



Saxonwell Group Parish News

June 25



50p where sold



saxonwellchurches

www.saxonwellchurches.org.uk

Service Rota for June 2025

Sunday 1st (Easter 7)

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

Monday 2nd

7pm	Bishop visit service*	Allington
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Sunday 8th (Pentecost)

10.30am	Communion	Long Bennington
6pm	Communion	Stubton

Sunday 15th (Trinity)

10.30am	Communion	Claypole
10.30am	Morning Worship	Long Bennington
3pm	Communion	Foston

Sunday 22nd (Trinity 1)

10.30am	Communion	Long Bennington
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Sunday 29th (Trinity 2)

10.30am	Communion	Long Bennington
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*** The Bishop of Grantham will join us to dedicate the newly renovated church and celebrate communion—refreshments and celebrations will follow.**

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)

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Sgpnmag23@gmail.com

Copy Deadline for the Jul '25 issue is 12 Jun 2025 at 5pm

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

ADVERTISING - IN THE PARISH MAG

Full page colour £50

Full page b/w £40

Half page colour £33

Half page b/w £25

Quarter page colour £19

Quarter page b/w £15

Eighth page colour £13

From the Vicarage

Being British is something I cherish deeply. It's more than cups of tea, champion queuing, or the art of the profuse apology. At its best, it's a rich tapestry of history, resilience, generosity, and quiet strength. Reflecting back on last month's 80th anniversary of VE Day, we remember a moment when that resilience helped bring about peace in Europe—hard won, deeply felt, and never to be taken for granted.



Being British is also, unavoidably, to be shaped by Christianity. Our language, our laws, our care for neighbour, our heritage, our songs and our hopes—all bear its imprint.

To varying degrees, this is something we share with other cultures and nations. You can't really understand Italy without Christianity—or Nigeria, or Brazil, or the USA or myriad others. Every continent bears the marks of this Way of faith that has travelled, rooted, and blossomed.

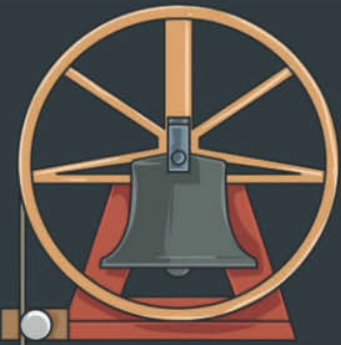
That's part of what makes the recent appointment of the new Pope so compelling. An American citizen, naturalised Peruvian, multilingual, and now a global Christian witness. Pope Leo reflects something of the Kingdom of God: beautifully diverse, joyfully shared, and united not by sameness but by Christ.

Victory sits at the heart of Christianity—on a hill outside Jerusalem, where Jesus died and rose again. The battle truly is already won—not just for one nation, but for all humanity and creation. We live in the hope of that truth: beating swords into ploughshares, welcoming strangers as friends, and seeking peace that lasts.

80 years after Victory in Europe started the break out of peace, let's give thanks—for the courage of those before us, the gift of our own nation to us and all creation, and the joy of a Gospel that belongs to every land, every language, and every people.

Revd. Jon Speirs-Davies

Ever thought about bellringing? Then let us
show you the ropes!



join us
every Thursday, 6 - 7:30pm
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all are welcome to come along and join in
one of the country's oldest hobbies.

Flawless Aesthetic Clinic



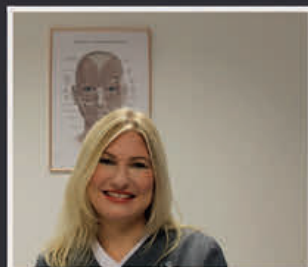
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KIDS



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

VE Commemoration in Long Bennington

The Long Bennington Bowls Club hosted and organised VE celebrations for all villagers to attend commemorate this special occasion.

We started with raising the VE Commemorative flag on Thursday morning. There was a further ceremony at 9.30 p.m. with the lighting of the lantern, after which we sang "I Vow To Thee My Country".

Friday evening saw the start of celebrations, with many people from the village joining members of the club for a fun-packed evening.

The club was full of memorabilia - and the more eagle-eyed were able to spot Maggie Smith aged 8yrs from a photo of the time.

We enjoyed "rations" of burgers and hot dogs - accompanied by non-rationed drinks from the bar! Some were also lucky enough to enjoy one of Sue's delicious home-made buns with themed icing.

Following the food, there was a singsong of old favourites from the 1940s. The 1940s-themed quiz had a nail-biting finish -narrowly won by Colin, Sue, Stuart, Nadia, Helen and Jenny on a knockout question following three tie breakers! Thanks to Quizmaster Steve Sorby for a quiz which was up to his usual high standard.

Thank you to people who generously donated raffle prizes. The £320 raised from the raffle and the sale of food on the night will be donated to the Royal British Legion.

As always, we are grateful for the support of Bowls Club members who provided and served the delicious food, worked cheerfully behind the bar and helped to set up and clear away.

We were pleased to showcase our wonderful bowling green and club house and open it up to the village - let's hope we see some of you again soon!

A big vote of thanks goes to Sue and Colin Brown who organised everything from start to finish.

Vicky Wood



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.

JUNE COFFEE SHOP: Saturday 28th June, 10.30am-12 noon. An invitation to join us at our June Coffee Shop. On offer will be bacon and sausage baps cooked to order, along with a range of Wakelins filter coffees, a selection of teas and a variety of cakes to suit all tastes. Take a seat at a table and one of our waitresses will take your order. Everyone welcome. The next Big Brunch will be the 26th July.

VIEW FROM THE PEW – HOLY TRINITY CHURCH ALLINGTON

PROJECT COMPLETION

On Monday 2nd June at 7pm we are having a service with the Bishop to celebrate the completion of our major renovation works.

Everyone is invited – refreshments will be available. Please come and join in the celebrations



COFFEE AND CAKE: Our Coffee and Cake mornings will be held on Monday 2nd June and Monday 7th July from 10-12 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.

CHURCHYARD CLEAN UP: We are planning to have another Churchyard clean up morning at the beginning of July and will let you know when this has been organised. Thank you to everyone who joins us for these mornings – we couldn't keep the Churchyard the way we do without your help.

SERVICE PLANNING.

Sunday 1st June 10.00am Communion

Sunday 15th June 10.00am Morning Worship

Our service on Sunday 11th May was VE Day themed. Rev Jon conducted a very thoughtful service which was appreciated by all who attended.

WINTER SINGERS CONCERT: The concert held in the village Hall on Friday 9th May was fantastic! The Winter Singers were their usual highly professional selves and the evening was enjoyed by a full hall.

This was the second very successful joint venture between the Church and the Village Hall. Thank you to all who took helped in any way.

We are again joining with the Village Hall over the Christmas period to host another concert by the Winter Singers.

WATCH THIS SPACE FOR THE DATE OF THE CONCERT AND TO PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS.

CREAM TEAS on the 10th and 11th May were very well supported. The teas on the 10th were held at Chris and Sally's bungalow in Trinity Close and teas on the 11th were held in the Church. Many thanks to Chris and Sally for their hospitality and to Chris for organising the event. Thanks go especially to all the lovely people who donated scones and to all those who helped in any way.



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.

Invitations to all the village groups will go out in the next few weeks.

On Saturday, 12th April, Allington Village had their annual Spring Fair, which was held at the Village Hall, from 2.00 to 4.00 pm. There was a variety of stalls, a tombola and a raffle. Allington WI's stall was 'Everyone a Winner'. £1 bought a ticket and every ticket won a prize. After browsing round the stalls, people enjoyed a cup of tea/coffee, a slice of cake and a chat! It was a good afternoon enjoyed by all!



On the morning of Monday, 28th April, Members visited Margo and Plum Coffee House and Gift Shop.

Everyone enjoyed a coffee/tea and a delicious slice of cake, before heading to the Gift Shop, which was full of lovely things, and several people made purchases.



On 7th May members enjoyed an activity evening when members planted outdoor pots to take home, led by our President.

It was a fun evening where all of our members could display their individual talents, as well as have a good chat!



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

Eliminate landfill of medication packaging

Allington WI - still collecting empty blister packs – there is a bin in the Village Hall Post Office and one in the serving area where anyone can put their empty blister packs – many thanks. For further information please contact allingtonwi@gmail.com

RECYCLING STAMPS AND USED PRINTER CARTRIDGES

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

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



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.

The advertisement features a stylized background with a grey sky, white clouds at the top and bottom, and a central grey area. A white rectangular sign with a black border and a black handle on the right is positioned in the upper left, appearing to be part of a window cleaning tool. The text is centered and reads: 'Steve Smith Window Cleaning' in a large, dark grey font; 'Window Cleaning & Gutter vac clearing' in a slightly smaller, dark grey font; and 'Mobile 07762815826' at the bottom in a dark grey font. There are also some small white starburst graphics on the right side.

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BEAT THE SCAMMERS

I was recently reading an article about “Crash for Cash scams”. In addition to causing car crashes so that they can make false car insurance claims, criminals are now trying to extort cash from their innocent victims at the scene of the crime. They try to cause an accident and then blame us for it. They might even set up situations where we believe we have hit the “victim” personally.

- Tip 1: Never ever agree whose fault it is. Do not engage into discussions with the “victim”. If they are pushing or rushing us, or asking us for money, step back and call the police on 999
- Tip 2: Gather as much as possible information. Take a video of the accident on your phone. Is there any dashcam or CCTV footage?
- Tip 3: Look for unrelated witnesses (not friends of the “victim” who are in on the case) and get their contact details.



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:

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.

VE Day Celebrations

Foston once again held a wonderful village event on 5th May to commemorate and celebrate 80 years of VE Day. St Peter's was open over the weekend and on VE Day itself, displaying an amazing range of war memorabilia and information on service men and women who hailed from Foston. The main event was a village picnic at the Village Hall where a hog roast was available along with an array of homemade bakes, including a wonderful celebration cake beautifully curated by Debbie Starr. The bar was open and tea was plentiful – over 250 residents joined in on the day!

A raffle was held to fundraise for Help for Heroes. Foston Neighbours held a plant stall and kindly split their donations between Help for Heroes, St Peter's Church and Foston Neighbours. The WI also passed refreshment donations to the chosen charity, Help for Heroes. Over £500 was raised for Help for Heroes, demonstrating an ongoing commitment to servicemen and women.

Huge thanks to the team of workers who coordinated and worked tirelessly to make this event happen, plus the numerous residents who helped set up and clear up on the day.

What a fantastic village spirit!





Current planned events for 2025 are:

7th June – Open Day at the Church (10am-2pm) depicting its current uses as well as its history. Tower Tours planned, weather permitting. Do come and visit and see what is needed to

6th July – Afternoon Tea in the Garden – look out for the posters and messages about the full details closer to the date!

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 – date TBC

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: 4th June 2nd July 6th August

Regular Giving

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

www.parishgiving.org.uk and search for Foston St Peter.



Alternatively use this QR code:

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

Our WI were not due to have a meeting, until 13th May, but supported the VE Day 80 Celebration which was a coordinated multi organised Foston event, supported by a grant from Sout Kesteven District Council, on the Monday 5th May 2025.

This was held at our village hall and was well supported by our villagers, even though the weather had turned rather cold, unlike the previous week. This meant tables and chairs were set up in our hall and marquee, for the braver ones. Pimm's was served and Terry barbecued a tasty Hog Roast, and some brought a picnic with them. Our WI kindly served refreshments, along with their homemade cakes. Debbie Starr made and decorated a 3-tier cake, with poppies cascading down this amazing cake. Two Veterans, Mark Whitney and Paul Rawlinson, kindly cut this which was soon demolished!



During the afternoon there was a Plant Stall, a raffle, to tempt everyone and games outside. The St Peters volunteers arranged a display of VE Day memorabilia, and several tables were decorated, with prizes for the best displays. Although the event was free to villagers, the raffle and some donations on the day were collected for Help the Heroes Charity.

Next meeting on 13th May – Discussion of the Resolutions, Craft & Social evening

For further information or wish to join us any time - please contact.

Eilee Rosson
07710 534732

Maggi Challis, Publicity

80th Anniversary of Victory in Europe VE Day 2025

Food Prices in 1945

Bread Prices - 1945 7d	Milk Prices - 1945 4d per pint	Meat Prices - 1945 2 Shillings - 2lbs
Beer Prices - 1945 1s 2d - per pint		

Compare it to Now

Bread Prices - 2025 74p	Milk Prices - 2025 46p per pint	Meat Prices - 2025 £18 per Kg
Beer Prices - 2025 £5.01 - per pint		

Grantham Troops

HELP for HEROES

LONG BENNINGTON MEDICAL CENTRE

· If you have received an invitation for a Covid vaccine and not yet booked your appointment, please use your link to book in or call reception to book in. Covid Vaccines will cease for the Spring Campaign on Tuesday 17th June 2025.

· Polite Reminder...Please wait for your message confirmation that your medication is ready for collection prior to arriving at Dispensary.

· The next wellbeing walk will be on Wednesday 18th June 2025 at 10:45am from the Medical Centre.



LONG BENNINGTON
Medical Centre



Long Bennington Gardening Club - VPA

@Longbengardening

Est.1943

Long Bennington Open Gardens Day 2025

On Sunday 29th June Long Bennington Gardening Club - VPA are holding an Open Gardens Day & would like to invite you to come along. There will be 11 participating gardens to visit, using a map which costs £5 per party.

These can be purchased on the day from St James's Village Hall, (which will also be available for refreshments & toilets) from 10am till 4pm. Maps can also be purchased from 26 Westborough Lane & Withamside House 49 Church St. We look forward to seeing you on the day !

"The garden suggests there might be a place where we can meet nature halfway." - Michael Pollan.

And hopefully you're spending lots of time in yours! For some inspiration why not join us on Tuesday 24 June at 7.00pm for 7.30pm at the Village Hall for a real treat - Yvette Smith will be talking about Planting Design. We haven't had anyone talk on this subject before. As well as working as a Course Tutor for the British Academy of Garden Design Yvette also provides garden and planting designs for private clients.

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

Bev Gledhill - Secretary
01400 282239/07753 70951

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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@googlemail.com

LONG BENNINGTON BOWLS CLUB

WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

If you would like to try your hand at lawn bowls then please contact us, using the details below, to arrange a visit.

The green is open from mid-April to mid-September.

You will be made most welcome.



longbenningtonbowlsclub.co.uk
or call 07736 311 854

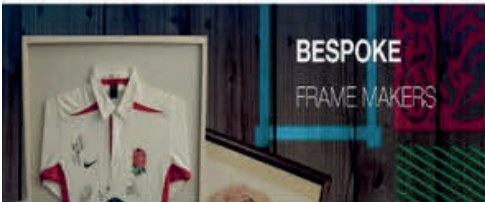


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Long Bennington – Village Hall

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@rotary.co.uk
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	
Thursday Weekly	Yoga and Relaxation	9.45-10.45	Main	namasteyoga.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 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
Wednesday 4 th June 11 th June 18 th June	Creative Writing Class	19.00-20.30	Bar	Alex Crisp crisplexmail@gmail.com
Sunday 15 th June	Father's Day Event	10.00-12.00	Main	Jane Cowley ejanecowley@aol.com
TBC	Wine Club	19.00-21.30	Bar	Raj Solanki raj@libradrinks.co.uk
Sunday 1 st June, Sunday 15 th June, Sunday 6 th July	Electric Jive	15.00-19.00	Main	theTramp@justabeginner.com
Saturday 28 th June	History talk	19.30-21.30	Main	Niz.I.smith@gmail.com
Sunday 29 th June	Gardening Club Open Gardens	10.00-16.00	Main	Amy Hodson amyhodson4@gmail.com
View all events and bookings online				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>



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LONG BENNINGTON NEWS FROM THE PEWS

As many of you will know, St Swithun's Church, Long Bennington is one of nine churches in the West Loveden group. Worshiping, celebrating and working together are some of the joys of being in a large group. One such joint activity was the Good Friday 'Walk with the Cross' where members from the whole group, including several from St Swithun's, walked from Dry Doddington Church, via Westborough Church to Foston, where a short service of Passions Reading took place. Thank-you to Foston church for the lovely homemade refreshments on offer after the outside service.

Following Good Friday - on Easter Saturday afternoon, St Swithun's had a wonderful turn out of children with their families for some Easter-themed Fun activities (see photos) – this was one of the West Loveden Kids events. Thank-you to all of those who came along and well done to anyone who found the Easter characters on stones around the village. Those who handed in their finds took home an Easter chocolatey treat (if they hadn't already eaten it!) and an Easter Story book.



Over the Easter period, we also very much enjoyed having children's work displayed in church. A tissue paper flower-decorated cross made by children at the above event has adorned the nave. Also, the colourful class posters from Long Bennington Church of England Academy themed around the hope of Easter, remained in the church from their end of term service.



As ever, our great thanks go to the staff of Long Bennington Academy for their hard work facilitating this thoughtful artwork for and for preparing the service itself. It had been a real joy to hear the children narrating their own pictures at this event and to hear the choir singing.

Our next children's event is on Sunday June 15th – a Father's Day event from 10- 11.30 am at the Village Hall where there will be refreshments as usual, and a range of fun challenges for the family to take part in. Everyone is welcome to come along and join in!

You are welcome to visit the church outside of services as it will be open on Wednesdays from 10am to 4pm until mid-July, when we hope repairs will start. There will be someone in the church during those times to greet visitors.

FUND RAISING FOR CHURCH REPAIRS

As described in previous magazines the required repairs to the wall and main stained-glass window are going to cost around £50,000. We are continuing to monitor the success of our grant requests as well as conduct our own fund raising for the minimum of £25,000 that we need to contribute.

Flyers and correspondence requests are being sent to local businesses and those slightly further afield and we are really grateful for the generous contributions received to date. These will be used as raffle or auction prizes.

Our Summer Event plans are well on track – see full page poster below.

There are two competitions described – so please have a go at entering one or both! The 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 to: Long Bennington Parochial Church Council

o Account Number: 50110357

o Sort Code: 05-04-42

☑ Through our Give a Little page (see QR Code)



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Fund-raising for church wall & stained glass window repairs

Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th July

St Swithun's Church, Long Bennington

SUMMER EVENT

Arts & Crafts Displays & Stalls

including vintage, glass, ceramics, paintings, prints,
competition photos & children's art

Children's Activities

Music & Refreshments

'Through The Window' Competitions

1. CALLING BUDDING PHOTOGRAPHERS OF ANY AGE

Enter our free competition with your photo (landscape or portrait) along the theme of **"Through the Window"**.

Entries taken with mobile phones or cameras should be
emailed to lbchurchphotos@gmail.com*

Please include a **title for each photo and your name**.

Photos will be shown on screen with titles only at the event
where attendees can vote for their favourites.

Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place

CLOSING DATE – 4th JULY

2. FAMILY QUIZ – SPOT THE WINDOW

Further details in the next magazine...

***Entry Guidelines** Entrants can submit up to 3 original photographs. No professional photographers may enter. Entrants must ensure any identifiable individuals in the photos have given their consent to the submission. Entrants under 18 must have parental or guardian consent to enter. Inappropriate content will be disqualified. Winning entries will be published in the magazine and permission requested to publish the names of winners. Entrants agree to release the organizers from any liability. Organisers may revise these guidelines.

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.

**St Swithun's Church will be open on
WEDNESDAYS
10am to 4pm
until repair work starts 17th July.
(Church services will continue as usual)**

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



Our speaker this evening was Dawn-Marie Lesh, accompanied by her two dogs Logan, a golden Lab sniffer dog, and Memphis Blaine, her Rottweiler protection and security dog.

Dawn was a police officer for 20 years but is now self-employed working in the private sector and is a security and firearms dog handler. Sniffer dogs are now regularly used at events alongside bouncers and are trained to detect the main drugs carried by users, those being cannabis, amphetamine, cocaine, heroin and crystal meth. Ketamine has been added lately.

Two of our members were given 100% synthetic drugs to conceal on their person and we all walked past Logan, but he sniffed them out and sat down in front of the “culprits”. When Logan locates drugs, he is given his beloved toy to play with, which is the only reward he wants as that was how he was trained. Police dogs normally retire at 8 years old but as Dawn is self-employed, her dogs stay with her for life, even then they can no longer work.

Her Rottweiler, Memphis Blaine, is a protection and security dog and can chase suspects for long periods and will not give up until he succeeds in finding them. His is also riot trained. Dawn works country-wide with her dogs but has worked for many years in Bristol during Freshers Week until June in a huge venue, where up to 5,000 people can pass through the doors in just a few hours.

Dawn and her dogs were a delight, and she encouraged our questions during and after her informative talk. The dogs were a great hit with us all – a happier dog you could not wish to meet, especially when he receives his reward

Our next meeting, entitled Communicating through Body Language, will be held on June 3rd, where Nancy Appleyard will explain how we can tell what those around us might be thinking.

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

Elaine Walton



LONG BENNINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council had its Annual Parish Council meeting on 12th May at St James's Hall. Mark Newton and Geoff Fearn have both been voted back in to the roles of Chair and Vice-Chair.

The Parish Council meeting was preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting that was attended by approximately 30 members of the public, including some Parish Councillors and our newly elected County Councillor, Ken Bamford. There was a report from the Chairman of the Parish Council (available to view on the PC website), an introduction from CCL Bamford, a report from District Cllr Wood, a summary of the activities of Long Bennington Charities and a Q&A session. The main issues raised related to parking, footpaths and speeding in the village (responses/info covered below).

Parking

No waiting parking restrictions (traffic regulation order) – LCC highways are in the process of organising school parking and other surveys. Once done, initial proposals are to be sent direct to the Parish Council for comment ahead of a consultation process.

Footpaths

Footway site visits have taken place and assessments completed.

Church Street is in the footway reconstruction programme for 2025/26, with a provisional start date of 22 January 2026. A design and location plan will be obtained from Highways nearer the time, when details are finalised.

Welbourne's Lane didn't quite score highly enough and it is expected this is to be reconstructed in 2-3 years based on its current score.

The Pastures / Bennington Close / Riverview - the footways on these streets are all in the 2025/26 programme for a micro asphalt resurfacing treatment, dates are to be confirmed.

Finance

Councillors approved sign-off of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return and this will be submitted to the external auditors.

The Parish Council approved a £1000 financial donation to St Swithun's PCC for churchyard maintenance and a £500 financial donation to St Swithun's PCC to support the Saxonwell News magazine production.

Playing Field Improvement Plans

It was confirmed the planned project to make improvements to the Pavilion is still waiting for the outcome of a Football Foundation grant application. This is critical to the viability of the project. The preferred contractor is available to do the work in June and if the project goes ahead, the facility will not be available while work is in progress. This will not impact the children's play area, tennis courts. MUGA or playing field.

Following Parish Council meeting dates Monday 2nd June and Monday 7th July 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.

Knitting / Craft Group

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

Games Afternoon

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

Coffee Mornings

Our next Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday 21st June, starting at 10am 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.



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Dear Friends,

Do people still surprise you? Or are you in a place where you feel like you've seen it all and nothing surprises you anymore?



I have been working with a group of people who about a month ago gave a clear indication that they were struggling with the idea of continuing the work they had been doing together. They are becoming fewer in number, older, less able to bring the energy they once could – and things seemed to be becoming overwhelming for them. We made a date to meet together again and continue just that one conversation.

When the time came to meet again, I reminded them where we had left off our discussion and asked them what they were thinking and feeling having had more time to think about it.

Now, I had pretty much expected them to say that they had reached the end of the road, the end of their resources, and it was time to move on somewhere else in a different direction. Instead, they began to talk about the purpose statement they had written a little while ago, and how that still reflected what they felt they ought to be doing. They compiled a list of nine options for the future and looked at each one in turn. In the process, they bypassed their original plan, rejected seven other options and ended up with a decision that felt right but surprised everyone. Only one person felt that they couldn't support the consensus at the end. Suddenly there seemed to be a new energy in the group, and I am hopeful that they will continue to work at their movement forward. But in reaching that point, they very much surprised me – in a good way.

I have also had the opposite experience, where people have reached conclusions and taken decisions that were not anticipated, which is sometimes not a pleasant surprise. But people do surprise you. Every church and every community is made up of people in all their variety. We do not all think or act the same or say the same things or even believe the same things. This can be a problem – if harmony can only be heard in the sameness. But as a musician, I know that the richness of a piece of music is to be found in the dissonance as well – the clash of notes, the unexpected progression of chords. What makes the difference is the resolution that can be found when the piece is complete, and harmony is restored.

We have all recently witnessed that process at work in the Conclave of Cardinals that elected Pope Leo XIV. Other candidates were voted for, and depending on the results, cardinals then had to choose an alternative nominee until one man emerged as the person who had the support of a sufficient majority of the electors. Their choice may have seemed surprising to many people, as was the choice of Pope Francis and of many of his predecessors. Each one takes their place and helps to guide the Roman Catholic people on their journey into the future. For some that guidance will be a pleasant surprise; the same decisions may disappoint or distress others. Our leaders can be just as surprising as we are ourselves.

It takes courage to be open to surprise, to approach the things that may disturb or frighten us with an curious attitude and a willingness to explore alternatives we may not have considered, or we may have rejected with due consideration. We are surprising creatures and we are designed to be lifelong learners in a world where so much can be discovered through experience. Let's not be afraid of the notes or the ideas that don't seem to fit with the patterns we have already learned. Let's be open to all the possibilities that life presents, trusting God to lead us forward in surprising ways.

David H. Bonny

SEDGEBROOK SOCIAL CLUB REGULAR DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Rainbows/ Brownies Mondays 5.00pm/6.30pm
Grantham Canine Assoc Mondays 8.00pm-9.00pm
Knit and Natter Tuesdays 2.00pm-4.00pm
Ruff Diamonds Dog Training Tuesdays 6.00pm
Ruff Diamonds Dog Training Wednesdays 6.00pm
Pilates with Alice Thursdays 7.30pm-8.30pm
Club Bar Open to members Fridays 6.00pm-11.00pm
Ruff Diamonds Dog Training Saturdays 10.00am onwards
Club Bar Open to members Sundays 1.00pm-4.00pm
Heritage Group Meeting Sunday 23rd March in Church 3.00pm

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 Church 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.

EASTER JOY



The Easter Family Service began with the Easter procession featuring the New Fire and the school's cross of flowers. The church was decked with lilies in memory of loved ones and the illuminated tomb and Easter hymns played by Ron Webster on the Bryceson organ added to the occasion. The service was on the theme of 'The Quiet Revolution' and Alan Cook read out the names of loved ones represented by the lilies. After the service, the children enjoyed the Easter Egg Hunt and Easter craft table, while families tucked into the refreshments and took the opportunity to explore the Easter Meditation table. What an uplifting service and our thanks to all who supported it and made the church look so lovely and supplied the refreshments.

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 raffle.

200 CLUB RESULTS FOR MAY

1st Wendy Fowler (160)

2nd Peter Cook (15)

3rd Brenda De'ath (82)

Subscriptions for 2025/2026 will be requested during May. Thank you for your support.

There are no services planned in June.

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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THE SAXONWELL GROUP MINISTRY TEAM

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
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— 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—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: 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
Twinning Association—Margaret Butcher – 07484140914
Village Produce Association—Bev Gledhill— 07753 709513
Writing Group—Shirley Lynn—07726 334280
LB Rotary Club- hello@lbrotary.co.uk
Foston Neighbours - 07422 881448 fostonneighbours@gmail.com



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