

A close-up photograph of numerous small, five-petaled pink flowers with yellow centers, growing on green stems with small, pointed leaves. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, and some buds are visible.

Saxonwell Group Parish News

May 25



50p where sold



saxonwellchurches

www.saxonwellchurches.org.uk

Service Rota for May 2025

Sunday 4th (Easter 3)

10am	Communion	Allington
10.30am	Communion	Claypole
10.30am	Morning Worship	Long Bennington

Sunday 11th (Easter 4)

10am	VE Day Service	Allington
10.30am	Communion	Long Bennington
6pm	Communion	Stubton

Sunday 18th (Easter 5)

10.30am	Communion	Claypole
10.30am	Morning Worship	Long Bennington
3.30pm	Communion	Foston

Sunday 25th (Easter 6)

10.30am	Communion	Long Bennington
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Thursday 29th (Ascension Day)

6.30pm	Communion	Claypole
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The Saxonwell Group Parish News (SGPN) magazine is distributed to every household in Allington (Red), Foston (Green), Long Bennington (Blue) and Sedgebrook (Yellow).

Join a Local Church Service on Zoom

Compline each Wednesday at 7.15pm.

Evening Prayer on the last Sunday of the month at 5pm

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

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

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

From the Vicarage

We live in a world that seems to lurch from one crisis to another. One day, markets crash; the next, they soar. Trade deals falter, inflation bites, and through it all, the richest often seem to get richer.

Meanwhile, ordinary people carry the weight of uncertainty, rising costs, and decisions made far from their everyday lives.



It's tempting to think this is just the way the world works: the powerful stay powerful, and the rest of us hope not to slip. But Holy Week, still fresh in our memories, tells a different story.

Palm Sunday begins with cheering crowds and the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. By Friday, the cheers have turned to shouts, "Crucify him." It is a staggering fall—from messianic hope to public humiliation, from royal welcome to torturous death. And yet, it is precisely in that apparent collapse that something world-changing happens. There, at his lowest point, Christ lifts up the least: a common thief is ushered into paradise.

The cross is not just a symbol of suffering—it's an inversion of power itself. Where the world rewards elites who posture towards strength, Jesus shows true strength in love. In God's Kingdom, the last are first, the poor are blessed, and the meek inherit the earth.

This is not just comforting—it is reorienting. If you've ever felt passed over, let down, or left out, Jesus's Easter message is that you are not forgotten. You are, in fact, invited into the heart of God's redeeming work.

May we follow Jesus not just in the hosannas of Palm Sunday but through the shadows of Good Friday, so we can stand in the light of Easter morning—not with illusions of worldly success, but with the deep joy that comes from knowing God lifts up the lowly.

Rev'd Jon Speirs-Davies

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Sgpnmag23@gmail.com

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ADVERTISING - IN THE PARISH MAG

Full page colour £50

Full page b/w £40

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Half page b/w £25

Quarter page colour £19

Quarter page b/w £15

Eighth page colour £13

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, 36 The Pastures, Long Bennington, NG23 5EG

Hand to any church or PCC member

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UPCOMING EVENTS

**JUNE
8TH**

**PENTECOST CELEBRATION
ST. PETER'S CLAYPOLE
2:30-4PM
PARTY VIBES FOR THE
CHURCH'S BIRTHDAY**



**JUNE
15TH**

**FATHER'S DAY GAMES AND SNACKS
LONG BENNINGTON VILLAGE HALL
10-11:30 AM**

**JULY
12TH &
13TH**

**SUMMER EVENT
ST. SWITHUN'S LONG BENNINGTON**



**CHILDREN PLEASE
BRING YOUR
SUPERVISING
GROWN UP**



**ALL OF THESE EVENTS
ARE PUT ON FOR FREE
BY OUR CHURCH
MEMBERS FOR THE
COMMUNITY**

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.

Zumba: Thursday 6.00-6.45pm

Allington Morris: Thursday 8.00-10.00pm (September – April)

Yoga: Friday 10.00-11.00am

Warm Hub: Friday 12.00-1.30pm. Free lunch of soup, bread and hot drinks.

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 a 7.45pm start.

Visitors always welcome – £5.

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

Grantham Danserye: 3rd Saturday 2.00-5.00pm

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 VikingSquares contact Judy Grummitt on 01400 281497.

FORTHCOMING EVENT MAY: By popular demand the Winter Singers will be entertaining us with another concert on the 9th May. Further information in the May magazine.

VIEW FROM THE PEW – HOLY TRINITY CHURCH ALLINGTON

PROGRESS ON OUR PROJECT

Sunday 6th April was our first Sunday back in the Church for many months. It was such a pleasure to be back and to be able to worship again in our lovely Church.

We still have painting and decorating and one or two areas needing attention but we can sort this as time goes on. We will be buying some tables and chairs for the servery area but we will continue to have our coffee mornings in the village hall to support the village hall committee in their fundraising.

We are inviting Bishop Nicholas to a service of reopening and rededication. It is proving quite difficult to find a date when the Bishop is available but as soon as we have a date we will organise the service and invite everyone to join us.

DEREK AND HAZEL'S 70th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS: On Sunday 13th April we attended a very happy event in the village hall to celebrate Derek and Hazel's 70th Wedding Anniversary. Well done both!! It was a lovely afternoon with entertainment, good food and a delicious anniversary cake.

COFFEE AND CAKE: Our Coffee and Cake mornings will be held on Monday 5th May and Monday 2nd June from 10-12 and will remain in the village hall. We look forward to seeing you all there for coffee, cake and a chat.

We continue to thank all our loyal supporters who enjoy our coffee and cake mornings and always look forward to welcoming new visitors and friends. A warm welcome awaits you all.

CHURCH CLEAN UP: A huge thank you to all those who turned up to help with the Church clean up. A huge amount was achieved and we were able to make the Church ready for the 6th April.

SERVICE PLANNING: Sunday 4th May 10.00am Communion
Sunday 18th May 10.00am Morning Worship

We are hoping the service of reopening and rededication will take place during May if the Bishop is available.

EASTER MARKET: Saturday 12th April – an excellent event. A huge thank you to all those kind people who made and donated cakes – we couldn't do it without you. We have booked cake stalls at the Christmas Market this year and the Easter Market next year.

FUTURE EVENTS

WINTER SINGERS: We are again joining with the Village Hall Committee to host a concert by the Winter Singers on Friday 9th May. Tickets £8 to include tea and biscuits. We to provide 3 raffle prizes.

CREAM TEAS: As part of the village celebrations for both VE day and VJ day Chris Baron and Sally Dury have volunteered to hold cream tea events. These events will take place on Sat and Sun 10/11 May and Sat and Sun 16/17 August with special commemorative services on both Sundays. The teas will be at Chris and Sally's on the Saturdays and at the Church on the Sundays.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL: Plans are moving forward. Dates have been fixed for the event to take place on 13/14 December with set up days 10/11 December. On event days 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'.

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.

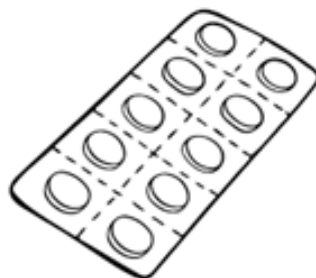
DO YOU HAVE EMPTY BLISTER PACKS FROM MEDICATION?

PLEASE RECYCLE THEM

**Lots of us end up with lots of empty blister packs,
and most end up in landfill.**

**ALLINGTON WI ARE COLLECTING THEM TO
RECYCLE AND HAVE PUT TWO BINS IN THE VILLAGE
HALL – ONE OUTSIDE THE KITCHEN (SERVING
AREA) AND ONE IN THE POST OFFICE.**

**If you visit Grantham, blister packs can be recycled
in Superdrug in the
Isaac Newton Centre.**



ALLINGTON WI



Our speaker in April was Dorothy Gaughan, who is the Grantham Foodbank Co-ordinator. Appointed in July 2023, she thoroughly enjoys her job, helping people to survive. There are approximately 40 volunteers, working in 4 teams. Anybody can be a volunteer, so if you're interested in being one of the 40,000 who help countrywide, then just go to your nearest Foodbank and offer your help!



Every day people in the UK go hungry for reasons ranging from redundancy to receiving an unexpected bill on a low income. A simple box of food makes a big difference, with foodbanks helping prevent crime, housing loss, family breakdown and mental health problems. The amount of food being distributed in a year is on the increase – as much as 73 tonnes of food in one year.

The Foodbank works using a voucher referral system. They partner with a wide range of care professionals such as doctors, health visitors, social workers and police to identify people in crisis and issue them with a voucher. This can then be presented to a foodbank, where it can be redeemed for 3 days' emergency food, along with a warm welcome, friendly advice and a warm drink. Clients can receive a voucher once every fortnight. Volunteers in the Admin team check the clients' details to ensure all the paperwork is recorded accurately.

Donated food is checked to see that it is in date, sorted and packed into boxes ready to be distributed. Food is donated by businesses, schools, churches and individuals. Pasta, rice, cereal, biscuits, baked beans, tins of fruit, rice pudding, curry and mince are always welcome, fresh vegetables like potatoes, carrots, parsnips are also donated, as is dog and cat food, pets being very important to some Foodbank clients.

Donations can be taken to Grantham Foodbank – 9.00 am – 11.00 am – Monday to Friday.

Future Meetings:

7th May 2025 – Members only activity evening.

4th June 2025 – Speaker: Milly Lawson – Licentious Ladies of the 18th and 19th Century - 7.30 for a 7.45 pm start, at Allington Village Hall. Visitors welcome to attend, at a fee of £5.00.

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 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. For further information email allingtonwi@gmail.com

ROTARY CLUB - ACTION IN ALLINGTON



Rotary meets in Long Bennington, but it gets around both physically and in what it gives in support.

Rotary has visited the Allington with Sedgebrook Primary School on two separate occasions. With the enthusiastic support of the past Head Teacher and Mrs Hammond, Rotary has presented the pupils with challenges and widened their horizons.

The first visit was just after Covid, when two Rotarians presented a project End Polio Now that engaged the pupils in knowing more about the crippling disease, how it is preventable and where it still exists. They raised money to buy purple crocuses which they and their family planted near the church. They can be seen each Spring ongoing.



This term the same team showed the girls and boys the importance of good water and how to bring it to villages in rural Uganda. They now know where Uganda is and how lives are improved by installing easily maintained wells. They are currently raising money for the project.

One older boy from the village is being supported in his aim to visit and help people in Indonesia. His dad was so impressed that he joined the club! Come along and see if you would want to come with him!

We invite and welcome Allingtonians to LB Rotary meetings 2nd and 4th Mondays 7pm LB Village Hall. hello@lbrotary.co.uk





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The good news is that we are no longer alone in “Beating the scammers”. Action Fraud are now actively working on reducing this kind of crime. And we can help them by telling them when we are being targeted. Over 32 million suspicious emails have been reported to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS). These reports, by people like us, have led to more than 329,000 websites addresses being removed by the National Cyber Security Centre.

Action 1: Received an email that doesn’t feel right? STOP and THINK! Report suspicious emails by forwarding them to: report@phishing.gov.uk. Send emails to this address, even if we are not certain they’re a scam – they will be checked.

Action 2: Always forward suspicious text messages or scam call numbers, free of charge, to 7726. Your provider can find out where the text came from and block or ban the sender.

“ To report a scam text, forward it to 7726 and then send the sender’s number when prompted.

“ To report a scam call, simply text 7726 with the word ‘Call’ followed by the scam caller’s number.

Action 3: If you’ve lost money or provided financial information as a result of a phishing scam, notify your bank immediately using the telephone number on the back of your card. Also report it to Action Fraud at actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040

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. 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:

18th May – 3pm - Holy Communion APCM afterwards

15th June – 3pm - Holy Communion

20th July – 3pm - Holy Communion

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.

Upcoming Events

Current planned events for 2025 are:

- 5th May – Village VE Day Celebrations – Foston residents are invited to a village picnic where hog roast is provided (vegetarian alternative available) at the Village Hall 2.30-6.30pm. The Church will be open over the weekend, displaying war memorabilia and providing a contemplative space for those who want to remember and honour the occasion.
- 18th May – Annual Meeting after the Church service at 4pm – all welcome and we would appreciate all feedback and thoughts about the upkeep of the Church at the session.
- 7th June – Open Day at the Church (10am-2pm) depicting its current uses as well as its history. Tower Tours planned, weather permitting.
- 6th July – Afternoon Tea in the Garden
- September – Heritage Open Days – once the dates and theme have been announced we can develop our offering, but we are likely to have a speaker on the heritage of the church, tower tours (weather permitting) and the Village Heritage Trail.

- 21st September – Harvest Service (3pm) followed by Harvest Supper on Monday 22nd September
- 9th November – Remembrance service (4pm)
- November – Wine Tasting
- December - Carol Service and possible advent festival – dates and themes tbc.
- 24th December – Christingle Service (4pm)

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: 7th May 4th June 2nd July

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: Sadly, money is needed to keep the Church running – any help is greatly appreciated!



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

Several of our members attended Shrek the Musical at the Newark Palace Theatre, having seen their performance of Evita last year, knew it would be excellent and in fact it was amazing. Every character was well drawn, not just the principals but every nursery rhyme and fairy story characters. The mechanical dragon and sets seemed real. Little Lord Farquaad had them all giggling (and they're still giggling), he didn't feel evil at all! It was an evening that lifted everyone's spirits.



On 18th March, several of our members attended a display of “The Red Dress” project, at Harrogate. Conceived by British artist, Kirstie Macleod, it provided an artistic platform for particularly women, and communities around the world, many of whom are vulnerable or live in poverty, to tell their stories through embroidery. From 2009 to 2023, pieces of The Red Dress and later the completed garment, travelled the globe. Constructed out of 87 panels of burgundy silk dupion, the dress has been embroidered on by 367 women/girls, 11 men/boys and 2 non-binary artists from 51 countries, earning a place in the Guinness World Records 2025 for the largest embroidery. This beautiful object highlights the common ground between individuals.



Our April Speaker was Rob Brunswick, from the “Lincolnshire Emergency Blood Bikes Service”. He explained in detail how they all travel all over Lincolnshire, transporting donor breast milk, blood, organs, medication, and medical equipment between hospitals and healthcare facilities, for those who need them urgently! There are 156 Riders, 22 Controllers and 8 Supporters, all of whom are volunteers! They also attend Fundraising Events to obtain donations, as it costs in the region of £50,000 per year.

May 13th - Resolutions Evening, Craft & Social

For further information or you wish to join us any time - please contact.
Eileen Ross 07710534732

Maggi Challis, Publicity



ROTARY CLUB - ACTION IN FOSTON



Rotary meets in Long Bennington, but it gets around both physically and in what it gives in support.

Look around in the Spring and you will see purple crocuses around Foston village hall that remind that someone in Foston bought the corms to help End Polio Now – a Rotary International project.

Hidden in the roof of the Village Hall new wiring keeps the place lit and warm – and Rotary supported with a donation. This with financial support for Gorrie Hall is where we can help in times of need.

Rotary helped with Foston Scouts in supporting the filling of flood containment sandbags, as well as their being part of the clean-up of St Swithuns Churchyard. The latest event was the trimming of the overgrown hedges around Foston village hall – and here Rotary combined with the great Young Farmers, who put their backs into joint action together.

There is always the unforgettable Santa's annual visit, and not to mention our Parties in the Park.

Welcome to Fostonians who wish to join with others to make our world a better place: - Rotary meets 2nd and 4th Monday 7pm LB Village Hall. hello@lbrotyary.co.uk



LONG BENNINGTON ART GROUP

This year will be our 3rd Art Exhibition and we hope to see you all there. Please come in and join us. Wander around our lovely exhibition and see the huge amount of painting talent within our village. There will be plenty of paintings that you will hopefully love and buy.

Any queries, please contact Margaret Butcher on 07484140914

**ART EXHIBITION & SALE OF PAINTINGS
TO BE HELD AT LONG BENNINGTON VILLAGE HALL
SATURDAY 17TH MAY 2025
10.30AM TO 3.30PM
REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE. EVERYONE WELCOME**

LONG BENNINGTON GARDENING CLUB (VPA)

ANNUAL PLANT SALE

**Saturday 17th May 2025 outside the Methodist Chapel
from 10.00 am to 11.00 am**

Come along to our annual plant sale, a great opportunity to buy more plants for your garden at very reasonable prices, plus you will also be supporting your local Gardening Club. If you have any surplus plants, either flowers, shrubs or vegetables to donate please bring them along on the morning of the sale or to 5 Main Street, prior to the sale. You can also visit our website to find out what is happening in your local Gardening Club throughout the year. So, make a note of the date, don't be late and come along and grab a bargain. We look forward to seeing you on the day.

longbenningtongardeningclub.com

Open Garden and Sculpture Trail

We will be hosting an Open Garden, Sculpture Trail & Plant Sale last weekend of May 2025, Saturday 24th, Sunday 25th & 26th Bank Holiday Monday, 10am to 4 pm.

Admission is free & dogs are welcome on a lead, our garden does slope down to the river Witham, so not wheelchair friendly. Many sculptures will be on display and for sale.

The address is 11 The Meadows, Long Bennington NG23 5EL.

Hope to see you, Mark & Amy



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Long Bennington – REGULAR DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

(Please also see Village Hall Schedule)

Long Bennington Village Hall Committee AGM

Wednesday 10th April 2024. 7.30 p.m. All welcome. Agenda will include annual reports from the Chair and Treasurer and election of key committee roles.

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

All are welcome. We meet alternate Mondays at 2pm at 76 Main Road. For more details please contact Joy Jordan on 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@googlegmail.com

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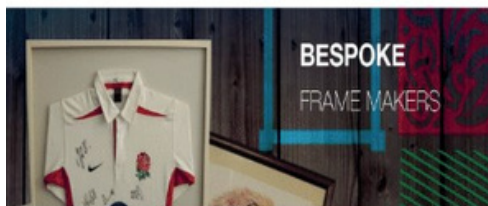
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Long Bennington – Village Hall

When	Class/Meeting	Time	Hall	Contact
Monday 29 th April	Quiz -cash prizes	18.45-21.30	Main,Bar	LB management Committee & Rotary event. Tickets £5 from Sharrick's, The Village Hall Weds 9-12, Thurs 13.00-15.00 or online www.longbenningtonvillagehall.org/events/
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 Monthly	Rotary Club	19:00–20:00	Bar	secretaryLBR@outlook.com
Tues weekly	Bennington Art Group	10:00–12:00	Foyer	Margaret Butcher 07484 140914 margaret23butcher@btinternet.com
1 st Tues monthly	WI	19:30–21:00	Main	Margaret Butcher 07484 140914 margaret23butcher@btinternet.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	May not be available on election day (4 th May)
Thursday Weekly	Yoga and Relaxation	9.45-10.45	Main	namastevoga.uk@gmail.com or message 07349 936695
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 monthly	Tea and Chat	14:00–16:00	Main	Hilda Owen 01400 282471 ejanecowley@aol.com
Thursday 1 st May	Local Elections	6.00-22.30	Main	Local Elections
Saturday 17 th May	LB Art Group Exhibition	9.30-15.30	Main	Margaret Butcher 07484 140914 margaret23butcher@btinternet.com
TBC	Wine Club	19.00-21.30	Bar	Raj Solanki raj@libradrinks.co.uk
Sunday 4 th May, 18 th May, 1 st June	Electric Jive	15.00-19.00	Main	theTramp@justabeginner.com
Sunday 25 th May	Rotary family Bingo Night	17.00-21.30	Main, Bar	secretaryLBR@outlook.com

Help Needed

If you are a resident of Long Bennington and would like to ensure the future stability and indeed, the existence of the hall, you would be warmly welcomed to join us. Without more active volunteers, we will be severely limited in the number of events for the village and surrounding areas we can support.

We meet once per month for a couple of hours. Call us on 07816 267 927 or email us at bookings@longbenningtonvillagehall.org if you are interested.

For more information on the Hall visit our website:-
www.longbenningtonvillagehall.org and/or join our Facebook page:- Long Bennington Village Hall (aka St James Hall)
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/820082729967125>



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LONG BENNINGTON NEWS FROM THE PEWS

The Spring sunshine finally arrived last month along with the blossom, primroses, wood anemones and other wildflowers in the St Swithun's churchyard. The sun also shone for our Mothering Sunday event in the Village Hall that celebrated mothers with brilliant pictures which the children of Long Bennington Church of England Academy had produced of their mums. It was wonderful for church members to welcome Mums along with their children to enjoy the exhibition of pictures along with coffee and pastries, and a thank-you posy of daffodils.



The children from school also came to the church on the last day of term along with parents and carers. Their service was themed around the hope of Easter and they had produced some amazing posters at school as shown in the photo.

By the time you read this, we will have held a further children's event in St Swithun's church - part of the West Loveden Kids activities - on Easter Saturday. Later on, in June, our Father's Day event will be held in the village hall - more details in next month's magazine!





As we described in last month's magazine, our Grade 1 Listed Church Building has, during the last 25 years, suffered from significant movement in the North Aisle and East Chancel Walls, largely due to the breakdown of the drainage around these areas. This resulted in significant cracks in the wall and part of the main stained-glass window falling out. The underlying problem was successfully dealt with in 2019, funded by grant providers plus significant money from our church funds, donations and fund raising. So now we can go ahead with the required repair work.

The total cost of the required repair project is likely to be around £50,000. The PCC has applied to 3 Grant Providers for help with funding, and these applications are all in progress, but all require applicants to meet part of the cost themselves and we will need to raise £25,000 ourselves.

Fund raising has started well, and this year, we have already raised money through a sponsored cycle ride and Co-op Community Champions collection, for which we are very grateful. Progress towards our fund-raising goal will be reported in the magazine and using a barometer positioned outside the church gate.



Plans are also proceeding for a major Summer Fundraising event on 12 & 13th July at the church (see 'Save the Dates' poster in this magazine). To make it a success, we are asking for help, including:

- Business and individual sponsorship
- Business services contributions
- Donations of competition and raffle prizes
- Buying raffle tickets when they go on sale
- Providing help on 12th or 13th July
- Putting the date in your diary and bringing friends along on the day

We have seen in the past how the village has real heart for worthy and charitable causes. It would be amazing if we could rise to the challenge once again and help restore our historic and beautiful village church. The Summer Event Organisers would love to hear from you if you can help in any way. Please contact us at: lbchurchrepair@gmail.com if you would like to offer your support.

Also, monetary donations can be made:

- By online bank transfer:
 - o Account Number: 50110357
 - o Sort Code: 05-04-42
- Through our Give a Little page (see QR Code)
- By cheque addressed to: Long Bennington PCC
- Using our contactless card machine in church



We also make use of the Parish Giving Scheme: <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk> where you can easily search for our church and choose either 'Regular Giving' or 'One off gift.'

Events listed will be held in the Church, unless otherwise stated.

DATE	EVENT
Last Friday of each month	Tea-n-Chat, 2.15pm to 3.30pm Village Hall All Welcome
June 8th	West Loveden Kids Activity, 2.30pm
June 15th	Father's Day Event, 9.30am to 11.00am, Village Hall.
July 12th	Art/Crafts Weekend & Strawberry Tea. Details yet to be decided.
August 1st - 30th	Summer Holiday Children's Activities. Details yet to be published.
September 20th	Harvest Supper, 7.00pm Village Hall.
September 21st	Harvest Festival Service, 10.30am. West Loveden Kids Activity, 2.30pm
October 11th	Cranwell Military Wives Concert-'Last Night of the Proms', 7.30pm.
November 9th	Remembrance Service, 10.15am Methodist Chapel. Remembrance Ceremony, 10.50am Memorial Gardens. Remembrance Lunch, 1.00pm Whittakers Restaurant.
November 16th	West Loveden Kids Activity, 2.30pm
December 4th	Tea-n-Chat Christmas Lunch, 12.30pm Whittakers Restaurant.
December 13th or 20th	Choir Carol Concert. (TBC).
December 13th & 14th	Santa's Sleigh, 4.00pm to 8.00pm each day around Village.
December 21st	Carol Service, 10.30am.

LONG BENNINGTON MEDICAL CENTRE

· We will shortly be using a new way of inviting patients for long term condition and medication reviews. In your birthday month we will send you either an appointment invitation or a questionnaire message. If you get a message, please click the link to book your appointment or complete the questionnaire.

· Thank you for all the messages we received in the "Thank you" campaign. We were delighted to read all the lovely messages. We are also pleased to announce that we came 2nd in the competition.

· We will be hosting an away wellbeing walk on the 14th May 2025, this is in addition to the wellbeing walk on the 21st May 2025. Please look out for further information on this walk on our website.



LONG BENNINGTON
Medical Centre



LONG BENNINGTON BOWLS CLUB

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Opening Times
Wednesday – Saturday 09:30 – 4.00
Sunday 11:00 – 4:00



LONG BENNINGTON WI



1st April 2025 – Members Night

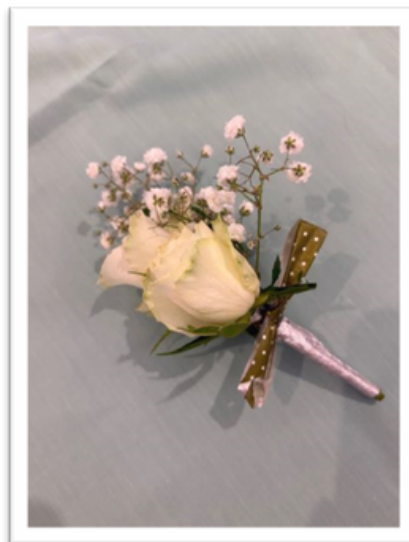
Members Night is where the WI members provide food and entertainment for the Committee as a way of thanking them for all the work done during the year. It is always much appreciated and enjoyed, this year being no exception.

Our evening began with the Committee being presented with beautiful corsages, made by Jeanne Day, before enjoying a superb buffet. Long Bennington WI are well known for their skills and baking is up there. Such a tasty spread.

Our evening entertainment was a talk by Jane Bennett who was a £10 Pom and who lived in New Zealand and Australia. She and her husband left England during the warm summer of 1973, during the 3-day week and landed in an unseasonably cold New Zealand with no warm clothing in their cases. It was a culture shock, with the small market town of Hastings still sporting hitching rails for horses. Also, the job she was expecting as a freelance journalist fell through, due to the fact the male employees felt they wouldn't be able to swear in front of her. Despite all the setbacks and the slogan "Punch a Pom a Day", she enjoyed her time there, raising her family and becoming adept at removing unwanted snakes with a litter picker and occasionally eating camel, snake and kangaroo. She returned in 2014 with no regrets but wonderful memories. Home is home, after all.

Long Bennington WI meet at 7.30 on the first Tuesday of the month at Long Bennington village hall. Our next meeting will be held on May 6th where Dawn-Marie Lesh will demonstrate her work as a Drugs Dog handler, and she will be accompanied by her labrador and springer spaniel.

For more information, please contact Margaret Butcher on 07484 140914 or margaret23butcher@btinternet.com
Elaine Walton – Publicity



LONG BENNINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

LONG BENNINGTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – MONDAY 12th MAY 2025

Please make a note in your diaries and come along to help shape the priorities for our village for the coming year. This can be relating to drainage, parking, speeding, local community facilities, our open spaces or anything you feel strongly about. The Parish Council invites you to submit any questions or raise any issues that can be covered at the meeting.

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

News of County Elections

Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority Mayoral Election and Lincolnshire County Council Elections - Thursday 1 May 2025

The scheduled election of all councillors for Lincolnshire County Council will be held on 1 May 2025, together with the first election of Mayor of the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority. Polling stations across the South Kesteven District Council area will open at 7am and close at 10pm on this day.

Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority Mayoral Election. Voters across the Greater Lincolnshire area, which includes the area covered by Lincolnshire County Council together with the areas of Northeast Lincolnshire and North Lincolnshire, will vote for the first elected mayor for the Combined County Authority on 1 May.

Lincolnshire County Council Elections

The election of the Lincolnshire County Councillors who represent the 14 county divisions within South Kesteven will also take place on 1 May; The electoral divisions within the South Kesteven area are: Bourne North and Morton, Bourne South and Thurlby, Colsterworth Rural, Deepings East, Deepings West and Rural, Folkingham Rural, Grantham Barrowby, Grantham East, Grantham North, Grantham South, Grantham West, Hough, Stamford East and Stamford West. Further information is available on South Kesteven website. Cllr. Paul Wood Tel: 07769038693

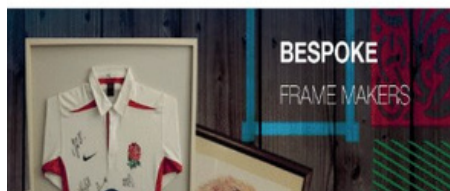


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WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE METHODIST CHAPEL?

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.

Easter

Good Friday - This service will be on Friday 18th April starting at 6:00pm

Easter Sunday – 20th April starting at 10.:30 as normal

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 one week earlier than usual on Saturday 12th April, starting at 10am so come along and join us when there will be homemade cakes for sale and a raffle Entry costs £2.50 for bottomless tea or coffee and plenty of biscuits.



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Dear Friends,

Impending deadlines reinforce the message that time is in short supply.

It is true in the world of work, when there are things to be completed for specific times; and in our personal lives – with the recurring planning for birthdays, anniversaries, holidays and major festivals – some of which is also reflected in our patterns of worship, reflection and celebration in church; and deadlines also come to the front of our minds when we are diagnosed with a serious illness or we know that we have to have surgery to repair our bodies at a certain time. And there are those other markers of time when we move house or pass from one stage of life to another, when dates are fixed and preparations have to be made.



For my wife and I the latter is very much in mind, as we prepare to move house at the beginning of June and I prepare to retire from fulltime work on 31 August. There is a lot to be done in a relatively short space of time, and it takes a great deal of self-control not to panic. You will have your own memories of such things – or perhaps you are also preparing for a significant life change yourself.

This month, still in the season of Easter, the church focuses on the work of Jesus preparing his disciples for the time when he will no longer be physically with them – the time when he will be with them in spirit – or rather in the Spirit. He had much to explain in less than six weeks, and you might wonder, given their track record, how much they would be able to take in and understand. Fortunately, he pointed out that when the Spirit came at Pentecost he would continue to teach them and inspire them and to guide them in their progress as the continuing representatives of Jesus on earth.

Like all changes that happen, they could not work every detail out in advance. Nor can we. Our plans do not go “according to plan” often enough for us to know that we need much more to be expect the unexpected than to have all the details nailed down in advance. Like them, we have the wisdom, presence and encouragement of God simply to move forward and “make the way by walking”. As we go we will encounter challenges and delights on our path, and both may be the will of God for that particular moment and place, if we have the courage to embrace them and see what happens.

So, wherever you are on your life’s path, keep moving forward with hope and anticipation. The Spirit of Jesus leads us on.

Grace and peace,
Dave Bonny

David H. Bonny

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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 sedgebrook social club@hotmail.co.uk.

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

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, the food bank collecting point, and the opportunity for a peaceful space and private prayer.

HOLY WEEK

The sensory meditative pathway in the church for reflection during Holy Week was available every day with creative crafts and colouring, prayer resources and items telling the unfolding story of the cross and resurrection. There were also free mindfulness and meditation sheets and aids to prayer to take away.



EASTER DAY

The Easter Family Service with traditional Easter Egg Hunt and refreshments saw Ron Webster play the Bryceson organ for the Easter hymns. Our thanks to him and to Alan and Geraldine for organising Easter lilies and reading out the names of loved ones who we traditionally remember on Easter Day.

AFTERNOON TEAS

Held on a Thursday in the Social Club 2pm-4pm Please note the new venue.

Here are the dates for the year for your diary:

15th May, 26th June, 24th July, 28th August, 25th September.
All including a raffle.

There are no services planned in May.

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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West Loveden Minister Rev Jon Speirs-Davies Jon.sd@lincoln.anglican.org

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 01400 281932

St Peter's Foston

Church Warden/Treasurer Andrew Blanchard 01476 978664/ 07590652657

Safeguarding Officer Eileen Ross 01400 281932

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

Jane Morton (Allington) parish.clerk@allingtonpc.org.uk

Jane Bratton (Sedgebrook) clerksedgebrook@gmail.com 01476 577175

Ted Bates (Chair) Long Bennington Charities 01400 281853

Village Halls: Booking Secretaries

Allington— Heather Nuthall Secretary - secretary.allingtonvillagehall@gmail.com

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—Longbenningtonvillagehall.org.uk—07816 267927

Sedgebrook—Alan Cook— 07963553835

Other Useful Contacts

Long Bennington Medical Centre- 01400 281220

Foston book group Lucy Bliss - lucy.painter@opalhr.co.uk—01400 282661

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 657745Long

Bennington—1st Tuesday 7:30pm—Margaret Butcher - 07484140914 Email:
margaret23butcher@btinternet.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

Twining Association—Margaret Butcher – 07484140914

Village Produce Association—Bev Gledhill— 07753 709513

Writing Group—Shirley Lynn—07726 334280

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