

# Saxonwell Group Parish News

March 26



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saxonwellchurches

[www.saxonwellchurches.org.uk](http://www.saxonwellchurches.org.uk)

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

## West Loveden Monthly Services Pattern

<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup></b>		
Allington	10.00	Holy Communion
Claypole	10.30	Holy Communion
L B	10.30	Morning Worship
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup></b>		
Allington	10.00	Morning Worship
L B	10.30	Holy Communion
Stubton	6.00pm	Evening Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> Mothering Sunday</b>		
Claypole	10.30	Holy Communion
L B	10.30	Morning Worship
Foston	3.00pm	Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>		
L B	10.30	Holy Communion
Fenton	6.00pm	Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday</b>		
LB	10.30	Holy Communion
Claypole	9.30	Palm Sunday Service with Donkey Procession from Village Hall at 10am

### 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.**

Please go to link below to see previous issues of the magazine:

<https://www.saxonwellchurches.org.uk/>

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

Everybody is welcome to any of the services and we encourage you to attend services in other villages if there isn't a service in your church. Please join us for worship & fellowship (tea, coffee & biscuits included!!) If you know of neighbours who are without transport, kindly offer a lift too!

### **Contacts for the Magazine**

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EMAIL ADDRESS FOR ARTICLES:

Sgpnmag23@gmail.com

**Copy Deadline for the April'26 issue is 12 March 2026 at 5pm**

### **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)

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### **ADVERTISING - IN THE PARISH MAG**

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### **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, Mr Stephen Peck, 81 Main Road, Long Bennington, NG23 5DJ

Hand to any church or PCC member

## 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

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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.

**Zumba:** Thursday 6.00-6.45pm

**Hatha Yoga:** Thursday 7.15-8.15

**Yoga:** Friday 10.00-11.00am

**Social Afternoon:** Friday 1.30-4.00pm. (Winter timings) Open to all for conversation and games.

**Church Coffee & Cake:** Monday 10.00am-12 noon (Monthly)

**Allington WI:** First Wednesday of the month, 7.30 for 7.45pm start. Visitors always welcome – £5.

**Sound Bath:** 3rd Saturday 10.30-11.30am (See [www.bookwhen.com/shola](http://www.bookwhen.com/shola) or just turn up.)

**Carpet Bowls:** Alternate Sundays 2.00-5.00pm (September – April)

For further details on the above contact David Smedley on [chair.allingtonvhmc@gmail.com](mailto:chair.allingtonvhmc@gmail.com).

For Viking Squares contact Judy Grummitt on 01400 281497.

### SATURDAY 28TH MARCH

**BIG BRUNCH: 9.30am-12 noon, last orders 11.00am. Drinks and Cake only will be served after 11.00am.** Menu consists of a full English breakfast, with bacon, sausage, hash brown, fried egg, grilled tomato and beans. (Optional black pudding.) Or if you're extra hungry you can order a large breakfast. Bread/toast, butter and marmalade/jam also on the menu. Tea/coffee and orange will also be served along with a variety of cakes. **A £3 deposit is required for special dietary orders so please message Jackie in advance to order a special diet, on [eventsatallingtonvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:eventsatallingtonvillagehall@gmail.com).**

### VIEW FROM THE PEW - HOLY TRINITY CHURCH ALLINGTON

We thank everyone and in particular our loyal supporters who have helped us over the years.

Our services continue to be well attended and it is lovely to see everyone in Church on a Sunday morning – makes it all worthwhile.

We particularly thank the Rev Les Batty for taking our services when Rev Jon is not available. We very much appreciate Les travelling to help us out.

## COFFEE AND CAKE

Our Coffee and Cake mornings will be held on Monday 2nd March and Monday 6th April (Easter Monday) from 10-12 in the village hall. We look forward to seeing you all there for coffee, cake and a chat.

## ADVANCE NOTIFICATION - PUDDING CLUB

On Sunday 17th May 1-5 in the Village Hall we are running a Pudding Club – a selection of the finest puddings. More info to follow. Please note the date in your diary.

## SERVICES

Our next services will be-

Sunday 1st March – Communion – Rev Les or Rev Jon – to be confirmed

Sunday 15th March – to be confirmed

Sunday 5th April – Easter Sunday – Communion – Rev J

## ALLINGTON WI



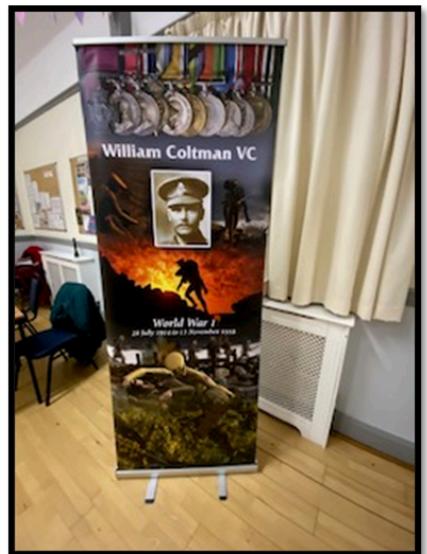
### The Story of the Two Crosses

A Presentation On The Life Of William H. Coltman Vc - Told By His Great Grandson, Tim Coltman

On Wednesday, 4th February, Allington WI was joined by Tim Coltman, who did an excellent presentation on the Life of William H. Coltman VC – World War I – 28th July 1914 to 11th November 1918. Tim took us back to World War I about the life of his amazing great grandfather.

William Harold Coltman (known as William or Bill, as he was known to his friends) was born on the 17th November 1891 in the village of Rangemore, outside the town of Burton on Trent. He attended the local village school, becoming a gardener and was known in his community as a quiet, humble and unassuming man, who never sought attention.

William went to war as a 'Stretcher Bearer' and refused to fight or fire a shot and never used a gun because of his Christian beliefs – and whilst refusing to take life he would rather go out into extremely dangerous conditions to save lives, which he often did. Although he was just 5ft 4ins he put his life on the line in no man's land, often under intense fire from the enemy, he tended the wounded, often having to carry them on his back to safety, all the time unsure of what would befall him.



As a result of his bravery and devotion to duty, he is now described as the highest decorated non-commissioned officer of the British Army. Among the medals awarded to him were the Military Medal and bar, Distinguished Conduct Medal and bar and the highest award of all the Victoria Cross. Each medal was awarded as a result of:- outstanding bravery, a disregard for personal safety and an unquestioned devotion to duty.

Following the War, on William's return to Burton, a reception was organised for this brave soldier at the local train station. William on hearing of this left the train a station early and walked home to avoid it all and returned to being a gardener. He has been described as a man with the heart of a lion and possibly was one of the bravest and most decorated men that people have 'never' heard of. He was also described as 'No Ordinary Man', and he certainly was, he was only a man, but a man who placed his faith and trust in the only one through whom anyone who does what Bill did will be guaranteed the greatest blessing of all – 'Eternal Life.'

Tim Coltman has been doing this Presentation about his great grandfather to other WIs, Probuss, U3As etc., for quite a few years now and he can be highly recommended – an extremely interesting and informative talk. For further details contact: [Tim.coltman@sky.com](mailto:Tim.coltman@sky.com)

## **NEXT MEETINGS**

Wednesday, 4th March 2026 – Annual Meeting – MEMBERS ONLY.

Wednesday, 1st April 2026 – Debbie Starr – Silk Painting – Visitors can only attend on the evening if they have pre-booked/paid, as has been advertised.

**RECYCLING OF EMPTY BLISTER PACKS:** The recycling of empty blister packs, Boots are now accepting them and from the 1st November the recycling bins were back in Allington Village Hall where everyone has started filling them again, which is great. However, remember, should you prefer to take your empty blister packs to Boots yourself, then you can claim extra points on your Boots Advantage Card, if you have one! If you have a small amount of blister packs you can put them through the slot on the display stand, but if you have a lot, then there is a door that you can open and just tip your blister packs in.

There will be two recycling bins at the Village Hall – one in the servery and the other in the Annex (where the Post Office comes).

Please ensure that all blister packs are EMPTY before putting them in the bins at the Village Hall, because tablets have been found still in the odd blister pack.

**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.

Further information contact – [allingtonwi@gmail.com](mailto:allingtonwi@gmail.com)

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**Would you like to light up St Peter's Church, Foston?**  
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Contact Lucy Bliss to book 07740 980689  
£8 for the evening (usually 7-10pm but might  
change according to time of year)



## 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](http://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

## ST PETER'S FOSTON – NEWS FROM THE PEWS

### Services at St Peter's

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

Mother's Day, 15th March, 3pm

19th April, 3pm, Holy Communion

17th May, 3pm, Holy Communion

There are many services and events around the Group for Easter so do look at the full Easter Schedule for 3rd-5th April plus the following Holy Week as there are no specific services in the village over this period.

Many other Services take place across the Group throughout the month – look at the schedule at the beginning of the magazine for all services available. Holy Communion is also available at Long Bennington on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month, so we hope congregations will visit other churches.

The Church remains open to all, twice a week for private prayer on Wednesday (1-4 pm) and Sunday (9.30 am - 1pm). Please feel free to use the church for quiet contemplation and prayer.

### Upcoming Events

We are currently in the process of creating the events Calendar for 2026 so look out in future editions as plans evolve!

The next COVID-19 Day of Reflection will take place on Sunday 8th March 2026. It will be an opportunity to come together to remember those who lost their lives since the pandemic began and to honour the tireless work and acts of kindness shown during this unprecedented time. The village groups are considering an appropriate event so look out for notices as the date approaches.





**Coffee Morning:** Come and join us for chat and homemade cake on the first Wednesday of the month. So many have been attending recently so it is clearly the place to be! Just £2.50 for all this... At the Village Hall from 10-11.30am on the following dates:  
Next dates: 4th March 1st April 6th May

**Book Swap:** Lots of books currently available so feel free to browse the books in the church porch, with more inside! Please take as many as you like as there are so many there! Peruse the inside shelves when the Church is open either Sunday mornings (9.30am-1pm) or Wednesday afternoons (1-4pm).



### Regular Giving

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

[www.parishgiving.org.uk](http://www.parishgiving.org.uk) and search for Foston St Peter. Alternatively use this QR code:



And thank you to those who do give regularly already!



Look out for unwanted phishing emails! No one from the Church will email you asking for urgent help or finances. If you receive any emails which appear false or a scam, please report them to Action Fraud but do not click on any links or reply to them. We are aware some are around so we urge you to be alert.

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](mailto:lucyjanebliss@gmail.com)).

## FOSTON WI



January into February has been quiet for our WI, following a rather hectic but enjoyable time, leading up to Christmas. On the 10th February was our 105th WI Birthday celebration. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend, but understand it was a lovely evening, with a fabulous Chilli cooked by Liz, and desserts supplied by Liz, Margaret Siswick, Helen and Terry. These were all washed down with "drinks", then they were entertained with quizzes, before an amazing Raffle.



Our committee is always treated by our members, as a big thank you for all their work during the year. This is organising Speakers, various outings, meals and friendly get togethers. During the evening our members presented each of the committee, with a vase containing a colourful bouquet, which was gratefully received. Debbie kindly made a beautiful birthday cake for everyone, which Eileen our President, blew out the candles. Needless to say, there weren't 105 of these!

21st January we shall be going to Grantham House, for a coffee, cake and a natter!  
10th March – is our Foston Annual Meeting

For further information please contact Eileen Ross 07710 534732  
Maggi Challis Publicity – Feb2026

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## Long Bennington – REGULAR DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

(Please also see Village Hall Schedule)

**Mobile Library Service:** Outside Long Bennington Village Hall Friday - 1330 - 1430. Enquiries to Customer Service Centre on 01522 782010 or [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk](http://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](mailto:marybarlowhello@gmail.com) or tel: 07885 639091

**Long Bennington Afternoon House Group:** Do you enjoy meeting other Christians to chat. discuss and pray?

We meet every other Monday at 2.15pm 76 Main Rd Long Bennington

For further details contact: Joy Jordan Email: [joy.g.jordan@icloud.com](mailto:joy.g.jordan@icloud.com): Tel: 01400 281355.

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

### Long Bennington Pre-School

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



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## Long Bennington Village Hall Events Schedule February'26

When	Class/ Meeting	Time	Hall	Contact
Mon weekly	Pilates	10.15-11.00	Main	Linda Brady 07850 618516
1 <sup>st</sup> Mon monthly	Parish Council	19:00 – 21:00	Small	01400 282716 parishclerk@ longbenningtonparishcouncil.org
2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday	Rotary Club	19:00 – 20:00	Bar	<a href="mailto:hello@lbrotary.co.uk">hello@lbrotary.co.uk</a>
Tues weekly	Bennington Art Group	10:00 – 12:00	Foyer	Margaret Butcher 07484 140914 margaretbutcher98@gmail.com
1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday	WI	19:30 – 21:00	Main	As above
4 <sup>th</sup> Tue monthly	Gardening Club	19:30 – 21:00	Main	Amy Hodson <a href="mailto:amyhodson4@gmail.com">amyhodson4@gmail.com</a>
Wednesdays	Post Office	09:00 – 12:00	Foyer	
Thursdays	Post Office	13:00 – 15:00	Foyer	
Thurs weekly NOT 19 Mar	Adult Pilates Suitable for all levels	17:15 – 18:15 & 18:30 – 19:30	Main	Amanda 07967387969 <a href="http://www.corestrengthpilatesuk.com">www.corestrengthpilatesuk.com</a>
Fri weekly	Adult Pilates - all levels	09:30 - 10:30	Main	Amanda, As Above
1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Brains of Bennington		All	Sold Out
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Mothering Sunday Event	10.00-12.00	Main Hall	Jane Cowley ejanecowley@aol.com
Tues 17 Mar	Wine Club	19.00-21.30	Bar	Raj Solanki raj@libradrinks.co.uk
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Victor & Albert Musical Comedy Show	19.15 -22.00	ALL	Tickets from <a href="https://www.longbenningtonvillagehall.org/events/">https://www.longbenningtonvillagehall.org/events/</a>
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	LB Gardening Club Spring Show	9.00-17.00	ALL	Amy Hodson <a href="mailto:amyhodson4@gmail.com">amyhodson4@gmail.com</a>
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> March & Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> April	Love to Dance - Frozen	15.00-19.00	Main	sally.picker@hotmail.co.uk
View all events and bookings online	<a href="https://www.longbenningtonvillagehall.org">https://www.longbenningtonvillagehall.org</a> <a href="mailto:bookings@longbenningtonvillagehall.org">bookings@longbenningtonvillagehall.org</a>			

## LONG BENNINGTON VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Following a very well attended live drama performance of Dead on Cue in October, The Village Hall Management Committee are delighted to announce our next live performance.

SAVE THE DATE Thursday 19 March 2026 - Victor and Albert - an inter-active two-man variety show blending music, comedy, games and magic.

### **Brains Of Bennington Sold Out!**

Thanks to everyone who has bought tickets and entered a team - we look forward to a great evening. David Barnett, Chairman, Long Bennington Twinning Association."

### **Long Bennington Village Hall Committee AGM**

Wednesday 8th April 2026 7.30 p.m. All Residents are welcome.

The agenda will include annual reports from the Chair and Treasurer and election of key committee roles.

### **Long Bennington Village Hall Open Morning**

Come and have a look round the hall on Saturday 11th April 2026 between 10a.m. and 12 p.m. Have a cup of tea or coffee and some cake. Meet the volunteers who run the hall - your chance to give feedback in an informal setting or simply have a look around.

### **Long Bennington Gardening Club (Village Produce Association)**

Lots of information about the Club is available on our website at

[longbenningtongardeningclub.com](http://longbenningtongardeningclub.com). Bev Gledhill–Secretary 01400 282239/07753 709513

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## LONG BENNINGTON MEDICAL CENTRE

Wellbeing Walks – Continue in 2026.

Our free Wellbeing Walks take place on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 10:00am, starting and ending at the Medical Centre. NEW for 2026 – Both shorter walks and longer walks are now available, so don't worry about your fitness level we have a walk to suit everyone. Our next walk is on the 18th March – we hope to see you there.



LONG BENNINGTON  
Medical Centre



## Exciting News – Internal Developments 2026.

We are pleased to announce that our brand-new clinical room is now open. This room has given us more capacity for minor illness clinics and appointments. We would like to thank both the contractors and our patients for their support over this phase of the building work.

We are now working on expanding our Dispensary and expect this to be completed by the end of March. This will allow our dispensary team to work on your acute prescriptions and monthly prescriptions at the same time. We would like to thank our patients for their co-operation and patience whilst these improvements are happening.



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## LONG BENNINGTON NEWS FROM THE PEWS

### **CLEARED BRAMBLES ON NORTH SIDE.THANKS TO ROTARY CLUB FOR PAYING FOR THIS.**

From the start of the year, we have continued to enjoy weekly Sunday services at St Swithun's Church, alternating between Holy Communion and Morning Worship. Everyone is welcome to come along – we also have a children's area with activities and love to see families and young children at church. (There's an upstairs cosy room overlooking the main church, kitchen and toilet facilities, if needed.)



Last month, on 1st February, we joined the Methodist Chapel congregation at a combined Covenant Service. We are pleased to have arranged further joint services – at St Swithun's or the Chapel later in the year and are also jointly organising the World Day of Prayer service at 2.30pm on Friday 6th March which will be held at the Methodist Chapel (see poster in the magazine).

### **Looking forward to later in March and Eastertime:**

We will be holding a Mothering Sunday Event (March 15th at 10.30am) in the Village Hall where there will be a display of portraits and prayers by children from Long Bennington Academy celebrating their special women. (There will also be the usual Morning Worship service in the church at the same time). Please invite your important women along to treat them to special refreshments, a gift of flowers and a look at the art on display.

Other family members are also very welcome to come!

On Good Friday (3rd April), we will host the end of the Good Friday Walk (around 11.30am) from Dry Doddington (start 10.00am) and Westborough (arrive around 10.45am) churches.

On Easter Sunday (5th April) there will be a 10.30am Family Service with Children's Easter Activities in the church.

Following Easter, the church will be regularly open – we welcome visitors to look around this historic church as well as to use it as a reflective space.

Our regular Tea-n-Chat get togethers in St James' Village Hall also continue on the last Friday of the month from 2-3.45 pm. Everyone is welcome to come along.

If you would like to make a donation to St Swithun's church, please use the QR code here or by online bank transfer to: Long Bennington Parochial Church Council Account Number: 501103570 Sort Code: 05-04-42



# 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

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**  
**(A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT)**  
World Day of Prayer 2026 Nigeria

Our sisters in Nigeria invite us to join them for the World Day of Prayer on Friday 6 March 2026. The service they have prepared reflects on the theme, "I will give you rest."

The World Day of Prayer is an international, women-led, ecumenical movement that shares the hopes, concerns, and prayers of women from around the globe. Each year, women from a different country craft a service, sharing their unique spiritual journey and culture. For 2026, the women of Nigeria have created a service that speaks to our need for peace and solace, drawing on their faith and experiences in a world filled with struggles and anxieties.

The preparation for this day is extensive. The writing country and theme are chosen years in advance, and the service then travels to the international committee in New York for translation and dissemination to national committees in over 120 participating countries. From there it is adapted and shared locally, culminating in gatherings at hundreds of churches every March.

This day is a powerful demonstration of global solidarity. It begins in Samoa and moves across the world in a continuous wave of prayer, finishing 38 hours later in American Samoa. It truly is a worldwide day of prayer!

**SPONSOR A KNITTED SQUARE**



We are the local Chatty Café group, meeting every Thursday afternoon at Bakers @ 62 Main Road, Long Bennington.

As participants in the national Chatty Café Scheme, we are currently knitting sponsored squares to help raise funds in support of the charity's operations.

If you would like to help, please drop your £1 per square sponsorship donation in the collection tin at Bakers @ 62 before the end of March. Thank you.

All completed blankets will be donated to Newark Women's Aid.

THE CHATTY CAFE SCHEME is a non-profit Community Interest Company Number 12111574

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**  
A service for everyone!  
**Friday 6 March**  
*I will give you rest, come*

**Nigeria 2026**

**2.30 pm**

**Methodist Chapel**

**Long Bennington**

**All Welcome**

Starting on the date-line in Samoa, Christians begin praying for the world, and as the earth rotates, more and more countries join in until the circle is completed as the sun sets over American Samoa.

This year, the programme is prepared by Christian Women in Nigeria, with their theme of "I will give you rest, come...", based on Matthew 11 v28 - 30.

Jointly organized by members of Swithun's Church & the Methodist Chapel



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Tuesday, 3rd February 2026

## Resolutions Evening

Due to the poor weather conditions in January which resulted in us cancelling our first meeting of the year, it was lovely to meet up again, even though it was a very cold and wet evening.

Resolutions are held annually by the WI, the main reason being to turn member's concerns into national campaigns for change. It is a democratic process, voted on by each WI member.

This year the Resolutions we discussed were as follows:

1. Accessible Public Toilet Facilities, to promote dignity, health and social inclusion.
2. Action on Women's Homelessness
3. Every Child Needs a Friend
4. Nearer to Nature
5. Love your Vulva – self-checking is your best defence against vulval cancer

Each motion was presented by a committee member, aided by slides, and later discussed by the members.

We have all noticed that there are fewer public toilets available which can cause embarrassment and anxiety.

Homeless women are not as noticeable as men as they tend to rest in well-lit spaces such as all-night buses or all-night fast-food restaurants, to ensure their safety.

Children in care are often isolated from family members and see no adults other than their carers or social workers, so to have an independent adult to talk to and spend one to one time with can bring huge benefits.

Nearer to Nature is a hot topic at present and in our village, we are lucky to be near lovely countryside as well as having regular walking groups to join. Being able to breathe fresh air and enjoy the birdsong and wildlife on a country walk brings many health benefits and can lessen anxiety.

Love your Vulva is a recognition that vulval cancer, although rare, is found more in women over 60 years old, which is cause for concern as women in this age group are no longer offered smear tests. It is vital to remember to check for any unusual signs, such as bleeding, soreness or itching, and changes to the skin such as raised, thickened patches.

The vote was taken and the results will be forwarded to the NFWI. The Resolution receiving the most votes will form the basis of the 2026/27 campaign.

For more information about our friendly WI, please contact Margaret Butcher on 07484 140914 or [margaretbutcher98@gmail.com](mailto:margaretbutcher98@gmail.com)  
Elaine Walton – Publicity



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# Long Bennington Parish Council

The Parish Council had its last meeting on 2nd February at St James's Hall.

**PARISH CLERK** – Martin Wright has now taken over the role as Parish Clerk. The Councillors have expressed their sincere thanks for the fantastic work that Jane Evans did, during her 15 years in the role.

**PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS** - the Parish Council continues to explore various methods to enhance its communication with residents and to encourage greater community engagement and interaction. Further information will appear on posters within the village and on social media, shortly. The Council welcomes and values all comments from residents. Please do not hesitate to share your thoughts and feedback regarding how communication and engagement can be further improved.

**NEW PAVEMENT ON CHURCH STREET** - Councillors expressed their satisfaction with the work that had been completed, so far and agreed it would make the path much safer. It was accepted the work has caused some disturbance for residents in the area and particularly impacted the grass verges on Acklands Lane. Lincolnshire County Council have been contacted to clarify what is being proposed to minimise the possibility of accidents on the narrow lane and rectify the verges upon completion of the work.

**SKDC WALKING FESTIVAL** – During April various walking-based events are to take place in the villages which are part of the council's area. Long Bennington will benefit from this, and further information will be available shortly. Posters and social media details will be made available in early March.

**PLAYING FIELDS** – the work to enhance the interior of the pavilion has been completed and Football Foundation funding has enabled solar panels to be installed on the building. The management committee have further plans to enhance the playing fields facilities and alongside the village hall management committee, we are fortunate as a village, to have such enthusiastic and capable volunteers.

**COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH** – thank you to a few residents who have contacted the Parish Council regarding offering support. This is an ongoing initiative, and volunteers will continue to be needed to help with using our speed gun to deter motorists from speeding in our village. Training courses for the volunteers are being planned. Please contact the Parish Clerk for further information.

Following Parish Council meeting dates  
Monday 2nd March 2026 and Monday 13th April

As always, if you have any issues or concerns you wish to raise with the Parish Council, please contact the Parish Clerk on 01400 282716 or email [parishclerk@longbenningtonparishcouncil.org](mailto:parishclerk@longbenningtonparishcouncil.org)



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## From the Methodist Chapel

### Serving Faithfully Together

It has been a real pleasure over these past weeks to begin getting to know more people at Long Bennington Methodist Chapel. I try to pop in whenever I can, though life across our churches is busy and activities often seem to happen at the same time. I am grateful to Duncan for keeping me updated and for all that quietly continues week by week.



At this time of year, much of our focus across the churches is on ensuring that everything is in good order - from caring for our buildings to keeping records accurate and up to date. Part of this includes completing our annual Statistics for Mission return. Counting attendance and membership is not the most visible part of church life, and I would much rather be spending time directly with people, but there is something important about it. If you value something, you count it. These figures help us reflect honestly on who we are and how we are serving. I am also mindful that while we know what we are about, we have not reviewed how the Lord is using us, and where we might be headed in furthering this work. Watch this space!

I also very much valued sharing in our recent Covenant Service where we were joined by folks from the Church. What a great crowd! For Methodists this is a historic and significant moment in the year - an opportunity to renew our commitment to God and to rejoice in the relationship we have with him. It calls us to faithfulness in all of life - in activity and in rest, in responsibilities that come naturally and in those we take up for the sake of others. In a world that often feels polarised, that steady commitment to Christ shapes how we live and serve within our community. And the covenant prayer, said year after year, has sustained me through some challenging times. This is because it stands aside from 'Church' and reminds me that I am rooted in Jesus first, who calls me to follow. Get this right and the rest falls into place. And I also remember that the Lord will help me through the challenges, rather than circumvent them. As Morgan Freeman, playing God in *Evan Almighty*, gently suggests when asked about prayer, if we pray for patience or courage, God does not simply hand us those qualities - he gives us opportunities in which they can grow.

As we step further into the year, I look forward to continuing to get to know you better and to reflecting together on what God is calling us to be and do. We may be a small chapel, but small churches can think clearly, act quickly, and respond with generosity. Thank you for the many ways you already contribute to the life of this place.

Every blessing  
Langley

This quote from *Evan Almighty* is brilliant -

In *Evan Almighty*, when Joan (Evan's wife) is feeling abandoned and confused, she meets God — played by Morgan Freeman — in a restaurant. She asks how prayer works, and he replies with two examples. He says, in essence: If someone prays for patience, do you think God just gives them patience? Or does he give them opportunities to be patient? If someone prays for courage, does God give them courage? Or does he give them opportunities to be courageous?

Then he widens it: If someone prays for their family to be closer, do you think God zaps them with warm, fuzzy feelings? Or does he give them opportunities to love each other? This is gentle, but it lands. Our faith in God, and prayer, is not magic - it is an invitation. It is about growth rather than an easy life.

Rev Dr Langley Mackrell-Hey

Superintendent, Newark and Southwell Circuit of Churches

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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.

**World Day of Prayer Service:** The World Day of Prayer worship service has a special annual theme which is developed by women of a different country each year. This year, the service has been prepared by the women of Nigeria. Please join us on Friday 6th March at 2:30pm, 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 March, 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 £3.00 for bottomless tea or coffee and plenty of biscuits.

### Food Bank - Grantham

Here at Long Bennington Methodist Chapel and in conjunction with other chapels in the local circuit, we support the work of The Trussell Trust and their Food Bank initiative to 'Stop UK Hunger'.

If you would like to make a donation of non-perishable, in-date food, please bring it along to any of our monthly coffee mornings and we will be pleased to make sure it gets to those in need in the Grantham area through the local Food Bank branch. If you still wish to donate to people in the Newark area, you can make your donations at the village Co-op.

## SEDGEBROOK SOCIAL CLUB REGULAR DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Rainbows Mondays 5.00pm (There is currently no Brownies due to lack of numbers)  
Grantham Canine Assoc Tuesdays 7.30 – 8.30pm  
Knit and Natter Tuesdays 2.00pm-4.00pm  
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  
Club Bar Open to members Sundays 1.00pm-4.00pm

Membership fee for 2026 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 Sue McGreevy on 07952 205599 or email [Sedgebrooksocialclub@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Sedgebrooksocialclub@hotmail.co.uk).



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## **ST LAWRENCE, SEDGEBROOK NEWS FROM THE PEWS**

**Church and Museum open daily 10am-4pm**

**Free Church Guide**

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

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

**Grantham Food Bank collecting point**

**Children's Corner**

**Teddy Bear's Picnic Children's Book set in St Lawrence Church**

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

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.



### **LONG BENNINGTON GARDENING CLUB (VPA)**

#### **SPRING SHOW**

**Saturday 21 March 2026 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 (donations welcome), 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](http://longbenningtongardeningclub.com)**

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West Loveden Minister Rev Jon Speirs-Davies [Jon.sd@lincoln.anglican.org](mailto:Jon.sd@lincoln.anglican.org)

Tel: 07766 486452

Lay Reader Jenny Stuart [jenny.stuart@outlook.com](mailto: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](mailto:lovedenwest@gmail.com)

### CHURCH CONTACTS

St Swithun's, Long Bennington

Church Warden Bridget Rosewell 07836 215181

Treasurer Jane Cowley 01400 282691

Church Flowers Beryl Holmes 01400 281437

Safeguarding Officer Eileen Ross 07710 534732

St Peter's Foston

Church Warden/Treasurer Andrew Blanchard 01476 978664/ 07590652657

Safeguarding Officer Eileen Ross 07710 534732

Holy Trinity Allington

Church Warden Chris Dicken 01400 281524

Treasurer Bob McKinlay 01400 281671

Safeguarding Officer Marian Hubbard 01400 281496

Flowers Jill Storer/Linda Rycroft 283542/281516

St Lawrence Sedgebrook

Church Warden Alan Cook 07963553835

Safeguarding Officer Wendy Fowler [wendyfowler@btinternet.com](mailto:wendyfowler@btinternet.com)

mob. 07747022272.

Treasurer Ian McKay 01949 843691

Flowers Geraldine Statham [glendogs@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:parishclerk@longbenningtonparishcouncil.org)

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

James Stanley (Foston) [clerk@fostonpc-lincs.org](mailto:clerk@fostonpc-lincs.org) 01522 889737

Kate Griffin (Allington) 6 Sedgebrook Road, Allington

Jane Bratton (Sedgebrook) [clerksedgebrook@gmail.com](mailto:clerksedgebrook@gmail.com) 01476 577175

Ted Bates (Chair) Long Bennington Charities 01400 281853

## **Village Halls: Booking Secretaries**

Allington— — Janet Jackson Bookings- [bookings.allingtonvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:bookings.allingtonvillagehall@gmail.com)  
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## **Other Useful Contacts**

Long Bennington Medical Centre- 01400 281220  
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](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk)  
1st Foston Brownies Thursdays - 6.30pm - [1stfostonbrownies20@gmail.com](mailto:1stfostonbrownies20@gmail.com)  
Village Hall  
Rainbows Thursdays - 5-6pm [1stfostonrainbows20@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:foston.beavers@gmail.com)  
Club Scouts Wednesdays—6:30-8pm—Claire Collier 01636 626097  
Scouts Thursdays—7-9pm—Les Romans 01400 281217  
Explorer Scouts -Mondays—7:45-9:30pm—Jenny Wyn 01400 282301

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

Allington—1st Wed 7:45pm—Margaret Dicken— 01400 281524  
Foston—2nd Tuesday 7:30pm—Carole Chandler-Barratt- 07767 657745  
Long Bennington—1st Tuesday 7:30pm—Margaret Butcher - 07484140914 Email:  
[margaretbutcher98@gmail.com](mailto:margaretbutcher98@gmail.com)

LB Playing Fields: Booking Manager—Gemma Walker—07946 176034  
Management Committee—Mike Manley—01400 282731  
Long Bennington Toddler Group—Becca Thirtle—07545 491267  
Long Bennington [Pre-School—longbenningtonpreschool@googlemail.com](mailto:longbenningtonpreschool@googlemail.com) 07816  
537242  
Bowls Club—Peter Fordham—07701059943 email [nettyfordham@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:hello@lbrotary.co.uk)  
Foston Neighbours - 07422 881448 [fostonneighbours@gmail.com](mailto:fostonneighbours@gmail.com)



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# MEET YOUR LOCAL ESTATE AGENT



## WHO WE ARE

Established in 2024, we are located in Long Bennington, providing unparalleled marketing and services for clients looking to sell or rent their properties. Each of our homes features professional photography and videography, including drone shots. Our team personally visits every home prior to its launch, and we strive to conduct every viewing ourselves.

### OUR MISSION

To successfully sell or rent each property while surpassing client expectations.

### OUR VALUE

Professional & honest advice whilst building long-term relationships through integrity, trust & transparency

### OUR VISION

To raise the standard of marketing & service whilst maintaining our values and achieving our mission

01400 221100

[stuart@benningtons.co.uk](mailto:stuart@benningtons.co.uk)