

THE CLAYPOLE GROUP OF VILLAGES

CLAYPOLE, DRY DODDINGTON, FENTON, STUBTON, WESTBOROUGH

NEWSLETTER

March 2026



LOCAL INFORMATION

CLAYPOLE

Priest in Charge: Jon Speirs-Davies email: jon.sd@lincoln.anglican.org

Mobile: 07766 486452

Churchwardens: John Padley, 9 The Cottage, School Lane, 01636 626510
Bridget Rosewell 2 Main Street Claypole 07836 215181

Parish Council Clerk: vacancy info needed

Parish Council website: <http://parishes.lincolnshire.gov.uk/claypole>;
www.facebook.com/claypoleparishcouncil; www.facebook.com/claypoleleisurepark

Claypole C of E School: 01636 626268 www.claypoleprimary.org

Claypole Brownies- Please register at girlguiding.org.uk/joinus or contact Sarah on 07765 791882 for further details

School Hall- contact Claypole School 01636 626268

Claypole Village Hall bookings: www.claypolevillagehall.org/onlinebooking

DRY DODDINGTON Churchwarden: Dick Loynes 07899 787057

richardloynes@btinternet.com

Parish Council Clerk: <https://westborough-dry-doddington.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk/>

email: clerk@westborough-dry-doddington-pc.gov.uk

Village Hall bookings: Brian Beddows 07552 757242

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator: Mike Hine, Hazelwood, Manor House Lane. 01400 282690 email- mikehine38@hotmail.com

STUBTON Churchwarden: Mike Libby tel - 01636 626028 mglibby14@gmail.com

Parish Council Clerk: stubtonclerk@gmail.com

Village Hall bookings: stubtonvh@gmail.com

WESTBOROUGH

Churchwardens: John Lawrence, Sandalwood. Town Street 01400 281850
Mavis Arnold, Holmes Farm, Long Bennington NG23 5EB 01400 281282

Village Hall Bookings: Jane Ford 01400 281206 jane.h.ford1@gmail.com

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator: vacancy

FENTON

Parish Meeting Website www.fentonvillage.com. chair.fentonvillage@gmail.com

Chairman Parish Meeting

Clerk: Graham Doney, clerk.fentonvillage@gmail.com

Churchwarden: Libby Mason, Corner Cottage, Main Street, Fenton

01636 627178

DOCTORS: LONG BENNINGTON SURGERY 01400 281220

CAYTHORPE -SURGERY 01400 272215

L.I.V.E.S. Coordinator Linda Kingston 01400 272740 lfkingston@hotmail.co.uk

Treasurer - David Harvey david.l.harvey@btinternet.com

LOCAL POLICE: PC Mark Barr 07973 845128.

If you ring 999 state "Lincolnshire Police" or your NG postcode will get the Nottingham force and delay any response!

Letter from your Editor

“Your editor is in hospital”



Hello!

You find me without the basics of life, trying to get things done with only an iPhone and few pencils and a pen! Grateful thanks to Tony for stepping into the breach.

I am amazed at the high tech wizardry around me these days, but am delighted that the indignities and ludicrous events as shown in the various Carry-On films still apply.

I have only the use of one hand and arm so even the simplest tasks are complicated. I have to eat sandwiches because the curry I really fancy would be too messy and I would end up wearing a lot of it! I have also chased a pot of yogurt around my tray trying to get to the bottom of it. I won't give any info about the complexities of using a loo or getting washed. It's awful! There is help but....

So I am watching the rain trickle down the huge and reading who-dunnits. And I have my sketchbook. Catch up again in Spring!

Have I cartooned my august consultant?

You bet!

“Aargh! Not more needles!”



From The Vicarage



Lent has a reputation as the season of no chocolate, biscuits, or tipples. And that's wonderful. But at its core, it's about making space. Clearing the mental buildup so that we can pay better attention to God, one another and our best selves that God made us to be.

Now, you might be thinking that Lent has already started.

Well, this is for those late starters (or people regretting giving up hot showers who want to swap). These are for you!

You could try giving up utensils and eat only finger food (which could get messy)! Give up the lift; take the stairs. Give up one piece of clutter on day one, two items on day two, etc. until 40 things on day 40! Give up music in the car and simply sit with your thoughts.

The writer Peter Rollins and friends do "Atheism for Lent" — they read and reflect on critiques of religion, Christianity, and God. It's a kind of "giving up God" of our imaginings, in order to uncover blind spots and rediscover a faith that is humbler and more honest.

My final suggestion is a real tough one — give up control: let others set the agenda. Some of these ideas are light-hearted; some are searching. But each asks the same question: what holds sway over me?

Lent is not about proving our willpower. It is about freedom. When we loosen our grip on comfort, noise, certainty, or control, we may discover that God has been waiting in the space that opens up.

If you're considering what to give up, choose something that leaves you not just deprived, but more alive, attentive, and open to grace.

Rev. Jon Speirs-Davies

Join a Local Church Service on Zoom

Compline each Thursday at 7.15pm.

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81065711379>

Events Calendar 2026

March

Sun 1 Westborough & Dry Doddington litter pick
Fri 6 Wine tasting at Dry Doddington 7.30pm
Sat 7 Claypole annual quiz
Sun 8 Claypole Litter Pick 10.00am
Tue 10 WI AGM
Fri 20 Claypole film "She said"
Thur 26 Dry Doddington coffee morning
Sat 28 Provisional prep/painting Claypole V Hall railings
Sun 29 Provisional prep/painting Claypole V Hall railings

April

Sat 4 Dry Dod Easter Egg hunt & Craft Fair
Tues 14 WI at Westborough "Passions & Poisons"
Fri 17 Claypole film "Ballad of Wallis Island"
Sat 18 Claypole Book Fair
Fri 24 Westborough Annual Quiz
Thur 30 Dry Doddington coffee morning

May

Fri 15 Dry Doddington Race Night
Thur 28 Dry Doddington coffee morning

**Send your event dates as soon as available
Let's try to avoid clashes!**

SAVE YOUR USED STAMPS FOR THE HORSES PLEASE

**Thank you to all the kind people
who have saved stamps for us this year**

Collecting used stamps



**Please pass stamps to Mavis Arnold or Jane Ford or any WI member
Remember they raise over £11,000 for the rescue charity last year!**

Claypole Village Hall

ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY	DETAILS
MONDAY	10:30am-12:30pm	Co-op Cuppa (every 3rd Monday of the month)	Join us for a cuppa, cake and a catch up.
	12:30-1:30pm	Crochet class with Jade	Meet in the Coulby Room
	6-7:15pm	1st Claypole Brownies	Sarah: 07765 791882
TUESDAY	10:30-11:15am	Pilates with Inspired Fitness with Karen	Karen: www.inspiredfitnesswithkaren.co.uk
	7:30-8:30pm	Pilates with MovewithChar	Charlotte: movewithchar@gmail.com
WEDNESDAY	9:20-10:10am	Caterpillar Music (family class)	www.caterpillarmusic.com/cass-leaders/anna-coggan
	10:15-10:55am	Caterpillar Music (family class)	
THURSDAY	9:15-10:15am	COMING SOON! Hatha Yoga with Daisy Chain Yoga	Rachel: 07920 096439 daisychainyoga2@gmail.com
	10:15-11:15am	COMING SOON! Seated Yoga with Daisy Chain Yoga	
	7-8pm	Boxercise with Sophie's Fitness & Beauty	Sophie: 07812 750905 sophie.fitnessandbeauty@hotmail.com
FRIDAY	9:15-10am	Cardio Tone (outdoors) with Sophie's Fitness & Beauty	Sophie: 07812 750905 sophie.fitnessandbeauty@hotmail.com
	10:30am-12:30pm	Crafty Cuppa with The Inky Nook (every 3rd Friday)	Carrie: carrie@theinkynook.com

Contact class leaders directly for more info/to book in

Westborough Annual Quiz for the cup!



Friday 24th April

Westborough Village Hall

7.30 for 8.00 start sharp!

Teams of up to 6 — £2.00 per person.

Westborough challenges the other villages
to see if they can steal the cup out of our village!



DD's Community Cafe
10am - 12pm
Last Thursday each month

£2 - Unlimited Tea/Coffee
Slice of cake

Dry Doddington Village Hall, Main Street, Newark, NG23 5HU



Dry Doddington Wine Tasting
Friday March 6th 7:30pm start

Tasting notes and score cards provided.

Quality wines and good company
and all for £12.

Tickets are available from

Julianne Oakes 07920842164

Richard Oakes 07796271601

or messaging the village hall

drydoddvillagehall@gmail.com

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Coal, Logs etc.

EVRI Parcel Services

Any suggestions, come and see us. Tel. No. 01636 626962

Mon-Sat 7am-7pm Sunday 8am-5pm

Opening hours Summer time Mon to Fri: 7am to 8pm Sat: 7:30am to 8pm
Sun: 8am to 5pm



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dansullivan14714@gmail.com

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Farmyard Tails

The weaned lambs were brought into the barns for sorting. We put them together in a pen and picked out the biggest ones first. These will command a better price due to their size and weight and will go to market first. We also pulled out a group of well grown ewe lambs. These were sold to a local farmer to increase his own flock. They will grow on this year and be put to his ram in the autumn when they are older and bigger.

All of our lambs are taken to Melton livestock market and sold as store lambs. These are lambs that other farmers buy to graze off stubble turnips or tidy up grass land. They then sell the lamb when it is ready for slaughter.

Our ewes and Barry are still outside and are roaming around all of the fields that the cattle grazed last year. They will tidy up any weedy edges, level off the grass and generally tidy up the pasture in time for spring. The ewes will be taken off these fields in a month or so before the grass starts to grow again and come inside the sheds in preparation for lambing. We need to save the new fresh grass for spring turnout. Sheep in, cows out !

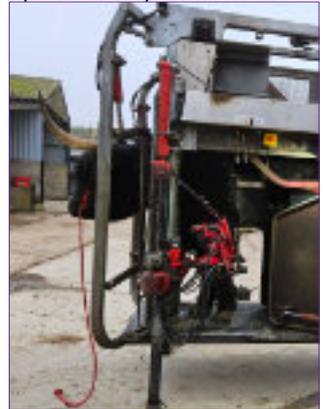
We spend a lot of time juggling animals around both indoors and out, we need to get the maximum benefit from the land and the livestock buildings.

We have sold 2 of the last remaining heifers. These are two that were born in 2024 a red called Crystal and a black called Fallon, these are their pet names. They do of course have fancy pedigree names. They are not travelling far, only 30 minutes up the A46. In the last 12 months we have sold Highlands to Bromsgrove, the Isle of Wight, Ashbourne, West Wales, Leicestershire and Lincolnshire. The steers are still with us for the time being and are now away from their dams.

When we moved to Claypole from our old farm back in May 2023 we brought with us that years calves and because we had no proper handling facilities here we kept the next years calves too. We set about putting up proper livestock buildings and safe and secure handling systems. As such we have been able to sell all of the stock we do not need to keep for ourselves and we are now at a more manageable stock level.

We are due to start calving at the end of February and the cycle will start all over again.

We had the cattle foot trimmer out to Phillis last week, she has been rather 'stiff' on her front right leg for a while, we put it down to her not moving around like they do when they are out on the fields. The foot trimmer had a look at her hoof and didn't find anything that would cause the stiffness. We are going down the route of perhaps a bit of arthritis in her knee. She is 15 years old so not unduly old in my experience of Highlands. She will be scanned to see if she is definitely in calf before any medication can be administered as some can cause them to abort.



These are the months when we catch up with some much needed maintenance on the farm. Some of the buildings have damaged or no guttering at all so we are sorting that out.

We also had a very wonky owl box on the Barnby side of our farm. John levelled it up with the telehandler and rebuilt the landing platform and porch. We cleaned it out and put in a nice deep layer of shavings ready for breeding season. Beryl is still around on the west side of the farm along the banks of the Witham.

(I would like to add that any work that we undertake with regards the boxes or the owls themselves is always sanctioned by our local Owl man)

Hopefully we will have a safe and happy calving season this year, an early spring turnout and a bundle of lovely calves & lambs.....fingers and toes crossed !

See you soon,
Tracey.

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SAT 7TH MARCH
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For hire rates, to check dates, or request a booking, visit:

www.claypolevillagehall.org



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or go to
bit.ly/VHquiznight
Book early to avoid
disappointment!



Saturday, 7th March 2026



doors open: 8.30pm
quiz starts: 7.30pm



Claypole Village Hall

£5 per person
Teams of 6 max.

Beers, wines, soft drinks available to buy
Food from Nathan's Kitchen Co.

Raffle - loads of great prizes with proceeds to support the village hall





The Green Page

As we welcome spring into our homes, we also welcome more opportunities to protect our environment!

Through the early dates of this month (4th-10th) it is Food Waste Action Week, a week dedicated to food waste and educating ourselves to make better choices when it comes down to our leftovers. The theme for this upcoming week is “Choose What You’ll Use” which simply means, buying only what you will use. A week against bulk buying!

Consumerism, such as bulk buying, has incredibly negative effects on the environment due to excessive waste. With best before dates, a lot of the food that people buy in bulk ends up going ‘off’ and is unable to be eaten - therefore just thrown away.

This is incredibly wasteful and can also be linked to pollution. Also, on the 28th of March, starting at 8:30 PM and ending at 9:30 PM, marks “Earth Hour”. A free hour where you can do absolutely anything that is positive for the environment. We truly are running out of time when it comes down to finally looking after our planet, so this annual 60 minutes really counts more than ever.

You don’t even need to spend any money, just simple things like combining leftovers to make a brand new meal is more beneficial than you think!

A lot of people believe that huge steps need to be taken by individuals to help the planet so don’t even try, believing that they couldn’t help because they are just one person. But the truth is, if everyone who thought that way did something small, we could contribute a huge difference.

We need your help

Calling for *micro-volunteers*

Do you have a little bit of time to spare to help out in your community? Looking for DofE volunteering? Or could you help with a one-off job at the Hall?

We invite you to micro-volunteer with us - you can do as much or as little as you like!

One off tasks include:

- Jet wash play equipment/picnic benches
- Help remove trestle of war frame
- Strip and paint front railings
- Store room or shed sort out
- Touch up paintwork
- Steam clean chairs

Regular tasks include:

- Bake a cake for Co-op Cuppa
- Help with gardening
- Cinema club set up/refreshments
- Help out at the family fun day (BBQ, drinks/set up/clear away)
- Help with it/social media - posters, fb, instagram etc.

SIGN UP HERE:
bit.ly/Volunteers
or scan the QR code



CONTACT US:
VILLAGEHALLCLAYPOLE@GMAIL.COM
07339 075294



Claypole Parish Council



CLAYPOLE VILLAGE LITTER PICK

10am, Sunday 8th March
Meet at the Village Hall

Please dress for the weather & wear sturdy footwear. All other equipment will be provided

Back up date Sunday 22nd March





THE FIVE BELLS INN

95 Main Street, Claypole, NG23 5BJ
Restaurant, Bar & Accommodation



Food Served

Lunch - Wednesday to Saturday 12-2pm

Dinner - Monday, Wednesday to Saturday 6-8:30pm

Sunday Lunch - 12-3pm

(Booking advised via our website)

Mother's Day

Sunday 15th March

Lunchtime menu 12-3pm

Quiz Night

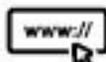
Every first Wednesday of
the month

8:30pm start

Children's Easter Egg
Hunt

Easter Weekend

*Corporate and events catering also available for wakes,
christenings, birthdays and other events - please enquire via email*



www.thefivebellsclaypole.co.uk



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@thefivebells



@fivebellsclaypole

Daytime 2pm

Fri 20th March
The God of the Woods
by Liz Moore

Fri 24th April
Beartown
by Fredrik Backman

Fri 15th May
Act of Oblivion
by Robert Harris



Claypole Village Hall

BOOK CLUBS

Two book clubs are running at the Village Hall, meeting monthly in the Coulby Room (use the side entrance).

Daytime group meets at 2pm on a Friday.

Evening group meets at 7pm on a Thursday.



Evenings 7pm

Thu 5th March
The Librarians of Rue de Picardie
by Janet Skeslien Charles

Thu 9th April
Ghost Wall
by Sarah Moss

Thu 14th May
The Days I Loved You Most
by Amy Neff



Claypole Village Hall

MOVIE

nights

Fri 20th March
SHE SAID

Doors open 6:30pm
food from
Bedda Pasta

Fri 17th April
BALLAD OF WALLIS ISLAND

Doors open 6:30pm
food tbc

Fri 15th May
THE LIFE OF CHUCK

Doors open 6:30pm
food from The Peel
(wood fired pizza)

Claypole Cinema Club is a "social cinema" - seated around tables, with beer, wine, soft drinks and snacks available to buy. Membership, open to everyone (not just Claypole residents) costs just £10 per year for an individual & £25 for a family of 4 & you can attend as many screenings as you like for that price

Guest passes are also available

Join Cinema Club here:
bit.ly/ClaypoleCinema





News from Claypole & District Women's Institute

February The speaker should have been Linda Hewitt. Unfortunately, Linda was unable to be with us & our member Julie Greenberry did a brilliant job when she stepped in at very short notice with a craft night. She showed members how to make a really beautiful large crepe paper flower. Everyone had a laugh when a member said it would make a lovely fascinator and another saying providing it wasn't raining.

March Meeting on Tuesday 10th will be our Annual Meeting. The Committee gets voted in & Kathleen the secretary does a quiz. In the past, President Jane always said the answer is always Elvis! However, if Jane is not there, "Elvis will have already left the building"!

Note: The Treasurer has asked that subs are paid by Bacs transfer or cash. Subs would normally be £54 for the year, but members are being subsidised and it will be £44.

Tuesday 14th April Tracey Ackhurst is going to tell us about "Poisons and Passions"! We are looking forward to an evening that will be fun!

Members: we still need ideas about an outing in June, please

We have agreed to support the Women 'Refuge all year round, not just at Christmas! Having met one of the staff in person, we are now clearer about what is required all year round. Kathleen takes supplies usually around once a month. Please let Kathleen know of any donations you have.

Are you thinking of joining, or coming back? The first visit, same as the visitor's fee, is £4.00; we hope you will join us for lots of informal fun.

Contact - Kathleen Thomas – telephone 01636 626860.

Kathleen's Kitchen

How about trying this as a side dish. This is considered good for arthritis, but is good even if you don't suffer with it

Please remember that all weights & measures are approximate?

Celeriac and Carrots with Ginger (for 3)

Ingredients;

15oz/425g Celeriac – peeled & diced 15oz/425g

Carrots - diced & peeled (if using new, the skin can be left on)

4tbsp Lemon Juice

2 tbsp Fresh Root Ginger – pureed. It can be from a jar.

(If not got try ground Ginger but try 1tsp at a time & the taste will be a little bit different)

15 fl oz/425ml Water or stock if preferred, however it will change the taste slightly.

Optional – don't use if these upset you;

6oz/170g onion & 2tbsp tomato puree/paste.

Method: Place all ingredients into a pan, brush bring to the boil & then simmer until all of the water has evaporated, shaking the pan to make sure it doesn't stick

Serve while still warm, if preferred it can be mashed.

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Contact: secretsquirrelhealthandfitness@gmail.com

Call :Amanda 07787128080





Bloom Bike

Hand tied bouquets

Coming to a village hall near you

Tuesdays

Starting 7th April
Dry Doddington 9.30-11.30
Hougham 12pm-2pm

Thursdays

Starting 2nd April
Norwell 10am-12pm
Coddington 12.30pm-2.30pm

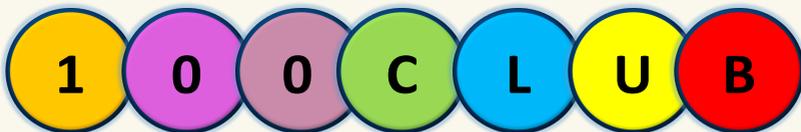
Fridays

Starting 3rd April
Stubton 9.30am-10.30am
Brant Broughton 11am-1pm
Barnby in the willows 1.30pm-3pm

Saturdays

Starting 4th April
Fernwood 10am-12pm

JOIN CLAYPOLE'S



Prizes of £150, £75, and £30

Next Draw March

£15 PER QUARTER. QUARTERLY CASH PRIZES.



SCAN TO SIGN UP OR FOR MORE INFORMATION
OR CONTACT STEVE EVERSON ON claypolecctreasurer@gmail.com

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Half page colour £31

Eighth page colour £11

Half page b/w £21

Community Cuppa



At Claypole village Hall

Join us every **third Monday**

10.30—12.30

16th March

Supported by Lincolnshire Coop



Book Fair Thank You!

to all who helped in any way and for the many donations of books etc.

The total amount raised was £774.19.

The next one is 18th April 2026.

Books etc accepted at any time.

Please contact Gillian 01636 626510.

St. James Church, Dry Doddington

We need your continuing support and help.

Most people already know that for some time now we have been planning to carry out further restoration work to our church building. This includes work to level and make safe the very uneven floor, repair cracked wall plaster, some of which is falling off and upgrades to the electrics.

As part of our efforts to raise the money to pay for all this, in November we submitted a grant application to National Lottery Heritage Fund. **Unfortunately, we have now been told that this has been unsuccessful.**

We are now having to seriously look at how best to proceed with this work. Alternatives being considered include --
Reducing the specification or removing some of the work from the project to reduce the overall cost.
Seeking smaller grants from several other charities (very few, if any, offer the level of support of the Heritage Fund).
More local fundraising.
Reapplying to the Heritage Fund.

Abandon the project and just let the building gradually deteriorate.

If you are able to support us as we seek the best solution or have any suggestions to offer we invite you to join us at our **Parochial Church Council AGM on Thursday 5th March at 7 pm in the church** when this will be the main item for discussion.

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Dry Doddington Village Hall

Easter Fair

Saturday 4th April

10am – 3pm

-Easter Egg
Hunt

-Craft Stalls

-Cafe

-And Much More



- FREE ENTRY
- RAFFLE
- **Name the Easter Bunny**
- EASTER BONNET
COMPETITION

West Loveden

KIDS



UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH

16th

Mothering Sunday Event

at St. James Village Hall, Long Bennington
10:30-11:30

A celebration with refreshments, flowers and art. Please invite your special women and bring them along.

Other family members very welcome too.

MARCH

29th

Palm Sunday Family Service

at St Peter's Church, Claypole
Palms, donkeys, procession.
10:30

APRIL

5th

Easter Family Service with children's Easter activities.

St. Swithun's Church, Long Bennington
10:30

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE EVENTS OR OTHER
CHURCH EVENTS PLEASE GET IN TOUCH. 07907451595

Pancake Party at St Peter's



Thank you to everyone who joined St Peter's Church Children's Team on Shrove Tuesday. We shared crafts that tried to explain what Lent is all about.

One suggestion at the end of the session was to encourage children to bring photos or pictures to Church on Palm Sunday that they felt represented the season of Lent. We would like to open this up to the Claypole Community. We will put a selection on our display board in Church.

The Palm Sunday Service will start at 9.30am at the village hall where we will do some crafts with the children who come to walk to Church with the donkeys. Want to know more? Please contact our Church Wardens (numbers at beginning of magazine).



What a Team! Thank you So much. 40 pancakes decorated and devoured.
28 Mardi Gras Masks and prayer hands made. What's Lent folded "Things" made.
Children gripped by Rev Jon's talk

Sunday Worship Times

March

Sunday 1 st		
Allington	10.00	Holy Communion
Claypole	10.30	Holy Communion
L B	10.30	Morning Worship
Sunday 8 th		
Allington	10.00	Morning Worship
L B	10.30	Holy Communion
Stubton	6.00pm	Evening Holy Communion
Sunday 15 th Mothering Sunday		
Claypole	10.30	Holy Communion
L B	10.30	Morning Worship
Foston	3.00pm	Holy Communion
Sunday 22 nd		
L B	10.30	Holy Communion
Fenton	6.00pm	Holy Communion
Sunday 29 th Palm Sunday		
LB	10.30	Holy Communion
Claypole Village hall	9.30	Palm Sunday Service with Donkey Procession from the Village Hall arriving at Church for 10.30

HOLY WEEK SERVICES 29TH MARCH TO 5TH APRIL

29th March - See Above

2nd April – Maundy Thursday Service 7.30pm. Venue to be Confirmed in April Issue.

3rd April – Good Friday Walk. 10am from Dry Doddington to Westborough and Long Bennington for Readings and Reflections (11.30approx.)

5th April – Easter Sunday Family Service 10.30 at Long Bennington and Holy Communion at Claypole.