

Saxonwell Group Parish News

November 25



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

1st Sunday

Allington	10am
Claypole	10.30am
Long Bennington	10.30am

2nd Sunday

Long Bennington	10.30am
Stubton	6pm

3rd Sunday

Claypole	10.30am
Long Bennington*	10.30am
Foston	3pm

4th Sunday

Long Bennington	10.30am
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All are Holy Communion except 1st and 3rd Sundays at Long Bennington which is Morning Worship.

Where there is a 5th Sunday, there will be a service for the whole group, the venue will be advertised on local notice boards.

Join a Local Church Service on Zoom

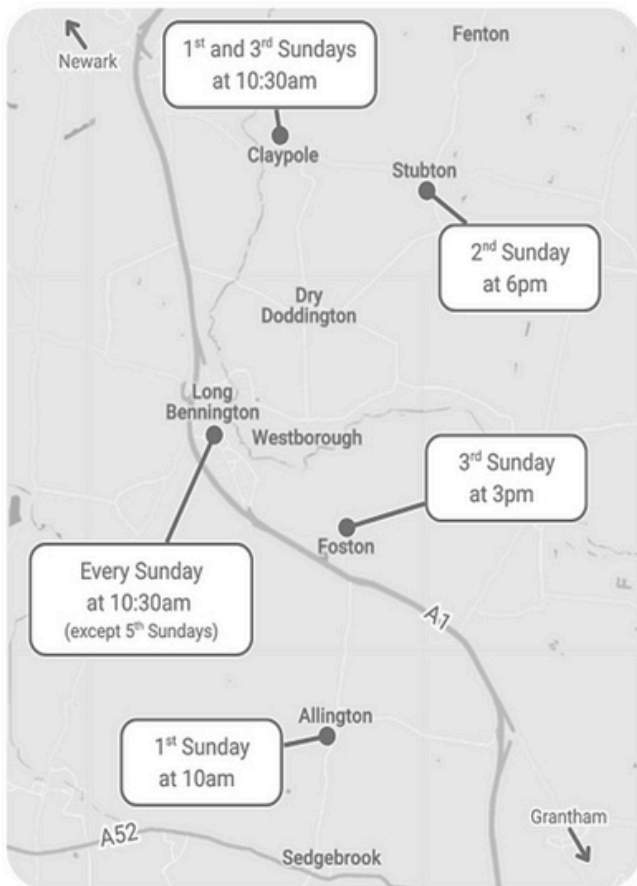
Compline each Wednesday at 7.15pm.

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)



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

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

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

Contacts for the Magazine

Advertising , Counting and Distribution Manager Joy Jordan-
joy.g.jordan@icloud.com / 01400 281355
Treasurer - Jill Froggatt jill.froggatt40@btinternet.com

EMAIL ADDRESS FOR ARTICLES:

Sgpnmag23@gmail.com

Copy Deadline for the Dec'25 & Jan'26 issue is 12 Nov 2025 at 5pm

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From the vicarage...

Eighty years ago, on 11 November 1945, the world marked its first Armistice Day after the end of the Second World War. The guns had finally fallen silent, yet across Europe and beyond, the scars of conflict were everywhere — in cities reduced to rubble, in families grieving their dead, and in hearts weary of hatred and loss. It was a moment of fragile hope: could humanity learn a new way to live together after such devastation?



The prophet Isaiah, writing more than 2,500 years earlier, imagined a world transformed by peace: “They shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks.” (Isaiah 2:4) These words were spoken to a people living amid fear and violence, surrounded by powerful nations and constant threat. Isaiah’s vision was not naïve optimism but a radical reimagining of what humanity could become — choosing to turn the very tools of destruction into instruments for nurturing life.

That same challenge faces us today. In recent weeks, the Gaza peace agreement has offered a glimmer of hope after so much suffering and bitterness. We hope and pray for all other wars to be brought to their speedy and lasting conclusion. Peace, if it is to last, cannot be simply the absence of war. It must grow in hearts willing to see former enemies as neighbours, and to rebuild what has been broken — homes, communities, and trust.

As we pause this month to remember those who gave their lives in war, may we also commit ourselves to Isaiah’s vision. Each of us has the power to choose whether the tools in our hands — our words, our resources, our influence — will wound or heal. May we use them to wage peace, build understanding, and nurture life, so that future generations might truly inherit a world where swords have become ploughshares.

Kind regards, Jon

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Christmas



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VILLAGES.**



**DECEMBER 7TH
1-4PM**



ST. PETER'S CHURCH,
CLAYPOLE



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

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.)

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 Viking Squares contact Judy Grummitt on 01400 281497.

SATURDAY 22ND NOVEMBER CHRISTMAS MARKET

2.00-4.00pm. You are invited to join us at our annual market, with stalls selling a wide variety of items. These include gifts, bric-a-brac, glassware, cards, plants & flowers, bakery, fabrics, knitted and crocheted items, plus a Raffle and Tombola. Donations of Raffle and Tombola prizes will be most welcome along with help on the day. Entry £1 (children free), refreshments will be on sale. If you wish to donate a prize or offer your help, please message Jackie on the details below.

SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER CHRISTMAS QUIZ

6.30 for 7.00pm. Our brilliant quizmaster, Alan, will be returning to test our grey matter once more with another of his very entertaining quizzes based on a Christmas theme. Once more there will be a scrumptious buffet on offer, just bring your own drink. At £10 a ticket it will be a night not to be missed. Tickets will be on sale nearer the time from both Jackie on: eventsatallingtonvillagehall@gmail.com and David on chair.allingtonvhmc@gmail.com

SATURDAY 13TH DECEMBER WINTER SINGERS CONCERT

7.00 for 7.30pm. We are pleased to welcome back the choir to entertain us with another musical evening of songs old and new. As previously the evening is being organised jointly between the Village Hall and Holy Trinity Church, with the profits being divided. If you haven't been to a previous concert, the singers are a close harmony mixed choir, who have performed both around the UK and abroad. They have also won several competitions and performed in the BBC Choir of the Year Competition. Tickets £8 includes tea/coffee, mince pies and a free raffle ticket with the entrance ticket. To purchase contact either Jackie or David as above or Marian Hubbard from the Church.

VIEW FROM THE PEW - HOLY TRINITY CHURCH ALLINGTON

COFFEE AND CAKE: Our Coffee and Cake mornings will be held on Monday 3rd November and Monday 1st December from 10-12 in the village hall. We look forward to seeing you all there for coffee, cake and a chat. The October coffee morning raised over £300 for Leukaemia research. A huge thank you to everyone.

SERVICE PLANNING: Sunday 2nd November 10.00am Communion

SERVICE PANNING - ADVANCE NOTICE: Thursday 25th December – We are hosting the Loveden West Group Christmas Morning Service -10.00am – Rev Jon

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL IN CHURCH 13/14 December with set up days 10/11 December.

BOOKINGS ARE STARTING TO COME IN – WE HAVE 12 OF THE AVAILABLE 19 SPACES FILLED CURRENTLY. PLEASE LET MARY KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO TAKE PART ASAP.

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'.



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

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

**ADVANCE NOTICE
SANTA IS VISITING ALLINGTON WITH HIS
SLEIGH ON MONDAY 8th DECEMBER –
MORE DETAIL TO FOLLOW AS SOON AS
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GEM OF AN EVENING WITH FRANCES CARLAW – ‘THE PEARL LADY’

Allington WI members and visitors all enjoyed an interesting, illustrated, fascinating, intriguing, and humorous talk by Frances Carlaw, known as ‘The Pearl Lady.’ Her love of pearls began as a child, and her love and knowledge of the gems shone throughout her talk. Since then, her love of pearls has taken her all over the world doing talks to at least eight hundred Women’s Institutes.

All the profits from the jewellery she sells, support some of the world’s most impoverished children in South Africa, which helps to house, feed and educate them. It is a charity very close to Frances’ heart.

She explained that there are three categories of pearls – natural pearls, found in the wild, cultured pearls grown in pearl farms, and faux or fake pearls. The latter are glass beads sprayed with pearlescence. Natural or wild pearls are very difficult to find on the vast ocean bed with one pearl for every 10,000 shells. Therefore, they have been treasured throughout the ages and are gems prized by royalty and the wealthy.



The La Peregrina pearl - a very rare 1" long teardrop, is one of the most famous in the world. In the past it was owned by the Spanish monarchy, before being bought by Richard Burton for the film star Elizabeth Taylor.

Frances told us the history of the most expensive set of pearls the world has ever seen, worth £10,136,299,418! (shown on the display in the first photo attached). This multi-million-pound collection started life in the 1500s as the Medici Pearls, but was later owned by Mary Queen of Scots and Elizabeth I and travelled around many Royal houses in Europe, until the remaining pearls now reside in the English Crown Jewels. The collection survived several beheadings, civil war, royal greed and intrigue! The story is fascinating, historical and encapsulates theft, mystery and murder. Only four pearls are left and are in the State Crown.

So next time you watch the Opening of Parliament, look and admire the four pearls on the King’s Crown. Frances was excellent and hilarious in her storytelling.

Frances encouraged everyone to take care of their pearls and store them separately to prevent scratching and marks.

Frances brought with her a wide range of pearls and beautiful jewellery for everyone to buy, with all proceeds going to support her nominated children’s charity. A wide range of natural and cultured pearls can be viewed on Frances’ website: www.ThePearlLady.co.uk

ALLINGTON WI FUTURE MEETINGS

2025

Wednesday, 5th November Members' Night – Members only
 Wednesday, 3rd December Liz Bailey – Christmas table decoration – Members only

2026

January – NO Meeting
 *Wednesday, 4th February The Story of The Two Crosses – the life of William H. Coltman VC (told by his great-grandson, Tim Coltman)
 Wednesday, 4th March Annual Meeting followed by light entertainment – Members only
 *Wednesday, 1st April Debbie Starr – Silk Painting

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



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Recycling of Empty Blister Packs



Boots are now accepting empty blister packs, and as from 1st November the recycling bins will be back in Allington Village Hall. Should you still wish to support this initiative, along with Allington WI, then there will be two recycling bins - one in the servery and the other in the Annex (where the Post Office comes). However, if you are able to take your empty blister packs to Boots yourself, then you can claim extra points on your Boots Advantage Card. Small amounts can be posted through the appropriate slot on the display stand, but if you have a lot, then there is a door that you can open and just tip them in.



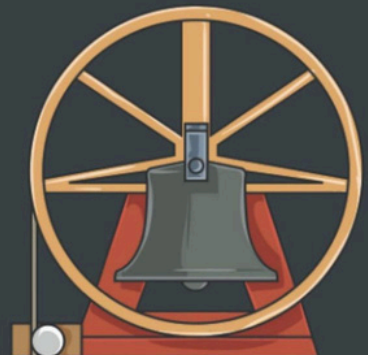
For further information please email
allingtonwi@gmail.com

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. For further information please email allingtonwi@gmail.com

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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. It's easy to get in touch – just call or email, details above

ST PETER'S FOSTON – NEWS FROM THE PEWS

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

9th November 4pm Remembrance Service

16th November 3pm Holy Communion

21st December 3pm Carols with Holy Communion

24th December 4pm Christingle Service

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.

Village Yard Sale & Heritage Weekend

What a weekend we had 20th /21 t September! The weather threatened too much for the Yard Sale to take place on the Saturday so it was pushed to Sunday but the late change seemed to make it more successful! We saw lots of people out and about visiting the various Yard Sales as well as visiting the church, learning about the heritage of the region and enjoying the views from the tower.



A huge thanks to the Village Hall Committee for their enormous contribution to the Church Funds by selling the playgroup toys which had accumulated in their shed over the years. Likewise we hugely appreciated the WI flower arranging skills – the flowers were beautiful in the Church. And of course, these events can't happen without all the volunteers on the day, bakers, setter uppers and the taking downers – thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to a fun village weekend! Particular thanks to Christine, the parishioner who suggested and managed the Yard Sale – you superstar! Together, we raised over £1,000 for St Peter's with this event – thank you everyone!



Harvest Service & Harvest Supper

We went straight into our Harvest Thanksgiving following the Heritage and Yard Sale Event. Over 50 people enjoyed a delicious Harvest Supper coordinated with finesse by Eileen Ross – she did us all proud yet again! Thank you to everyone who helped. It was a true celebration for a rural community.

The Church looked beautiful with the numerous flower arrangements, the food was delicious and the company was great fun.



As well as a wonderful Service and a very convivial evening, we received many food donations which have been taken to the Grantham Passage, for which they were very grateful.

Upcoming Events

9th November – Remembrance Service (4pm) including the Uniformed Youth Groups

Wine Tasting – 21st November; tickets available from Lucy on 07740 980689

Santa's Sleigh – 6th December for a village visit from 4pm

21st December – Village Carol Service (3pm)

Christingle Service – Christmas Eve, 24th December (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: 5th November 3rd December 7th January

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.



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).

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)



Scout Leader Volunteer Required

Can you help Foston Scouts to deliver another great year of activity for the young people of Alington, Foston, Long Bennington and surrounding villages? If so, please contact Les Romans - M:0793 9025853 or email lesromans63229@gmail.com Together, let's inspire young people to take a break from the digital and have meaningful adventures in real life.

On the 12th September some of our Foston WI members went to view the finale of the Downton Abbey film. They followed the Crawley family and staff as they navigated change and embraced a new chapter for Downton. It beautifully wrapped up the family saga with a mix of nostalgia, drama and reflection. The Crawley's had to embrace change with the next generation leading Downton Abbey into the future. It was most enjoyable. On 11th October members had a coffee morning at Westgate Bakeries, Grantham, for the first time. They were offered a wide selection of pastries and cake's, which had been freshly baked. The environment was very welcoming, with a helpful and friendly service.



At our meeting on 14th October, Jo Grace a Physiotherapist, came to talk on Keeping Fit & Supple as we mature and demonstrate, exercises to help keeping active and preventing falls. Starting off she explained how people, who live in the Blue Zone Areas in the world, live to be over 100.

Research showed this was because they were very active, with excellent movement due to gardening and yoga. They had a Mediterranean diet, including a glass of red wine a day and coffee. Jo went on to explain the various things we should eat, to improve our health and exercises to improve our sleep, bones and muscles. All of which benefitting our lives as we grow older. Helping to prevent falls and accidents, by decluttering our surroundings. We found her talk and exercises most useful and enlightening.



11th Nov: WW11 Lost in Action with Speaker Shelagh Coates – Open evening, Guests welcome £5.00 - including refreshments

For further information please contact Eileen Ross 07710 534732

Maggi Challis Publicity – Oct2025



LONG BENNINGTON MEDICAL CENTRE



Covid Winter Vaccinations

We are now administering Covid vaccinations here at the Medical Centre. We will notify patients who are eligible via a message. Please watch out for your message and your link to book your vaccination appointment.



Well-Being Walks

Our Wellbeing walks take place every 3rd Wednesday of the month at 10:45am. All welcome to attend. There is also an away walk scheduled for Wednesday 12th Nov 2025 in Grantham for a 10am departure, please meet in the Queen Elizabeth Park car park. What 3 words location W3W///reclining.tones.parts.

Long Bennington – REGULAR DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

(Please also see Village Hall Schedule)

Mobile Library Service: Outside Long Bennington Village Hall Friday - 1330 - 1430. Enquiries to Customer Service Centre on 01522 782010 or www.lincolnshire.gov.uk

Tea-n-Chat: Started by St Swithun's church to provide a place for people to meet in warm, friendly surroundings. It is held in Long Bennington Village Hall on the last Friday of every month from 2.15 - 3.30pm. (except holiday breaks in August and December). Everyone is welcome, and tea, coffee and cakes are provided. Please feel free to join us.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Long Bennington Gardening Club (Village Produce Association)

We had an excellent Summer Show at the beginning of September with the Village Hall looking amazing with so many flowers, vegetables and produce. Thank you to everyone who contributed and congratulations to the winners.

Our next meeting is at 7.30pm on 28 October at the Village Hall when we will have a talk on “A Beginner’s Guide to Gardening with Alpines, Bulbs & Woodland Plants” by Rob Potterton from Potterton’s Nursery in Nettleton. All welcome.

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

Bev Gledhill – Secretary - 01400 282239/07753 709513

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Long Bennington – Village Hall

When	Class/Meeting	Time	Hall	Contact
Mon weekly	Beginner to intermediate Pilates	11:45 – 12:45	Main	Linda Brady 07850 618516
Mon Weekly	Advanced Pilates	10.30-11.30	Main	Linda Brady 07850 618516
1 st Mon monthly	Parish Council	19:00 – 21:00	Small	Jane Evans 01400 282716
2 nd & 4 th Monday Monthly	Rotary Club	19:00 – 20:00	Bar	hello@librotary.co.uk
Tues weekly	Bennington Art Group	10:00 – 12:00	Foyer	Margaret Butcher 07484 140914 margaretbutcher98@gmail.com
1 st Tues monthly	WI	19:30 – 21:00	Main	Margaret Butcher 07484 140914 margaretbutcher98@gmail.com
4 th Tue monthly	Gardening Club	19:30 – 21:00	Main	Amy Hodson amyhodson4@gmail.com
Weds weekly	Post Office	09:00 – 12:00	Foyer	
Thurs weekly	Post Office	13:00 – 15:00	Foyer	
Thurs weekly	Adult Pilates Suitable for all levels	17:15 – 18:15 & 18:30 – 19:30	Main	Amanda 07967387969 https://www.corestrengthpilatesuk.com
Fri weekly	Adult Pilates -all levels	09:30 – 10:30	Main	Amanda, As Above
1 st & 3 rd 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
Tuesday 11 th November & Tuesday 9 th December	Wine Club	19.00-21.30	Bar	Raj Solanki raj@libradrinks.co.uk
Friday 14 th November	The Grape Wine Challenge with Raj Solanski	18.30	Bar, Main	Tickets £15 -limited to 55, so book early ! https://www.longbenningtonvillagehall.org/events/ Doors open at 6.30 for pre-event cocktails.
Saturday 15 th November	Christmas Cracker Workshop	9.30-15.00	ALL	Contact Lindy Lodge oldoswestrian@gmail.com
Saturday 29 th November	Christmas Lights Switch on	13.00 -19.30	ALL	Stalls, refreshments, -contact Rotary for stalls hello@librotary.co.uk
Sunday 2 nd November, Sunday 7 th December	Love to Dance - Frozen	15.00-19.00	Main	sally.picker@hotmail.co.uk
Sunday 7 th December	Newark Makers Market	9.00-14.00	ALL	Tina Barker newarkmakersmarket@gmail.com
View all events and				https://www.longbenningtonvillagehall.org/bookings@longbenningtonvillagehall.org

View all events and bookings online at <https://www.longbenningtonvillagehall.org>

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>

Remembrance Commemoration

Sunday 9th November 2025

**Remembrance Service in the
Methodist Chapel at 10:15am.**

**Wreath Laying Ceremony in the
Memorial Gardens at 10:50am.**

**Please come and join us to remember
the fallen in conflicts past and present.**





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LONG BENNINGTON NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Big Thank -you to Volunteers for Churchyard Clean-up

The autumn churchyard clean-up on Sunday 5th October was a joint venture with the Long Bennington Rotary Club and the Scouts working alongside regular church members. We had a great turn-out and there was a lovely community spirit as we weeded, chopped back and cleared to prepare the churchyard for the winter months. Thank-you.



With summer now behind us and Advent rapidly approaching it is a time to look ahead, however, we cannot let some past events go without mention:

School Harvest Service

We were delighted to welcome Long Bennington Academy for their Harvest Service at 10am on 9th October, with the whole school making their way down Church Street on foot as usual. The service was led by Head and Deputy Head Teachers David Nicholson and Jim Haigh, with each of the Year groups presenting their part of the Harvest event. It was a joy to hear singing of different genres – from a powerful Harvest Rap to the Choir's rendition of Amazing Grace – as well as explanations of artwork and pupil thoughts on Harvest.

Other pupils led us all in beautifully clear prayers, while Rev Jon added a thoughtful message based on God blessing us through the harvest, and why we come to give thanks – complete with a cloak and a crown as visual aids! We are really grateful to all the staff who worked so hard to plan the service and prepare all the pupils, and to the many parents who were able to join us to make this such a joyous festive occasion – with the church so full we were really able to raise the roof with thanksgiving for all that God has provided for us.



Harvest Supper

Our Harvest Supper on 20th September was well attended and everyone enjoyed a homecooked supper, raffle and fabulous singing from the Rock Choir. We loved the choir's performance and would like to thank them for coming from all over our region – including from Derby, Melton Mowbray and Lincoln. Thanks are also due to all who supported the event – which raised (when all costs were deducted) around £450 for the church wall and window repair fund.



Military Wives Concert.

Hot off the press, we are reporting also on the Military Wives concert. As always, the Cranwell Military Wives delivered a sometimes poignant and other times rousing evening along the theme of: 'Last Night of the Proms'. This is the fifth time they have visited our church - which is such a privilege for us. Members of our PCC also delivered two very interesting readings - one about Long Bennington in WW2 and the other detailing a History of the Last Night of the Proms. Again, it was great to see a full church enjoying this concert. From the ticket donations we were able to give £250 to the Military Wives Charity and put nearly £2000 towards the repairs fund.

Ride and Stride

This year's Ride and Stride event, organised by the Lincolnshire Churches Trust, took place on a Saturday 13th September. We are grateful to Alison and David Cunningham and their dog Monty – as well as all those who sponsored the walk between the churches of Claypole, Dry Doddington, Westborough and Long Bennington. The money raised was over £235 - to be split between the LCT Fund (which provides grants for church repairs) and our village church.

Church Repair Project

We are thrilled to confirm that the repair works to the church's North Aisle and Chancel areas, including repair and replacement of the stained glass window are now complete. The building has been thoroughly cleaned by a large band of volunteers and back and running for the events, such as those described above and all services. As we said in last month's magazine - a big 'thank you' to all who have donated towards the cost of the repair project or helped with associated fundraising; we have almost reached the financial finishing-line to the required £50k.



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We are looking forward to quite a few up-and-coming events including:

- o A Thanksgiving Celebration on October 26th which will celebrate the completion of the wall and window repairs as well as harvest
- o Remembrance Commemoration on Sunday 9th November.
- o In Memoriam Reflections (All Souls) Please note this service timing has changed to Sunday 23rd November at 3pm at St Swithun's Church. Please contact Joy Jordan (01400 281355, joy.g.jordan@icloud.com) if you would like names to be read out.
- p Tea-n-Chat Christmas Lunch on 4th December
- o Santa's Sleigh on 13th and 14th December in Long Bennington (see poster)
- o Orston Choir concert on 13th December at 3pm (see poster)
- o Christmas Service 21st December 10.30am

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 WI

Tuesday, 7th October 2025

At the beginning of our meeting, we held a one-minute silence for Anne Watkin, who sadly died in September. She attended both the WI and Craft meetings and was a well-liked and respected member.



We had hoped to watch a demonstration of the art of Macrame and make a keychain, but unfortunately the speaker had to cancel at short notice due to illness. Luckily Pearl Scott arranged a Quiz Evening instead, which was great fun and allowed us to have a longer chat and catch-up over tea and biscuits.

A book stall was also held where books, jigsaws and magazines were donated and sold for a nominal sum. A great way to re-cycle and recommend new books.

Our next meeting in November is our 107th Birthday Night, where we will be holding a Murder Mystery Evening, with committee and some members taking part in the Detective Club Mystery. Afternoon tea and drinks will be served after which the murder will be solved!

We are also looking forward to a lunch being held at Floral Media in November, which is a wonderful way to start the winter celebrations – the food there is delicious.

We will once again be supporting the Salvation Army this Christmas but this year they have requested donations at our November meeting instead of December. This gives Santa more time to wrap gifts/books for children age 12+.

Members, see you in November where the murderer will be revealed! For more information, please contact Margaret Butcher on 07484 140914 or margaretbutcher98@gmail.com

Elaine Walton – Publicity



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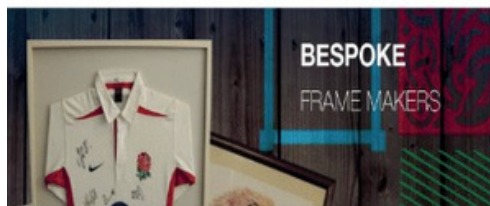


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LONG BENNINGTON - PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council had its last Parish Council meeting on 6th October at St James's Hall.

New Councillor: Following the resignation of Mick Brooks, Councillors discussed the application from Andrew Taylor (being the sole application) and following a vote, it was resolved to approve his co-option to the Parish Council. Welcome Andy!

Thanks to Mick Brooks for his dedicated support for the Council and local community, particularly in connection with running the local Community Speed Watch initiative and as the main contact with the local Policing team.

Footpaths: The Parish Council has reported the verge on Church Street close to the bus stop. It has eroded with the drop now, in part of it, being close to a foot high and mud has blocked the nearby surface water drain. Lincolnshire CC have agreed to kerb across the front and graduate the verge to the kerb to make it safer and stop the overrun. It is expected this will be done at the same time as the planned reconstruction scheme on the footway starting in January 2026.

Playing Field: The Pavilion upgrade project completion had slipped slightly but is on budget and should be handed over on 10th October. Some minor external works are outstanding. Councillors discussed the offer of a grant from The Football Association, Greener Game Investment. The offer is for a maximum of £17,062.34 plus VAT to cover the cost of Solar Panel installation to the Pavilion roof. This was formally accepted by the PC as land owner. There are no financial implications for the Parish Council and this will be another local community building benefiting from greener energy (and hopefully lower bills!).

Defibrillator - Woods Close: The defibrillator at Woods Close is currently out of service following an issue with the combination lock on the external cabinet. Following some local maintenance efforts, it is now opening with no issue. However, it was agreed that given the age of the defibrillator and the recommended lifespan, a replacement is to be purchased now. The approximate cost for the defibrillator and cabinet plus installation will be £2000. Provision in the budget next year is to provide for replacement of the defibrillator at the Police Office.

Following Parish Council meeting dates
Monday 3rd November 2025 and 1st
December 2025.

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

Jane Evans Parish Clerk



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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. Come along and meet our new Superintendent minister Rev. Dr. Langley Mackrell-Hey on Sunday 30th November at our Holy Communion service where 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 15th November, starting at 10am so come along and join us when there will be homemade cakes for sale, a raffle and wonderful Nearly New Stall which is always full of exciting items and great gift opportunities. Entry costs £2.50 for bottomless tea or coffee and plenty of biscuits.

Food Bank - Newark: 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 Newark area through the local Food Bank branch

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SEDGEBROOK SOCIAL CLUB REGULAR DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Church and Museum open daily 10am-4pm

Free Church Guide

Heritage Group meets bi-monthly 4th Sunday in the Social Club 3pm

Community Library and Jigsaws, Recycling for aluminium cans and ink cartridges

Grantham Food Bank collecting point

Children's Corner

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

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

HARVEST FESTIVAL

The traditional harvest thanksgiving took place on 12th October with Ron Webster playing harvest hymns on the Bryceson organ. A gift was presented to Ron for playing the organ at services through the year, and flowers were presented to his wife Mary. The service centred around our thanks for all that the community does to support the church and keep it alive, as well as the offering of the fruits of the harvest. Gifts had been brought to the church for the Grantham Foodbank and donations for produce also went to the Foodbank. After the service cakes were served.



AFTERNOON TEAS

We have come to the end of the afternoon teas for the year, following a very successful season in the Social Club. The new venue has attracted many new villagers including children, dogs and the Guinness delivery man as well as parish councillors. All have enjoyed the opportunity to get together in a relaxed atmosphere and to sample the delicious home-made cakes on offer. £545.03 has been raised for church funds so far with an additional afternoon tea on October 23rd. The September afternoon tea was for Cancer Research and raised £300.



PLANNED SERVICES AT ST LAWRENCE, SEDGEBROOK

Sunday, 9th November 10.30am Service of Remembrance

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

Friday 5th December 6.30pm Carols round the Tree

Friday 19th December 2pm Allington with Sedgbrook C of E Primary School nativity service

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



THE GRAND OLD OPREY COMES TO SEDGEBROOK FOR SINEAD HOWITT

In an amazing response from villagers £1238.00 was raised for the British Heart Foundation in memory of Sinead Howett of Abbey Lane, who died aged just 24 from a heart attack.

Sinead loved country music and while the grand old osprey visited The Albert Hall in London, Sedgebrook Social Club had its own version. There was a country quiz, a prize for the best outfit, themed food, a huge raffle with Dolly Parton cake and the world premiere of a country song performed in memory of Sinead. The evening ended with line dancing.

The proceeds will be presented to the British Heart Foundation at Boundary Mill with Sinead's mother, Linda in attendance.



Huge thanks to everyone who did so much for the night and those who couldn't come but gave generously to make the event such a huge success and great fun. You are all heart!



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



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Retired Priest Rev. Stella Langdon-Davies
Authorised Lay Ministers Sylvia Andrews, Joy Jordan and Colin Sedgewick
Administrator Davina Tyler lovedenwest@gmail.com

CHURCH CONTACTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

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

Village Halls: Booking Secretaries

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

Other Useful Contacts

Long Bennington Medical Centre- 01400 281220
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 657745
Long Bennington—1st Tuesday 7:30pm—Margaret Butcher - 07484140914 Email: margaretbutcher98@gmail.com

LB Playing Fields: Booking Manager—Gemma Walker—07946 176034
Management Committee—Mike Manley—01400 282731
Long Bennington Toddler Group—Becca Thirtle—07545 491267
Long Bennington Pre-School—longbenningtonpreschool@googlemail.com 07816 537242
Bowls Club—Peter Fordham—07701059943 email nettyfordham@gmail.com
Friendship Group—Nicola Thorpe—07904 182752
Tea n Chat -Jane Taylor - 01400 282480
Junior Football Club—Steve Rowley—07909 857441
Twinning Association—Margaret Butcher – 07484140914
Village Produce Association—Bev Gledhill— 07753 709513
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