



Saxonwell Group Parish News

February 25



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saxonwellchurches

www.saxonwellchurches.org.uk

Church Service Schedule for February

2nd (Candlemas)

10:00 AM	Communion	Allington
10:30 AM	Communion	Claypole
10.30 AM	Morning Worship	Long Bennington
3:00 PM	Communion	Foston

9th (4 before Lent)

10:30 AM	Communion	Long Bennington
10:30 AM	Morning Prayer	Sedgebrook
2:30 PM	Messy Church	Long Bennington
6.00 PM	Communion	Stubton

16th (3 before Lent)

10:30 AM	Communion	Claypole
10.30 AM	Morning Worship	Long Bennington

23rd (2 before Lent)

10:30 AM	Communion	Long Bennington
10:30 AM	Lively Church	Sedgebrook

2nd March (1 before Lent)

10:30 AM	Communion	Claypole
2:30 PM	Messy Church	Claypole

Monday 5th March (Ash Wednesday) Music and Light and Ashing

6:30 PM	Taize Service	Westborough
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30th March (Mothering Sunday)

11:00 AM	Family Service	Long Bennington
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[Join a Local Church Service on Zoom](#)

Log in using, Meeting ID: Meeting ID: 810 6571 1379 Passcode: 744328
Compline each Thursday at 7.15pm. Evening Prayer on the last Sunday of the month at 5pm

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Compline each Thursday at 7.15pm.

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

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

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

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

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 / 01400

281204

EMAIL ADDRESS FOR ARTICLES:

Sgpnmag23@gmail.com

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ADVERTISING - IN THE PARISH MAG

Full page colour £50

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Half page colour £33

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Eighth page colour £13

From the Vicarage

A new year often brings thoughts of fresh starts. In Isaiah 43:19, God says, “See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?” This verse reminds us that God’s work of renewal continues even in difficulty. Yet as we step into 2025, I want to take this opportunity to address a difficult part of the past head-on: the awful findings of the Makin Report.



Archbishop Welby will step down due to his and the Church of England’s failure to address the abuse inflicted by John Smyth. Smyth’s actions are particularly grievous because he contorted scripture to manipulate vulnerable young Christians. The cover of legitimacy he received from the Church of England places it at the centre of multiple collective failures.

It’s right to feel sorrow, anger, and frustration over these events. As well as being disturbed by Smyth’s abuses, I’m dismayed that others callously chose to cover up for the sake of institutional reputation over the lives of the traumatised victims. Jesus said, “Whatever you refused to do for the least of these, you refused to do for me” (Matthew 25:45). I think we should take these words very seriously.

We must not confuse the Church of England with God's Church eternal. The Church of England will only serve as a vehicle for God’s love if it prioritises people. Thankfully, significant progress has been made to prevent abuse. Thousands of trained safeguarding officers, clergy, and volunteers ensure the safety of church environments across England.

If you or someone you know has experienced abuse, please don’t stay silent. Speak out. Let us ensure that every voice is heard, every wound acknowledged, and every effort is made to safeguard others. Together, we can seek renewal that reflects God’s call for love and justice.

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ALLINGTON VILLAGE HALL REGULAR DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Craft Afternoon: Monday 1.30-4.00pm. Includes quilting, model-making, cross-stitching, knitting, sewing, card making etc.

Pilates: Monday 7.00-8.00pm (Term time and requires pre-booking)

Tai Chi: Tuesday 10.00-11.00am. To reserve a place email: rebtpeacock@gmail.com

New Age Kurling: Tuesday 1.30-4.00pm (Winter timings)

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

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

Yoga: Friday 10.00-11.00am

Warm Hub: Friday 12.00-2.00pm. 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.

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.

FEBRUARY

BIG BRUNCH – Saturday 22nd February, 9.30-12 noon, last order 11.15am. Drinks and Cake only will be served after 11.00am. We will be continuing with the Big Brunch during 2025. On offer will be a full English breakfast, with bacon, sausage, hash brown, fried egg, grilled tomato and beans, along with bread or toast and marmalade. Or if you're extra hungry you can order a large breakfast. Tea/coffee and orange will also be served along with a variety of cakes. A £3 deposit will be required for special dietary orders so please message Jackie in advance if you require a special diet, on eventsatallingtonvillagehall@gmail.com.

MARCH

QUIZ NIGHT – Saturday 7th March, 6.30 for 7.00pm. By popular demand following an hilarious Quiz Night last September, Alan will be returning to test our grey matter once more with one of his very entertaining quizzes. As previously there will be a scrumptious buffet on offer, just bring your own drink. At £8 a ticket it will be a night not to be missed. For tickets contact Heather on secretary.allingtonvillagehall@gmail.com

ALLINGTON CHRISTMAS MARKET

As in previous years the Christmas Market, held in the Village Hall on the 23rd November, proved to be a huge success. Once again the hall was full of stalls selling a variety of goods, along with games, a raffle and tombola. There was a steady stream of shoppers throughout the afternoon and in between browsing they were able to sit and enjoy a hot drink or a glass of mulled wine along with a mince pie. A grand total of £579 was raised for the upkeep of the Hall and stalls are already being booked for this year's market in November.



VIEW FROM THE PEW – HOLY TRINITY CHURCH ALLINGTON

PROGRESS ON OUR PROJECT

Phase 2 is galloping ahead. We hope to be back in Church in February. The contractors are doing an excellent job and helping us to reduce costs wherever possible without compromising on quality.

COFFEE AND CAKE

The next two Coffee and Cake mornings will be held on Monday 3rd February and Monday 3rd March 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.

CHRISTMAS FAMILY CAROL SERVICE

The Family Carol Service was held on Friday 13th December in the Village Hall. A wonderful evening led by the Rev Jon and a good opportunity for people to meet their new vicar.



SERVICE PLANNING

Once we are back in Church, we are hoping to keep to our service plan – the first Sunday of the month as a communion service and the third Sunday as Morning Worship. We sincerely thank our friends from Sedgebrook Church for allowing us to hold joint services at Sedgebrook whilst the works were in progress. Long may we continue to work together.

FUTURE EVENTS

- A Grand Opening Service once the works are complete.
- A Christmas Tree Festival this year – more details soon.

Christmas Market

Despite awful weather on Saturday, 23rd November, it was an extremely good attendance. There was a lovely Christmas buzz around the Village Hall. Our stall 'Everyone a Winner', with a prize every time, was a great success.

4th December Meeting

WI member Janice Moulds dressed in 17th Century costume and talked about a 17th Century Christmas – an extremely interesting and informative evening, enjoyed by all.

In the 17th Century, Christmas Day was more than just a religious date; it marked the beginning of the traditional 12 days of Christmas between Christmas and Epiphany Eve, commonly called 'Twelfth Night.' From court masques to riots, from festive recipes to Father Christmas, we learnt everything you could want to know about how people celebrated Christmas in the 17th Century!



Christmas lunch

Most of the members met at the restaurant at Syston Park Farm for a delicious Christmas meal, complete with crackers.

Future Meetings - 2025 Programme below

All meetings take place in Allington Village Hall – 7.30 for a 7.45 pm start. All visitors are most welcome to attend £5.00 fee.

5th February - Colin Deeley – 'History of Southwell Workhouse.'

5th March - Annual Meeting - members only

2nd April - Dorothy Gaughan – 'Food Bank/How it works.'

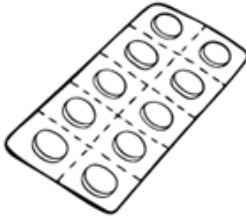


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FOSTON - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

Now that Foston Village Hall will be re-opening soon, Foston Neighbours are pleased to announce that their events will resume at the Hall from February 14th, when we will be hosting a Valentine's Day Local Lunch! Cost will be £5.00 per person and please could you book your place with the committee by calling 07422 881448 or emailing fostonneighbours@gmail.com.

We will also be holding a coffee morning at Foston Village Hall on February 19th - £2.50 will buy you a cup of tea or coffee and a yummy piece of cake or cheese scone – not to be missed! And finally for February, our much-loved Breakfast Club returns on Saturday 22nd – we are looking forward to welcoming you back to a hearty breakfast in great company! Look out for a flyer through the letterboxes of Foston residents' doors very soon, reminding you of the dates for our February and March events.

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

What's happening in Foston ...

Services at St Peter's

Here are our Services for your diary:

2nd February- Communion

16th February – 3pm- Evensong

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.

Christmas has come and gone

.... but what a wonderful time we had in Foston! Here's a quick review of how the community celebrated Christmas.



Wreath Making

The WI held its annual wreath making event in the Church due to the electrical issues in the Village Hall. Whilst perhaps not quite as convenient (no running water, no toilets, etc), the evening felt very special getting into the Christmas spirit in such a beautiful environment. Thank you to all who helped get the Church into a position that this event could be held there, as well as everyone who helped clear up afterwards.



Christmas Tree Festival

We had a wonderful weekend with various community groups and families presenting their Christmas Trees. There were too many to do justice to with photos but here a few. Thank you to all who participated and all who visited over the weekend, which was beautifully rounded off with our Carol Service.

Santa Claus Visit

The Long Bennington Rotary always do us proud with a visit to the village to help all the children get even more excited about Christmas! Thank you to all the Elves who supported Santa Claus on the night – despite the postponed date due to the weather, it was a very successful event and raised a huge amount for the Rotary and for the Church.

Advent Window Trail

The trail first started during the Covid lock down and is now in its fourth year, and what a way to get the whole village involved! There were some amazing windows and the Church added an 'open window' with the lights display plus the Nativity Scene in the porch. The churchyard looked very festive each evening so thank you to all who helped light it up. And a massive well done to all the advent window displays – just amazing! It was sad to see that the Explorers display near the notice board was taken on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day – someone clearly doesn't have the same community spirit... 😞

Christingle Service

And the Christmas activities culminated with a magical Christingle Service on Christmas Eve. About 130 people filled the Church.

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! (And thank you to you all!) Just £2.50 for all this... At the Village Hall from 10-11.30am on the following dates:

Next dates: 5th February, 5th March

Churchyard Clean Up! Saturday 1st March: 9.30am-2pm

Please come and give a couple of hours to help spruce up the Churchyard. We all enjoy its beauty in the centre of the village, and many hands help to keep it tidy. Do bring a pair of gloves and other gardening tools you might like to use.

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).

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18th November - A walk was arranged around our village supporting the WI campaign to End Violence against Women and Girls in many guises, asking men to voice their support. A white bouquet was carried, with candles placed in windows, showing support. Everyone retired for refreshments and a warming cup of hot chocolate.

29th November – Unable to meet in our village hall, due to urgent repairs, we arranged to congregate in St Peters church to make our Christmas wreaths. It was a beautiful setting and felt very festive.

7th December – A Christmas tree festival was held in the church, with various trees each decorated in a theme, ours was Angels. They were all beautiful, well worth a visit.

10th December – Members met at Pauls Restaurant Bottesford, to celebrate Christmas. We were all served with great meals, in a lovely atmosphere.

14th December – We visited the Doddington Hall Bauble Barn for our monthly coffee morning. Firstly, getting together for a hot drink and cake! Then we looked around the bauble barn, which was brimming with Christmas decorations. Then we wandered around the gift shop and the farm shop, it really started off our Christmas festivities!

7th January – Our meeting was held in our Presidents home. An evening spent discussing items which members had brought along, leading to various memories coming to the fore.

11th February – Members night entertaining the committee
For further information or wish to join us any time - please contact.
Carole Chandler-Barratt on 07767 657745



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(Please also see Village Hall Schedule)

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Tea-n-Chat

Last Friday of every month (except August). Emily delete here about July event.

Long Bennington Coffee Morning

The Reindeer every Thursday at 10.30am. Coffee/tea and biscuits £2.50. 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 2.30pm 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).

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LONG BENNINGTON MEDICAL CENTRE

·Don't forget to let us know if you've changed your mobile phone number, or you may miss calls and messages from us. Please contact our Reception on 01400 281220 to update your details.

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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	secretaryLBR@oulook.com
Tues weekly	Bennington Art Group	10:00 – 12:00	Foyer	Margaret Butcher 01400 281935
1 st Tues monthly	WI	19:30 – 21:00	Main	M Butcher 01400 281935
4 th Tue monthly (25 th February)	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 (not 20/2/25)	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
TBC	Wine Club	19.00-21.00	Bar	Raj Solanki raj@libradrinks.co.uk
15 th February	Valentine's Disco		Main, Bar	Rotary run event for the Village
16 th February & 2 nd March	Electric Jive	15.00-19.00	Main	theTramp@justabeginner.com

Help Needed

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

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

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



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LONG BENNINGTON NEWS FROM THE PEWS

A very belated Happy New Year to all from St Swithun's Church PCC.

Not unexpectedly December proved a busy month for PCC sponsored activities. In addition to the seasonal festive services: Tea-n-Chat held a Christmas Lunch at Whittakers on Thursday 5th December; Grantham Choral Society gave a most enjoyable and well-attended Christmas Carol Concert in the Church on Saturday 14th December; Santa visited children in the village on the evenings of Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th December; the Annual Carol Service was held in the Church on Sunday 22nd December; and lastly there was a reflective candle-lit Midnight Mass held on Christmas Eve.

Donations to Santa on his rounds totalled £1,967 this year (a big thank you to all who donated), and, after covering some small expenses, the balance of the money was split evenly between: Long Bennington Rotary activities; Long Bennington Pre-School; and St Swithun's Church activities. In addition, £417 was raised, largely for St Peter's Church, on Santa's visit to Foston.



With Christmas behind us we now look forward to Spring and Easter (Easter Sunday 20th April this year), when we will again be looking for help with maintaining the churchyard. Indeed I suspect that the early snowdrops and crocuses will have flowered around the Church before you read this article.



Thank you

Margaret Thornton and family would like to thank all our friends for their kindness and support, following the passing of Alan. Your generosity was truly appreciated and gave us all great comfort at this sad time.

£332 was received through donations, which have been split between Grantham Stroke Club and Long Bennington Church.

Financial Help

We are always grateful for donations, no matter how small - either single or regular ones. Under the government's Gift Aid Small Donation Scheme (GASDS) we can claim 25% gift aid on a certain number each year of cash or card donations up to £30 without Gift Aid declarations – which is also helpful.

So, look out for our new card machine in church – which is easy to use for contactless donations. These are other ways you can donate: " By online bank transfer: o Account Number: 50110357 o Sort Code: 05-04-42 " Through our 'Give a Little' page (see QR Code) " By cheque addressed to: Long Bennington PCC





Santa did his rounds of Foston and Long Bennington to the delight of children of all ages in his brand-new sleigh with refreshed reindeer. Hope you were able to see him and get your present for being good



While we look forward to an active 2025, we also know how to enjoy ourselves. We celebrated our end of year with a Christmas meal at Whitakers. As an informal and open club, we invited all of those who have helped us through the year, without whom we would be more limited in our endeavours to help and support those in need. Many thanks to them

We held an Open Evening in January for the public and Rotarians with a presentation on Busoga Trust Uganda – for people whose access to basic good water is difficult and life limiting.



Busy folk get things done – and we do. During the year we discovered skills among our membership that enabled us to create a new vehicle for Santa and decorated it with light and sound. We would like to pay tribute to them and to Potts builders, Long Bennington Carriages, Hampson Family, Brewers and Sons, Daniel Briggs and the Motofinity Group for their generous material donations to the club.

We can help you to use the many talents that you have for the benefit of our community and the wider world. Come along to one of our meetings on the 2nd and 4th Mondays each month in the Village Hall at 6.45pm - with no obligation - to see if this is something that fits your outlook or ambition. Hello@lbrotary.co.uk for more information.

Twining Association News

Long Bennington Twining Association will be holding their ever-popular 'Brains of Bennington' quiz night in the Village Hall on Friday 7th March. Times, prices and booking details will appear on posters around the village in the coming weeks.

Now for some future fun. It may not be the glamorous First Date – but it is a chance for you and your partner to dress up, have a great night out and reminisce the night away - Feb 15th - full details on the following page!

Tickets from Rotarians or Sharricks - Remember We Always Sell Out so buy soon!!

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



LONG BENNINGTON WI

7th January 2025 – Lincolnshire Police – Recognizing Fraud



It may have been a freezing night when we met up for our first meeting of 2025, but it was a hot topic that we were discussing. It turned out to be an extremely instructive talk from Sharon Hall, Fraud Protection Officer from Lincolnshire Police.

Five forces work together to form the East Midlands Special Operation Unit as fraud is a huge problem. 40% of all crime reported is fraud and there were 3.5 million instances in England and Wales in 2022/2023, however only 15% of fraud is reported!

The first ever recorded case of fraud was in 300 BC when a Greek merchant placed a wager on his ship not arriving in port and then he sank the vessel himself, so it has been going on for a very long time.

The main types of fraud are Postal, Telephone, Doorstep and Online. Sharon advised us to never reveal our personal information over the telephone and to shred our receipts as they have some of our card details printed on them. We should also be shredding our prescription labels as these contain our NHS number. We should not be answering calls from numbers we don't recognise as many are from automated numbers which will just cut off if they don't hear a voice. Anyone who is genuine will always leave a message. We should never disclose our security details and never assume the person on the line is genuine. Always check and never feel rushed into anything. 60,000 fraudulent telephone numbers have been disengaged due to the public reporting them. Sharon was an interesting and entertaining speaker and kindly took questions at the end and it appears that most of us have either been victims of fraud or know someone who has. She also handed out helpful leaflets to read and keep handy and we all agreed we felt more aware of what we should and should not be doing, either online or over the telephone.

If you would like to know more about our friendly WI, please contact Margaret Butcher on 07484 140914. Elaine Walton - Publicity



LONG BENNINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

GENERAL UPKEEP – some of our lovely grass verges are being damaged by regular parking. Avoid parking on the verges where possible. If the damage results in deep ruts this will make it impossible for these to be maintained by Steve when the grass cutting season starts in April.

FLOODING - the overnight flooding was discussed and an update on the proposed bund to protect properties on Church Street was provided. It was confirmed the scheme has been designed and accepted by LCC, the Internal Drainage Board and the Environment Agency. Given no Government/Authority funding is available, the scheme will be privately funded and completed in spring this year.

PLANNING - S24/2214. Derham. This application relates to 50 houses at the site next to The Pastures and the PC has been consulted. It will be discussed in detail at the February meeting and agreed comments subsequently submitted to SKDC.

CURRENT DISCUSSIONS WITH LCC – locally we still have three proposed projects being considered by LCC. These are number of local Traffic Regulation Orders to improve safety in the village, reconfiguration of the Valley Lane junction and a potential new pedestrian refuge around the Village Hall area of the village. These are in the early stages of consideration and may not proceed but these are being supported by the Parish Council.

PARKING – inconsiderate parking around the school at drop off and pick up continues to be a problem for residents living off Main Road. Please park at a legal distance from any junction to ensure safe exit by residents/drivers. The Parish Council has enlisted the support of the local Policing Team who will be monitoring the situation.

Following Parish Council meeting dates Monday 3rd February and Monday 3rd March 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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**LONG BENNINGTON GARDENING CLUB
(VPA)**

**SPRING SHOW
Saturday 29 March 2025 in St. James's Village Hall**

The Spring Show is a celebration of the beginning of the gardening year. Doors open at 9am for entries to be staged by anyone who would like to have a go. There are lots of classes to enter including spring bulbs, flowers, pot plants, flower arrangements and children's challenges. Look on the website in early March for the Schedule with full details.

Doors open again from 3 pm (admission £1), after the judging has taken place, to view the results - and there will be cakes and hot drinks on sale too. The presentation of the awards will be around 3.45pm. Do come along and enjoy the fantastic diversity of spring bulbs and plants on display at your local Village Hall.

longbenningtongardeningclub.com

We hope everyone enjoyed the festive season. At least the days are now getting a little longer!

Our next event will be our AGM and Gardening Quiz on 25 February at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. If you are a member of the Club you should have your Notice of AGM by now - if not just give me a ring or send a text - numbers below and I will get one to you. If you are currently not a member but would like to join for the forthcoming year, contact me as below or just come along on the evening and join in the fun. At the AGM we will get through the general AGM business fairly quickly and then move on to the quiz with the excellent Dove trophy as a reward for the winners!

Lots of other information about the Club is available on our website at
longbenningtongardeningclub.com
Bev Gledhill – Secretary 01400 282239/07753 709513

BEAT THE SCAMMERS

Do you also get that feeling that we are not getting any younger? I certainly do even when I am only in my early sixties. Hence, I have put a few things in place to make sure that the right decisions are being made for me when I am not able to make these decisions myself. Again, this is an area where we see more activity by the scammers who know that we are becoming easier targets when we are most vulnerable and need help.

Tip 1: When the time is there that we can't take the right decisions for ourselves, would it not be great to already have a contingency in place. To set up Lasting Power of Attorney (www.gov.uk/power-of-attorney) is something most of us can do ourselves, maybe with a little bit of help. You are NEVER too young for that. There are two types which we are likely to need:

1. Property and financial affairs - This LPA covers our money and property.
2. Health and welfare – This one covers our health care and personal welfare.

Tip 2: And yes, when the final inevitable day is there, having a Will in place will make sure our money goes to the people we want it to go to and probably need it most. Not having a Will in place makes it much easier for the "Scammers" to get a share of it (and the Government too!).

LONG BENNINGTON METHODIST CHAPEL

Twenty-two years ago this month, I was present at the 25th Anniversary Celebration for a local church. It was a full occasion with lots of looking back that seemed always to end up in the future. Then a church with over 400 members, having had thousands of people passing through its doors, it had begun with 8 people in 1978, and it happened because the pastor and his wife were prepared to leave their home church to start a new one.



During the course of the evening, the question was asked, 'What if they hadn't come?' I guess the answer was that many lives would have been left untouched, unhealed, hopeless, friendless. How can we gauge the effect of prayers unsaid and work undone? If two people had not heard and answered God's call, the landscape of a whole town might have been quite different.

Over Christmas I found myself once again watching the film *It's a Wonderful Life*. Through a series of mishaps and missteps, bank manager George Bailey finds himself in trouble with the banking authorities and the law, and he goes on the run to avoid arrest. Finding himself on a bridge over a fast flowing river, he contemplates suicide, believing it would be better if had never been born.

Clarence, his guardian angel, gets involved and shows George what a different place his town would have been if he had not been there to help and support his neighbours, to care for his family and to be a source of kindness and good deeds for all sorts of people. He had promoted the common good and resisted those who were only intent on self-interest and evil.

Returning to his home and his own time, George has a completely different perspective on his situation, and when his grateful neighbours bring contributions to cover the money that had been lost from the bank's accounts, he is overwhelmed by their gratitude and appreciation, realising that while he had certainly given up almost all of his own dreams and ambitions, he had, indeed, had a wonderful life.

Perhaps we all wonder at times what our life has been worth and what difference our being here has made. Most of us live very ordinary lives and do not achieve extraordinary things, but that does not mean that we are not people of influence. Our words and actions make a difference to the people on their receiving end every day, and over time they shape the world we inhabit. If we speak and act with love, our influence will be positive and constructive.

Jesus taught us that living in love is the key to living a purposeful life. Living in the love of God and returning our love and loyalty to God brings us healing, hope and direction in life. Living with love for our neighbours near and far opens a world of relationships and connections into which we offer the loving strength God gives us. Such love is the power to change the world, one person at a time. Like the ripples on a lake when a stone is thrown into the water, the energy of an event moves on through time and across distances we cannot envision. We are all movers and shakers for good or ill.

David H. Bonny

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 15th February, starting at 10am so come along and join us when there will be homemade cakes for sale, a raffle and wonderful Nearly New Stall which is always full of exciting items and great gift opportunities. Entry costs £2.50 for bottomless tea or coffee and plenty of biscuits.



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SEDGEBROOK SOCIAL CLUB REGULAR DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Rainbows/Brownies Mondays 5.00pm/6.30pm Finish 16th Dec until Jan 2025'

Grantham Canine Assoc Mondays 8pm-9pm

Knit and Natter Tuesdays 2.00pm-4.00pm Finish 3rd Dec until Jan 2025

RuffDiamonds Dog Training Tuesdays 6.00pm

RuffDiamonds Dog Training Wednesdays 6.00pm

Pilates with Alice Thursdays 7.30pm

Parish Council Meeting 9th Jan 2025 7.00pm

Club Bar Open Fridays 6.00pm til close

RuffDiamonds Dog Training Saturdays 10.30am

Club Bar Open Sundays 1.00pm-4.00pm

Heritage Group Meetings Sundays Monthly at 3.00pm on the 4th Sunday in the Church.

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 let us know.

The club is available for hire for private parties, social gatherings and regular events.

Please contact Alan Cook Mob.07963553835 email sedgebrooksocialclub@hotmail.co.uk

ST LAWRENCE SEDGEBROOK – NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Church and Museum open daily 10am-4pm

Free Church Guide

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

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

Monthly Lively Church, Monthly Morning Prayer

Grantham Food Bank collecting point

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



MINI CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

This year decorated trees in church were provided by Knit and Natter, Brownies and Rainbows, White House Farm Day Nursery, Villagers, and Carollers as well as the PCC. to give us a mini Christmas tree festival.



CAROLS ON THE GREEN moved to the church due to atrocious weather. Those attending were invited to choose a Christmas decoration and place it on the main Christmas tree. We enjoyed an illuminated church, mulled wine and mince pies as those attending chose their favourite carols. A collection was taken towards the cost of the Christmas Tree on the Green . Our thanks to the Wade family for the tree and putting it up and especially to Nick and helpers for braving the weather to make sure the lights were on by the time everyone went home from church



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF READINGS AND CAROLS

The service of lessons and carols was taken by Rev'd Jon. A cheque was presented to Charlotte Jackson of Marie Curie Cancer Care and we showed our appreciation to Emile who played the organ so beautifully. We were delighted to welcome our old friend and now retired Reader Janet Rogers.

Our thanks to Carolyn Bruce for the lovely photos taken at the Carol Service which capture the mood perfectly.

Services in February

Sunday 9th February 10.30am Morning Prayer
Sunday 23rd February 10.30am Lively Church

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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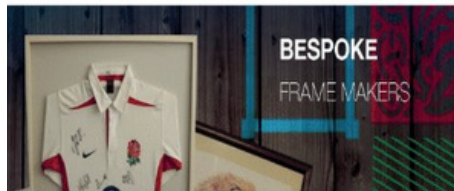
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Lay Reader Jenny Stuart jenny.stuart@outlook.com 01949 842231

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 979515

Safeguarding Officer Eileen Ross 01400 281932

Holy Trinity Allington

Church Warden Chris Dicken 01400 281524

Treasurer Bob McKinlay 01400 281671

Safeguarding Officer Marian Hubbard 01400 281496

Flowers Jill Storer/Linda Rycroft 283542/281516

St Lawrence Sedgebrook

Church Warden Alan Cook 07963553835

Safeguarding Officer Wendy Fowler wendyfowler@btinternet.com
mob. 07747022272.

Treasurer Ian McKay 01949 843691

Flowers Geraldine Statham glendogs@aol.com

Long Bennington Methodist Chapel

Steward Eileen Eggleston 07531 160197

Treasurer Kathryn Wood 01400 281489

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Parish Council Clerks

Jane Evans (Long Bennington) parishclerk@longbenningtonparishcouncil.org

Mon 10:30-12:30 at Village Hall Tel:01400 282716

James Stanley (Foston) clerk@fostonpc-lincs.org 01522 889737

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

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

Ted Bates (Chair) Long Bennington Charities 01400 281853

Village Halls: Booking Secretaries

Allington— Heather Nuthall Secretary - secretary.allingtonvillagehall@gmail.com
Bookings - bookings.allingtonvillagehall@gmail.com
Foston— Pam Fellows -07740 894605 email fostonvillagehall2023@gmail.com
or Richard Wynn 07579 779087 email fostonvillagehall2023@gmail.com
Long Bennington—Longbenningtonvillagehall.org.uk—07816 267927
Sedgebrook—Alan Cook— 07963553835

Other Useful Contacts

Long Bennington Medical Centre- 01400 281220
Foston book group Lucy Bliss - lucy.painter@opalhr.co.uk—01400 282661
Long Bennington book group—Moire Barnabas - 01400 283313
Long Bennington & Local Villages Rotary Group SecretaryLBR@outlook.com
Long Bennington Girl Guides—Mon 7pm-8.30pm—www.girlguiding.org.uk
1st Foston Brownies Thursdays - 6.30pm - 1stfostonbrownies20@gmail.com
Village Hall
Rainbows Thursdays - 5-6pm 1stfostonrainbows20@gmail.com—Village Hall
Scout Group Gorrie Hall, Chapel Lane, Foston
Beaver Scouts Mondays- 6:30-7:30pm Adam Lashbrook
foston.beavers@gmail.com
Club Scouts Wednesdays—6:30-8pm—Claire Collier 01636 626097
Scouts Thursdays—7-9pm—Les Romans 01400 281217
Explorer Scouts -Mondays—7:45-9:30pm—Jenny Wyn 01400 282301

Women's Institute: (each meet monthly in their local village hall)

Allington—1st Wed 7:45pm—Margaret Dicken— 01400 281524
Foston—2nd Tuesday 7:30pm—Carole Chandler-Barratt- 07767 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](mailto:longbenningtonpreschool@googlemail.com) 07816 537242
Bowls Club—Peter Fordham—07701059943 email nettyfordham@gmail.com
Friendship Group—Nicola Thorpe—07904 182752
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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