 14th		
L B	10.30	Holy Communion
Sunday 21st		
Claypole	10.30	Holy Communion
L B	10.30	Morning Worship
Foston	3.00pm	Holy Communion
Allington	10.00	Holy Communion or Morning Worship TBC
Sunday 28th		
L B	10.30	Holy Communion

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!

Please go to link below to see previous issues of the magazine:

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

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Copy Deadline for the July'26 issue is 12 June 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?>

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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

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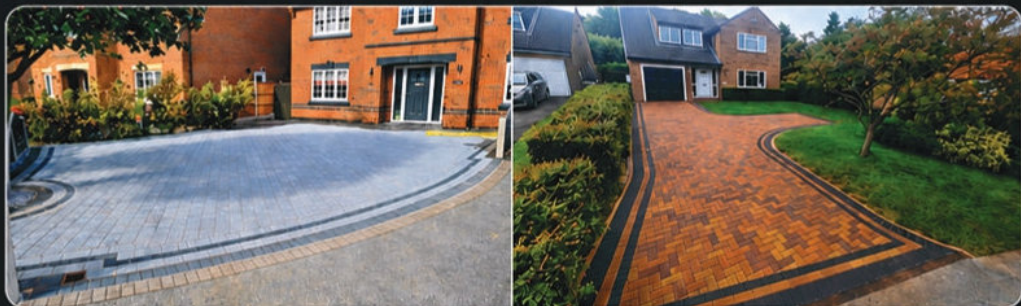


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From the Vicarage

June carries a different kind of energy. The light lingers late into the evening, routines shift, and there is often a sense of movement — of journeys, gatherings, and change. In the Church's year, we are also in a season of growth, following Pentecost, when we remember the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church.



The bible readings in these weeks invite us to consider what it means not just to believe, but to live as people led by the Spirit. In the Acts of the Apostles, we see the early Christians stepping out with courage into the unknown, learning as they go, sometimes getting it wrong, yet continually being guided forward. It is a story not of perfection, but of trust.

Jesus speaks in John's Gospel of the Spirit as a guide and companion — one who leads us into truth, reminds us of all he has taught, and gives us peace that the world cannot give. This is not a distant or abstract promise, but something lived out in ordinary lives: in decisions made with care, in kindness offered freely, in the quiet nudges that steer us towards what is good.

Perhaps June is a time to pay attention to those nudges. Where is God's Spirit prompting you? It may not be dramatic.

It may be a small step: reaching out to someone, offering time, choosing patience, or daring to begin something new.

The life of faith is not about having a clear map, but about learning to walk with trust. As the early Church discovered, we do not walk alone.

May this month be one in which we grow in attentiveness to the Spirit — and in doing so, find ourselves drawn more deeply into the life of God and the life of one another.

Revd. Jon Speirs-Davies

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A black and white photograph of a man in a cap and dark shirt using a long, flexible gutter vacuum to clean a gutter on a house. The background shows a cloudy sky and some foliage.

Rummage Sale

(or jumble sale if you are old school)

With

Pop Up Cafe

On Saturday 20th June 2026

10am – 12 noon

Stubton Village Hall

All donations of "stuff" gratefully received
(but please - no books or large items of furniture).

Please either leave things in St Martin's Church any
Thursday or Saturday or contact Fiona on 07923 873908
or by email at 24spring24@gmail.com, to arrange drop
off/collection.

All proceeds will be going towards essential external
repairs at St Martin's Church



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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 2.00-4.30pm

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

Keep Moving: Thursday 11.30am-12.30pm. Dance fitness class aimed at over 55s.

Hatha Yoga: Thursday 7.15-8.15 (No Yoga 11th June)

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.

SUNDAY 14th JUNE

WINTER SINGERS CONCERT combined with AFTERNOON TEA: 2.00-6.00pm The choir will be singing songs from the shows, with afternoon tea being served during the interval. There will also be a raffle. The event is being organised jointly with Holy Trinity Church, with the profits being divided between the Church and the Village Hall. Tickets costing £12 are available from Chris Smedley, Marian Hubbard, Sally Drury or Jackie Willis on eventsatallingtonvillagehall@gmail.com. The closing date for ticket purchases is Sunday 7th June.

SATURDAY 4th JULY

BIG BRUNCH: 9.30am-12 noon, last orders 11.00am. Drinks and Cake only will be served between 11.00am and 12 noon. Menu consists of 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. Side order of toast and marmalade/jam also on the menu. 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

The Church is now open every day from 10-4pm until the Autumn.

COFFEE AND CAKE

Our Coffee and Cake mornings will be held on Monday 1st June and Monday 6th July from 10-12 in the village hall. We look forward to seeing you all there for coffee, cake and a chat.

We had record attendance at the coffee and cake morning on Monday 4th May. Thank you all for your support and a HUGE thank you to Marian and Margaret for continuing to run these mornings. It takes a serious amount of work to host a morning, from baking cakes and setting up the room to washing up and clearing the room for the afternoon club.

CHURCHYARD

We will be having another tidy up session in the Churchyard during June – date to be announced.

Chris and Sally have spent a long time maintaining the path and surrounding area. We are very grateful and the path looks lovely. Thank you Chris and Sally.



SERVICES

Our next services will be:-

Sunday 7th June – 10.00 – Communion

Sunday 21st June – 10.00 – Communion or Morning Worship tbc

Sunday 5th July – 10.00 – Communion

Sunday 26th July – Our Annual St James' Churchyard service – more details to follow.



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ALLINGTON WI

On Wednesday, 6th May we were joined by Sue and Peter, along with two therapy dogs – Cookie and Crumble, who were both adorable!

At the end of their talk, we were all very quiet and calm - everyone enjoyed stroking and getting to know Cookie and Crumble!

Therapy Dogs Nationwide (TDN), as a charity, was established in early 2016 and is managed entirely by a dedicated team of volunteers – now approximately over 1500 registered volunteers, spread around the UK and relies purely on donations.



theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Volunteers have the unique privilege of working with their own temperament-tested Therapy Dogs, with some having over 10 years of experience. Their focus is always on caring for and supporting people in the community.

A Therapy Dog is not an Assistance Dog – a Therapy Dog is a well-behaved pet, and the difference is that an Assistance Dog is specially trained to help a person with a medical condition or disability.

Volunteers bring expertise from many areas of therapy work and regularly visit a variety of establishments, including:-

- Mainstream and Special Needs Schools;
- Libraries;
- Universities;
- Hospitals and Hospices;
- Nursing and Care Homes;
- Workplaces – i.e. Rolls-Royce plc, Amazon, House of Commons, Lincoln University;
- Prisons and Secure Units.

Their work in residential care homes has improved communication in residents and patients by evoking memories and stimulating conversation. Dogs have also shown to help with special needs and autistic children and adults by giving focus and providing a calming environment. They have many dogs that visit schools to help children develop their reading skills and build confidence.

Through visits with calm, friendly, temperament-tested dogs, the volunteers meet people from all backgrounds—many of whom are facing illness, loneliness, anxiety, or depression. Each visit is a chance to offer comfort and connection.

If your dog is friendly, calm, and loves people – they could be a perfect Therapy Dog! Big or small, young, or old, one eye, three legs – they would all be welcome. Therapy Dogs must be over 9 months old and have lived with you for at least 6 months. There is no special training needed, but all dogs are assessed by trained assessors to make sure they are happy around people/strangers and walk nicely on a lead. Jumping up or pawing is not allowed. Also, volunteers must be assessed.

They also have a large and visible presence at Crufts, including:

- Participation in the Therapy Dog Parade in the Good Citizen Dog Scheme ring;
- Fundraising and promotion on partnering trade stands throughout the show.

Could your dog be the next hero with a tail? Wherever volunteers and Therapy Dogs visit, the smiles speak for themselves, and they can make such a big difference.

For further information about Therapy Dogs and Volunteers please visit www.tdn.org.uk

Next Meeting: Wednesday, 3rd June, at 7.30 for a 7.45 pm start, at Allington Village Hall – Speaker: Kenneth Moore - R.A.F. – You'll fly laughing.
Visitors are most welcome to attend, at a fee of £5.00.

Empty blister packs: There is a bin in the Village Hall Post Office and one in the serving area where anyone can put their empty blister packs, but please ensure that they are completely empty. For further information please contact allingtonwi@gmail.com

Recycling Stamps And Used Printer Cartridges

Used postage stamps are collected for the Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB).

Used printer cartridges, of all types, are recycled to raise money for the David School in Sierra Leone, with the motto 'Education Changes Lives', which was founded over 15 years ago, to provide education for children where there was no school



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.

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).

West Loveden
KIDS

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 21st JUNE

Join us to celebrate
Father's Day!
at St. James Village Hall,
Long Bennington
10:00-11:30

REFRESHMENTS
FOR ALL GAMES

FIENDISH TEAM CHALLENGES!
A fun morning for Dads - other
family members very welcome too!
Run by St Swithun's Church

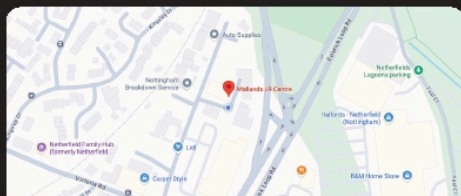
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FOSTON - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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: 21st June 3pm Holy Communion

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.

Upcoming Events

Details for events are underway – keep an eye out here or on the noticeboards!



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 June

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:

And thank you to those who do give regularly already!





9th May – Was a beautiful sunny day, when a trip was arranged to Buckminster Barn and the Lakes. Several of our members met there for coffee, cake and a natter, of course.

They then went outside, in the lovely sunshine, they take in the views over the valley. While out there they arranged to have a photograph with an amazing sculpture of an eagle.



12th May – at our monthly meeting we discussed this year’s WI Resolutions. Which were as follows: -

1. Accessible public toilet facilities to promote dignity, health and social inclusion.
2. Action on Women’s Homelessness

Members were given a summary of each resolution, then shown videos. Pam then gave out a quiz on each subject, which were followed by group discussions. This provided more interaction with members and used mixed media for both resolutions. The results of these were used to highlight the key elements. The final result will be forwarded to the WI Annual General Meeting in June 2026.

For further information - contact Eileen Ross 07710 534732
Maggi Challis Publicity - May 2026



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)

Long Bennington Gardening Club (Village Produce Association)

Our next meeting is on 23 June at 7.30pm at the Village Hall when we will be welcoming Karen Gimson from Loughborough who is coming to tell us all about choosing and growing bulbs.

Lots more information about the Club and our activities is available on our website at longbenningtongardeningclub.com

Bev Gledhill – Secretary 01400 282239/07753 709513

Long Bennington – REGULAR DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

(Please also see Village Hall Schedule)

RiverCare Long Bennington

A group monitoring, managing & protecting the River Witham bordering the village meeting on the 4th Saturday of the month at 2pm to litter pick, clear vegetation, remove invasive species and monitor water quality. Please contact rivercarelongbennington@gmail.com

Mobile Library Service

Outside Long Bennington Village Hall Friday - 1330 – 1430 monthly. 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.

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, stimulating and nurturing environment to educate your child. Qualified, experienced staff will support your child, learning through play, to reach their full potential. Based in Long Bennington Village Hall, we are open Monday to Friday 8.00am- 5.00pm during term time. Government funding is available to eligible families. Our payable rate is £6.00 an hour for any additional hours taken outside of funded hours.

For more information, or to arrange a visit please call 07816 537242 or email longbenningtonpreschool@googlemail.com

Long Bennington Village Hall Events Schedule June'26

When	Class/Meeting	Time	Hall	Contact
Mon weekly	Pilates	10.15-11.00	Main	Linda Brady 07850 618516
1 st Mon monthly	Parish Council	19:00 – 21:00	Small	01400 282716 parishclerk@longbenningtonparishcouncil.org
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	Jan Levanthall Janlevanthall@me.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 Fri monthly	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
TBC	Wine Club	19.00-21.30	Bar	Raj Solanki raj@libradrinks.co.uk
Sunday 7 th June & 5 th July	Love to Dance - Frozen	15.00-19.00	Main	sally.picker@hotmail.co.uk
Sunday 21 st June	Father's Day Event	9.30-11.30	Main	ejanecowley@aol.com
Saturday 27 th June	History Talk Inside the Burial Vault of Edward IV and Elizabeth Woodville	19.30-21.30	Main	Niz.l.smith@gmail.com
View all events and bookings on line			https://www.longbenningtonvillagehall.org bookings@longbenningtonvillagehall.org	



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LONG BENNINGTON MEDICAL CENTRE



LONG BENNINGTON
Medical Centre

Our free Wellbeing Walks take place on the 1st Wednesday of every month at 10:00am, starting and ending at the Medical Centre. Both shorter walks and longer walks are available, so don't worry about your fitness level. There is a walk to suit everyone.

Our next walk is on Wednesday 3rd June – we hope to see you there.

After the walk, we host our members at the practice for a coffee catch-up. This gives everyone a chance to sit down, relax, and chat with others in a friendly environment. It is a great opportunity to meet new people, build social connections, and support overall wellbeing.



Please Keep Your Contact Details Up to Date

We kindly ask all patients to ensure that the contact details we hold for you are up to date.

This includes your mobile phone number, landline number and email address. Having the correct contact details helps the practice contact you about appointments, test results, reminders, health campaigns and other important information.

Please let us know as soon as possible if any of your details change, by contacting our reception team.

Thank you for helping us keep our records accurate and ensuring we can contact you when needed.



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LONG BENNINGTON NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Church Opening and Keeping the Church Open...

We always welcome visitors to enjoy this historic and reflective space, and you will now find the church open regularly from 10am to 4pm from Monday to Saturday in addition to during services.

However, you may be surprised to learn that keeping this special place of celebration, commemoration and worship open and functioning isn't dependent on any central funding. All running costs are met through people's donations, fund-raising, money from village organisations (like the £1000 towards churchyard maintenance we are grateful to the Parish Council for and specific Rotary or Co-op donations) plus fees from funerals and weddings.

To 'balance the books', we need to cover running costs (approx. £41000) shown here itemised based on 2025 rounded figures):

- £22000 – covenanted pledge payment to the central Lincoln Diocese – which part pays for our Parish Priest
- £3200 – for annual insurance
- £4300 – churchyards maintenance
- £2100 – utilities costs
- £7000 – for upkeep of services, minor repairs, village hall hire and Parish Admin.
- £4200 – donations to local charities and village groups

Hence, we are always grateful for any support for our fund-raising events, as well as monetary donations and lending of help or expertise.

Pop-Up Cinema

Our next fund-raiser was highlighted in last month's magazine. On Saturday June 6th – in conjunction with SKDC, we shall be hosting a Pop-Up cinema with a matinee film – Migration - at 2.30pm for families, and a more grown-up evening one – The Ballad of Wallis Island - at 7pm. This is the first time we've had such a large screen in the church!

Tickets are £5 and can be booked through the Guildhall Arts Theatre website (guildhallartscentre.com) – the films are listed under What's On / Local Events (or you can search by the date or the word 'cinema') or book by phone (01476 406158). There is also a QR code on the posters which goes to the online booking page for each film.

Refreshments will be available.

Father's Day Celebration

On Sunday June 21st we are celebrating Father's Day with a fun filled morning of games, fiendish team challenges and refreshments for all. Come along to St James' Village Hall from 10-11.30am – bring Dads and other family members too!

Tea-n-Chat

Our regular Tea-n-Chat get togethers in St James' Village Hall continue on the last Friday of the month. The next one is Friday June 26th from 2-3.45 pm.

Strawberry Cream Tea

On Friday 31st July our regular Tea-n-Chat is being replaced by a Strawberry Cream Tea from 2-4pm. There is a poster in this magazine – which highlights that as well as delicious refreshments there will be a raffle and cake stall - £5 entry and children are free.

POP-UP CINEMA

6th June
7pm

The Ballad of Wallis Island

St Swithun's Church, Long Bennington

£5



Sit back and enjoy a fun filled family film in a beautiful setting.
Refreshments available to purchase on arrival.

Book in advance: 01476 406158 | www.guildhallartscentre.com



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

POP-UP CINEMA

6th June
2-3pm

Migration

St Swithun's Church, Long Bennington

£5



Sit back and enjoy a fun filled family film in a beautiful setting.
Refreshments available to purchase on arrival.

Book in advance: 01476 406158 | www.guildhallartscentre.com



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Strawberry Cream Tea
 at St James' Village Hall, Long Bennington
 Friday 31st July from 2-4pm
 £5 entry for adults – children are free!
 Raffle and Cake Stall
All are welcome!
 In aid of St Swithun's church funds
 and the church's supported local charities

Everyone is warmly welcome to come along to any of the above events as well as to the church services which are listed at the front of the magazine.

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: 50110357o Sort Code: 05-04-42



LONG BENNINGTON BOWLS CLUB
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 CALL 07736 311 854 FOR MORE INFORMATION OR VISIT LONGBENNINGTONBOWLSCLUB.CO.UK

LONG BENNINGTON WI

Tuesday, 5th May 2026 – Prickleback Urchin Hedgehog Rescue

We enjoyed a delightful talk by Rachel Thomas who is the founder of Prickleback Urchin Hedgehog Rescue, Rutland's only hedgehog rescue charity, Prickleback being the old Sussex name for hedgehogs.

The number of European hedgehogs has declined so rapidly in the past 70 years that they are now classed as vulnerable to near extinction. During the 1950's there were believed to be around 30 million of these beautiful creatures but now there are only around 700,000 left. The main factors that have contributed to their decline are the lack of nutritious bugs, beetles and caterpillars, which are also on the decline. We have all noticed the lack of insects on our windscreens when driving over the last few years. Our enclosed, too tidy gardens with no exits for hedgehogs to roam into other spaces have not helped, along with miles of hedges destroyed over the years.

Hedgehogs enjoy roaming and can cover around 1.8km per night, which is an average of 42 gardens. They are solitary creatures with poor eyesight and rely on their sense of hearing and smell to locate food. They will eat frogs, mice, beetles and eggs and usually hibernate during the months of January, February and March but awake around April to feed and breed (they are quite promiscuous and the same litter may have different fathers) with the hoglets being born around May.

Rachel showed us wonderful footage of hoglets with their mothers who have been taken in by the charity to recuperate and heal from various wounds (sometimes strimmer injuries) along with well-meaning people waking them up from their hibernation too early, thinking they are injured. The hoglets are delightful, messy eaters just like our young, and must be fed every couple of hours – Rachel does the night feeds as well as her full-time job but manages to radiate such love for these shy creatures.



The charity relies on veterinary support (often the vets need training from Rachel as her expertise is so strong). She and her husband have invested in state-of-the-art veterinary cages in custom built sheds, and they clearly feel a strong bond with their patients before they can be returned to the wild.

Hedgehogs are very lucky to have them, and any donations will be used wisely to try to keep these lovely creatures in our lives.

Our next meeting will be held on 2nd June and is entitled Baby Basics, which is a charity which aims to provide basics needed for newborns in vulnerable families.

For more information about our friendly WI, please contact Jan Leventhall on 07803892118 or janleventhall@me.com Elaine Walton – Publicity

Long Bennington Parish Council



The Parish Council had its last meeting on 11th May at St James's Hall.

The Annual Parish Meeting had a different format this year. Whilst the usual formalities were complied with, we had the pleasure of a speaker from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight. He provided an engaging talk on the 11 aircraft that the Flight maintain and the volunteer pilots and crew who maintain the aircraft throughout the year.

Subsequently the Annual Parish Council Meeting was held, with Councillors Mark Newton and Geoff Fearn being re-elected to their posts as Chairman and Vice Chair respectively.

The financial accounts for the Parish Council for the year to March 2026 were presented and approved and will be available on the village website shortly. They will still be subject to external audit.

A grant has been sought from Lincolnshire County Council to refurbish the bus shelter on Church Street. We hope to know whether the grant request has been successful within 4/5 weeks.

Disappointingly, there was a break in at The Pavilion during the early Spring Bank Holiday weekend. An internal door was damaged and has since been replaced. The police attended and their scenes of crime officer has taken evidence away.

The community speed watch volunteers are now fully trained and will be active in the village. The most recent speed watch monitored over 260 vehicles, with 10 reported for speeding and one vehicle identified as being on false plates. More volunteers are always welcome.

Forthcoming events:-

- LONG BENNINGTON FLOOD WATER SENSORS - On 18 May between 6pm and 8pm at the Village Hall
- ADULT CPR AND DEFRILLATOR FREE TRAINING – On 19th May between 6.30pm and 9.00pm, the Parish Council are hosting a free training session at the Village Hall

PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS - the Parish Council continues to explore various methods to enhance its communication with residents and to encourage greater community engagement and interaction.

Get Connected!

Be part of the Long Bennington Parish Council Village Email List ...and never miss what's happening locally.



It's quick and free.

Scan the QR code or send an email to: community@longbenningtonparishcouncil.org with your name and preferred email.

Let's build a more connected, informed, vibrant village.

Your details are stored securely in line with data protection legislation.

The Council welcomes and values all comments from residents. Please do not hesitate to share your thoughts and feedback regarding how communication and engagement can be further improved.

The next Parish Council meeting dates Monday 1st June and Monday 6th July.

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

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Full details can be found: markhodsongardensculptures.wordpress.com

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Full details of all artists taking part: www.creative-Lincs.com

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From the Methodist Chapel

As I write, Ascension Day approaches, and with it the period between Ascension and Pentecost marked across the nation by the Churches Together initiative, Thy Kingdom Come. It is a season of prayer and waiting, echoing the experience of the disciples as they waited for the coming of the Holy Spirit.



I would encourage you to take a look at some of the resources available online for reflection and prayer during these days. Ascension itself is often overlooked, but it is a wonderful moment of completion and celebration: Christ has come among us, walked with us, died, risen, and now ascends to the Father. It reminds me of the great hymn Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise with its triumphant Alleluias ringing out from church towers and congregations alike.

One of the details that always makes me smile comes in the Ascension account in Acts of the Apostles chapter 1. The disciples stand staring into the sky after Jesus ascends, only to be asked, “Why do you stand looking up toward heaven?” It almost sounds unfair! If someone had just ascended into heaven before my eyes, I suspect I might stare too. Yet the point is clear: the disciples have been given a task. They are to pray, wait, witness, and then get on with the work God has given them. Faith is not about being so heavenly minded that we are of no earthly use - nor so wrapped up in earthly concerns that we forget heaven altogether. Christian life holds both together.

That challenge feels important for the life of the church today, especially in smaller chapels where many people are already working tirelessly just to keep things going. Yet we are more than a community group that meets simply to plan the work of the church, strengthened only by tea and biscuits - although the tea and biscuits are very good. We are called to leave room for God to move, to pray expectantly, and to remember that the Church is ultimately a movement of people following Jesus together. One of the joys of getting to know the community at Long Bennington has been hearing how warm, welcoming, and open people are. Those qualities matter deeply. So perhaps Ascension leaves us with a simple but searching question: not just “What are we doing?” but “What are we focused on?” As we pray during these coming days, may we keep our eyes on Christ - and our hearts open to those whom God may be calling us to welcome next.

**Every blessing,
Rev. Langley**

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.

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 20th June, 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 Mondays 5.00pm (There is currently no Brownies due to lack of numbers)

Grantham Canine Assoc Tuesdays 7.30 – 8.30pm

Knit and Natter Tuesdays 2.00pm-4.00pm

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

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.

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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

The church is open every day to 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.

AFTERNOON TEAS 2026

The very popular afternoon teas resume in May in the Social Club from 2pm-4pm. If anyone likes to bake a cake they are most welcome. Here are the dates for your diaries. May 28th, June 25th, July 30th, August 27th, September 24th.



200 Club for the maintenance of the church and cemeteries. This year the 200 Club is to help the church continue in the village. The first draw for the 2026/27 will be at the Afternoon Tea in the Social Club on 28th May.

If you wish to renew your membership and/or existing numbers they are still £12 per year with a first prize each month of £30, second prize £20 and third prize £10. The bank account details for payment are St Lawrence Church sort code 20-63-28 account no 03579743. Please remember to reference this with your name so we know who has paid. You can also pay direct to our collectors by cash or cheque who will be coming round in May. Payment can also be made direct to Alan Cook if you miss our collectors. Please let Alan Cook now on 07963553835 or email alpaco47@aol.com if you use this method.

There are spare numbers available if you want to change or add new ones or if you don't currently take part. Winners are announced on the noticeboard each month.

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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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
Martin Wright (L. 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
Dermot Daly (Sedgebrook) clerk@sedgebrook-pc.gov.uk 01476 577175
Ted Bates (Chair) Long Bennington Charities 01400 281853

Continued...

Village Halls: Booking Secretaries

Allington— Heather Mould 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—Sue McGreevy on 07952 205599

Other Useful Contacts

Long Bennington Medical Centre- 01400 281220
Long Bennington book group—Moire Barnabas - 01400 283313
Long Bennington & Local Villages Rotary Group SecretaryLBR@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—Jan Leventhall on 07803892118 or email janleventhall@me.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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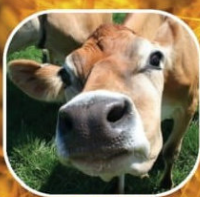
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