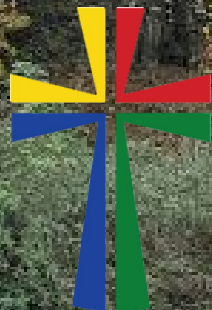


Saxonwell Group Parish News

October 26



50p where sold



saxonwellchurches

www.saxonwellchurches.org.uk

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

West Loveden Services for October 2026

Sunday 4th		
Allington	10.00	Harvest Service
Claypole	10.30	Holy Communion
L B	10.30	Harvest Service
Sunday 11th		
L B	10.30	Holy Communion
Stubton	6.00pm	Evening Holy Communion
Sunday 18th		
Claypole	10.30	Holy Communion
L B	10.30	Morning Worship
Foston	3.00pm	Holy Communion
Allington	10.00	Morning Worship or HC - TBC
Sunday 25th		
L B	10.30	Holy Communion

These 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. We also 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!

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

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

Contacts for the Magazine

Advertising , Counting and Distribution Manager
 Joy Jordan- joy.g.jordan@icloud.com / 01400 281355
 Treasurer - Stephen Peck – tel: 07831 545462
 email: Stephen.peckmain@gmail.com

EMAIL ADDRESS FOR ARTICLES:

Sgpnmag23@gmail.com

Copy Deadline for the November issue is 12 October 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?>

pwd=djBjbHZuc2UwSjRmUEZEMEx1dlhQUT09

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ST SWITHUN'S CHURCH

Harvest Supper

7.00 pm

Saturday 10th October

St James Village Hall, Long Bennington
home-cooked supper & harvest themed quiz
bar & raffle

Tickets £ 12.00

Available from:

BERYL HOLMES 01400 281437. MAUREEN PROTHERO 01400 281635

JEANNE DAY 01400 282873

JANE COWLEY 01400 282691

TEA N CHAT

ST SWITHUN'S CHURCH PCC MEMBERS

ALL PROCEEDS TOWARDS CHURCH FUNDS

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



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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 Curling: Tuesday 2.00-4.30pm

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

Mindful Movers: Wednesday 10.00am (1-3 years)

Baby Beats: Wednesday 11.15am (New-born to crawling)

Beginners Bridge: Wednesday 2.00-5.00pm

Keep Moving: Thursday 11.30am-12.30pm. Dance fitness class aimed at over 55s.

Hatha Yoga: Thursday 7.15-8.15pm

Yoga: Friday 10.00-11.00am (Temporarily postponed)

Social Afternoon: Friday 2.00-4.30pm. Open to all for conversation and games.

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

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

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

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

SATURDAY 10th OCTOBER

'AT THE HOP' music from the 70s, 80s and more: 7.00-11.00pm

Music supplied by Gordon's Disco, with the ticket price including hot dogs and hot drinks, bring your own booze. A raffle will be held during the evening. Tickets £10 available from David on chair.allingtonvhmc@gmail.com or Jackie on the contact details below.

SATURDAY 31st OCTOBER

BIG BRUNCH: 9.30am-12 noon, last orders 11.00am. Drinks and Cake only will be served between 11.00am and 12 noon. On the menu 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. Side order of toast 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.

For further details on the above contact David Smedley on chair.allingtonvhmc@gmail.com.

For Viking Squares contact Judy Grummitt on 01400 281497.

VIEW FROM THE PEW - HOLY TRINITY CHURCH ALLINGTON

The Church is open every day from 10-4 until the Harvest Service on 4th October and then open Wednesdays only 10-4 until Easter.

COFFEE AND CAKE

Our Coffee and Cake mornings continue to be held once a month. We look forward to seeing you all there for coffee, cake and a chat.

The September coffee morning was cancelled for personal reasons but the Coffee Morning on the 5th October will go ahead as normal. 10-12 in the Village Hall. Thank you all for your support and an ENORMOUS thank you to Marian and Margaret for continuing to run these mornings and to everyone who helps in whatever capacity.

CHURCHYARD

Apologies we didn't make it plain at the last clean-up that we need you to provide your own gloves and tools – we are unable to do so because of Health and Safety. The next clean-up will be on Saturday 24th October at 10.00 in time to put all the trimmings on the village bonfire. Coffee/tea/bics provided. Any help we can get will be much appreciated.

SERVICES

Our next services will be:-

Sunday 4th October – Harvest Service and lunch - 10.00 - Rev Jon – posters and Facebook will have more information.

Sunday 18th October – Morning Worship or Communion -10.00 – tbc

Sunday 1st November – Communion – Rev Jon or Rev Les - tbc

Sunday 15th November Morning Worship or Communion – 10.00 – tbc

Sunday 6th December – Communion - - Rev Jon or Rev Les 10.00 – tbc

Sunday 20th December – Family Carol Service with mulled wine and mince pies– 5.00 – Rev Les Batty

Friday 25th December CHRISTMAS DAY – tbc

Our Annual St James' service in St James Churchyard.

This was on Sunday 26th July – an open air service, Rev Jon officiated. We had our fingers crossed for the weather. Somebody was smiling on us as we had a few drops of rain at the beginning and end of the service but nothing more. This was very well attended and we moved to the church for tea and delicious cakes after the service. A lovely way to spend a Sunday afternoon. Thank you to everyone who provided the cakes.



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VISITS TO THE CHURCH

A group of Reception class children came to have a look round the church on July 14th. After enjoying a drink and a biscuit they were divided into small groups and took part in a short quiz exploring and identifying the different parts of the church. This ranged from looking for the stained glass windows and the font, altar and bells etc and even discovering the woodpecker under the lectern, carved by Mr Palin who lived in the village many years ago.

The children were then encouraged to draw a picture of their favourite part of the church, which will be displayed on the children's corner at the front of the church. It was a lovely morning and it was a joy to welcome such enthusiastic and well-behaved children.

We were also delighted to welcome the school for their Leavers Assembly the week afterwards. The church was full of children, staff and parents who enjoyed a special service to celebrate the children who would be moving on to Secondary School in September.

PUDDING CLUB – we are currently hoping to hold another Pudding Club afternoon on Sunday 22nd November. Watch for our posters and Facebook posts for confirmation and more information.

CAKE STALL AT CHRISTMAS MARKET

We are having our usual cake stall at the Christmas Market in the Village Hall on 28th November. All donations of cakes will be gratefully received.

We look forward to seeing you for our Harvest Service on the 4th October.

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On Friday, 7th August, we held our annual summer meal at Whittaker's Bar and Restaurant, in Long Bennington. For those members who were able to attend, they enjoyed their choice of food – it was delicious, good company and lovely surroundings.



Then on Thursday, 20th August, despite a few heavy showers, we enjoyed an afternoon of tea and a variety of scrumptious cakes in one of our member's gardens.

SEPTEMBER

On Wednesday, 2nd September, we were joined by Sue Stennett, who spoke about 'An orphan in Lincoln.' She gave us a very interesting and thought-provoking talk - a summary is outlined below.

Sue's grandfather Fred Peake, was one of eleven children, born in 1885, in Cheshire, to a feckless father. His mother died in 1896, with three of her children having died within the year.

Fred's 13-year-old sister, Lennie, wrote to Uncle John, her mother's brother, and he organised for the three boys to come to the St Hughs Home for boys in Lincoln, which had opened three months previously. A Church of England Home for Waif and Strays, started by Edward Rudolf in 1881.

The Home was caring and forward thinking. Children were educated in the community and helped into work. Fred went to Ruston's in Lincoln, then out to India and Ceylon, installing machinery for rubber and tea plantations. The alternative would have been the workhouse, with very tough conditions.

Fred married a Lincoln girl, Alice Whitaker, who went out to Ceylon, but couldn't cope, so came home. They stayed married and he visited her every five years.

At the 3rd visit in 1937 he came to see her when she was ill and dying. He made arrangements for his daughters, with Alice's youngest sister, then returned to Ceylon until retirement in 1948, having remarried a retired Methodist teacher there. He died in 1955, aged 70.



Collection of Empty Blister Packets

There is a bin in the Village Hall Post Office and one in the serving area where anyone can put their empty blister packs, but please ensure that they are completely empty – as pills have recently been found, again, in the blister packs.

Recycling Stamps And Used Printer Cartridges

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

Used printer cartridges, of all types, are recycled to raise money for the David School in Sierra Leone, with the motto 'Education Changes Lives', to provide education for children where there was no school.

For further information email allingtonwi@gmail.com

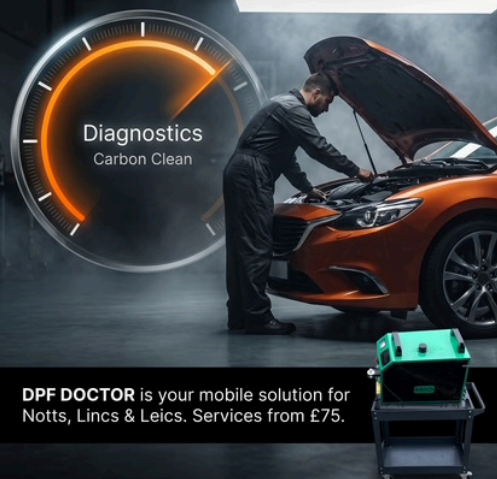
Future Meetings

DATE 2026	SPEAKER / EVENT
Wednesday, 7 th October	June Mullins – Aloe Vera – History and uses of Aloe Vera
Wednesday, 4 th November	Members' Night – Members only
Wednesday, 9 th December	Christmas Party – Members only

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FOSTON - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Village Hall Events

October:

Friday 2nd – Pub Night: Oktoberfest!

6pm – 11pm: Sample a range of guest German Beers, plus Bar, Pool Table, Darts, Table Football and more...

November:

Friday 6th – Pub Night: Bonfire Night outdoor fire pits

6pm – 11pm: Usual bar evening, plus marshmallows to toast on the fire pits outside!

Saturday 14th – Christmas Craft Fair

1pm – 4pm: Artisan crafters and makers selling gifts and treats, festive refreshments, games, Santa's Grotto including Alpaca Meet & Greet and more...

December:

Friday 2nd – Pub Night: Christmas Party!

6pm – 11pm: Welcome in the Festive Season Foston-style! With Bar, Pool Table, Darts, Table Football and plenty of seasonal treats...

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

1st Foston Brownies: Thursdays 6.30pm - term time only.

Register interest via www.girlguiding.org.uk

Rainbows: Thursday 5.00-6.00pm

Church Coffee Mornings: 10am-11.30am on the first Wednesday of the month

Foston Coffee Morning: 10am-12noon on the third Wednesday of the month

Foston Neighbours

Foston Neighbours are here to lend a hand – if you need any assistance with lifts to appointments, shopping or other domestic issues, we will do what we can to help, or signpost you to other services that may be right for you.

ST PETER'S FOSTON – NEWS FROM THE PEWS

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

18th October, 3pm, Holy Communion

8th November, 4pm, Remembrance

20th December, 3pm, Carol Service

24th December, 4pm, Christingle

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.

Come to the
Foston
Christmas
CRAFT FAIR

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AND meet Santa's Alpacas!

Saturday 14th November
1 - 4pm

Village Hall, Church Street, Foston

FREE ENTRY

St Peter's needs your help! The team keeping the church running is getting smaller and we desperately need new hands to help!

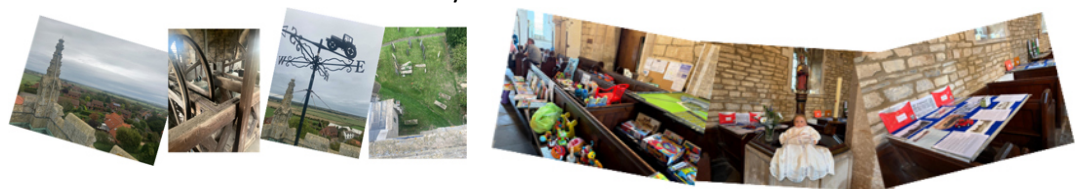
Our Treasurer has stepped down after over 8 years in the post so we are seeking a new spreadsheet guru to take over! You don't have to be on the PCC to fulfil this role – just be good with numbers, can work excel and have a couple of hours a month. If you are interested, please contact Lucy Bliss (contact details below).

We all enjoy seeing a well-maintained churchyard Can you help with Churchyard Maintenance? If you are willing to help with mowing, strimming, etc on a regular basis, please contact Lucy Bliss (contact details below).



Heritage Open Day

Hats off to the coordinators of this year's Heritage Open Day! There were some amazing social history displays from the local Scouting and Guiding groups and the Women's Institute to fit in with the theme of the national festival, Everyday Histories. More activities kept people busy – paracord braiding, climbing the tower, Toy Treasure Sale, raffle, Name the Bear and of course the mandatory refreshments!



The day raised £250 for St Peter's – it all helps to cover the annual running costs of about £12,000 – so thank you to all came and shared in the day, and a big thank you to all the helpers – without you these events can't happen.



Upcoming Events



8th November – Remembrance Service (4pm) including the Uniformed Youth Groups

Wine Tasting – 28th November; tickets available from Lucy on 07740 980689; Donations accepted for tickets (recommended donation £20)



Santa's Sleigh – 14h December for a village visit from 4pm



20th December – Village Carol Service (3pm)
Christingle Service – Christmas Eve, 24th December (4pm)



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

Next dates: 7th October, 4th November 2nd December

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



Regular Giving

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

www.parishgiving.org.uk and search for Foston St Peter. Alternatively use this QR code: And thank you to those who do give regularly already!



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

Would you like to light up St Peter's Church, Foston?

In someone's memory, for a celebration or just as a welcome home!

Contact Lucy Bliss to book 07740 980689
£8 for the evening (usually 7-10pm but might
change according to time of year)



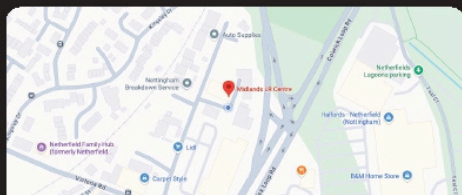
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For our July meeting members visited The Ruddington Framework Knitters Museum, which is a unique example of a 19th century framework knitters' yard. The site has been restored as a living history museum, where they discovered how families lived and worked in Victorian times.



They learnt about the framework knitter machines and their 400-year history. From its role in the Industrial Revolution, to the riots in the 1800's, and gave birth to Nottingham lace. They saw the original machines working and were allowed to have a go themselves. It was most interesting and they saw a collection of hosiery items, including a pair of Queen Victoria's stockings.

On an August evening members visited the Bottesford Tropical Gardens. They had a lovely evening walking through tropical and exotic planting, with a hint of jungle! There were various surprises, including glasshouses, ponds a stream and two viewing platforms.



On the 8th September meeting Kathy Powis was our Speaker, who spoke about the History of the Mary Rose. This was built in 1510/11 at the start of Henry VIII's reign and was one of his favourite ships. Unfortunately sinking in 1545, in the Solent caused when the lower gunports were left open after firing at the French. While turning, in order to fire from her other side, the wind caught her sails and she heeled over, plunging her open gunports beneath water, losing 500 hands on board, with only 30 surviving.



The search for and discovery of the Mary Rose was a result of the dedication of the late Alexander McKee. His search began 1966 when he finally found a chart dated 1841 which revealed the positions of 3 historic wrecks. Between 1968 and 1971, a team of volunteer divers combed the area. Finally, the climax came on the 1st May 1970, a wrought iron gun of a 16th century style was found, redefining the search area.

Culminating in the raising of the Marie Rose on 11th October 1982. The Federation Chair, Louise Read, kindly joined us for the evening.

Programme

13th October Speaker: Rob Newham on Professional Dog Training

10th November Speaker: Kenneth Moore on Fery Godmothers
Visitors welcome

For further information - contact Eileen Ross 07710 534732
Maggi Challis Publicity – July/Aug/Sept 2026



LONG BENNINGTON MEDICAL CENTRE

Annual Flu Clinic and Covid Vaccinations – Save the date!

To help protect our patients ahead of the winter season, we are sending invitations to eligible patients during September.

📱 Please keep an eye on your text messages, emails, or letters and remember to book your appointment as soon as you receive your invitation.



Our Saturday clinic will be on the 17th October and provides a convenient opportunity to receive your flu vaccination and help protect yourself, your family, and the wider community this winter.

COVID clinics will be hosted separately, on week days, and will start from the 29th September to our annual Saturday flu clinic and invites for covid vaccination appointments will come out after the flu clinic appointments.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Health Kiosk

Did you know that patients can use the Health Kiosk located in the main reception area at Long Bennington Medical Centre?

The kiosk allows you to quickly and easily check and record:

- ✓ Blood Pressure
- ✓ Height
- ✓ Weight

There is no need to book an appointment to use the kiosk, making it a convenient way to monitor your health during a visit to the practice.

If you need any assistance, a member of our Reception Team will be happy to help you use the equipment and answer any questions you may have.

Regularly monitoring your blood pressure and weight can help you stay informed about your health and support the management of existing conditions.

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Long Bennington – REGULAR DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

(Please also see Village Hall Schedule)

RiverCare Long Bennington: a group monitoring, managing & protecting the River Witham bordering the village meeting on the 4th Saturday of the month at 2pm to litter pick, clear vegetation, remove invasive species and monitor water quality. Please contact rivercarelongbennington@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

Long Bennington Pre-School

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Based in Long Bennington Village Hall, we are open Monday to Friday 8.00am-5.00pm during term time. Government funding is available to eligible families. Our payable rate is £6.00 an hour for any additional hours taken outside of funded hours. For more information, or to arrange a visit please call 07816 537242 or email longbenningtonpreschool@googlemail.com



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Long Bennington Village Hall Events Schedule for October

When	Class/ Meeting	Time	Hall	Contact
Mon wkly	Advanced Pilates	10.15-11.00	M	Linda Brady 07850 618516
1 st Mon Mthly	Parish Council	19:00 – 21:00	S	01400 282716 parishclerk@longbenningtonparishcouncil.org
Tues Wkly	Bennington Art Group	10:00– 12:00	F	Margaret Butcher 07484 140914 margaretbutcher98@gmail.com
1 st Tues Mthly	WI	19:30 – 21	M	Jan Leventhall Janleventhall@me.com
4 th Tues Mthly	Gardening Club	19:30 – 21:00	M	Amy Hodson amyhodson4@gmail.com
Weds Wkly	Post Office	09 – 12	F	
Thurs Wkly	Post Office	13 – 15	F	
Thurs Wkly	Adult Pilates Suitable for all levels	17:15 – <u>18:15</u> & 18:30 –19:30	M	Amanda 07967387969 https://www.corestrengthpilatesuk.com
Fri Wkly	Adult Pilates -all levels	8.15-9.15 9:30 - 10:30	M	Amanda, As Above
1 st & 3 rd Fri Mthly	WI craft group	1030 - 12:30	B	Sue Clarke 01400 282986
Last Fri of Mth	Tea and Chat	14:00 – 16:00	M	Hilda Owen 01400 282471 ejanecowley@aol.com
Sat 3 rd Oct	Sandy Beach & The Deckchairs	19.00	A	Margaret Butcher 07484 140914 David Barnett 07752 367773. Tickets £10
Sun 4 th Oct	Love to Dance - Frozen	15.00-19.00	M	sally.picker@hotmail.co.uk
Fri 9 th Oct	History Talk	19.30-21.30	M	Niz Smith Niz.l.smith@gmail.com
Sat 10 th Oct	Village Harvest Supper	18.00	M	Jane Cowley ejanecowley@aol.com
Mon 12 th Oct	Bingo Night	18.00-21.00	M	Rotary hello@lbrotary.co.uk
Sat 17 th Oct	Back To The Land Girls	18.45	A	Tickets £14/£10 at Village Hall -PO Opening times or https://www.longbenningtonvillagehall.org/events/
Tuesday 20 th Oct	Wine Club	19.00-21.30	B	Raj Solanki raj@libradrinks.co.uk
View bookings online.		https://www.longbenningtonvillagehall.org bookings@longbenningtonvillagehall.org		

M - Main Hall, S-Small Hall, B-Bar, F- Foyer A-All.

Are you recently retired and looking for a way stay active in the community?

Do you have skills you'd like to put to good use? The Long Bennington Village Hall Committee is seeking new volunteers to work alongside existing members.

This is a great opportunity to contribute your experience, stay engaged, and make a meaningful difference to our local facilities. If you're interested in getting involved, we'd love to hear from you.

Email bookings@longbenningtonvillagehall.org if you are interested and we'll come back to you.



After the success of the band at The Party In The Park, Long Bennington Twinning Association are delighted to welcome back to the village Sandy Beach & The Deckchairs, for an evening of music and dancing on Saturday October 3rd in the Village Hall. Tickets priced at £10 pp are available from David Barnett (07752 367773) or Margaret Butcher (07484 140914). Doors open at 7pm - licensed bar 7pm - to 10.30pm

LONG BENNINGTON GARDENING CLUB (VPA)

(Village Produce Association)

Our next meeting is on 27 October at 7.30pm at the Village Hall when Jeff Bates will be giving a talk on Herbaceous Borders.

Lots more information about the Club and our activities is available on our website at longbenningtongardeningclub.com

Bev Gledhill – Secretary 01400 282239/07753 709513

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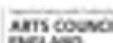
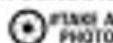
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LONG BENNINGTON VILLAGE HALL (NG23 5DJ)
Saturday 17 October, 7:30pm

£14.00 (Standard) / £10.00 (10-17 Years)

BOOK NOW: 07816 267927 / enquiries@longbenningtonvillagehall.org (enquiries only). Tickets from the Village Hall at Post Office Outreach times (Weds 9-12pm / Thurs 1-3pm). For online tickets visit liveandlocal.org.uk or scan the QR code.

Doors and Bar open at 6:45pm. Tea/coffee available. Show starts at 7:30pm. Suitable for over 10s.



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LONG BENNINGTON NEWS FROM THE PEWS

During hot summer days, the coolness of the church was very welcome – it's been open during the day for visitors and this will continue until October 4th – our Harvest service. Our weekly Sunday services have been well-attended though the summer and we love to see folks from the other churches in our group as well as new faces - who are always welcome.

By the time you read this, the children at Long Bennington Church of England Academy will have started their new term. We wish both children and staff a very happy start to the school year and look forward to their harvest service on October 9th.



On the final day of last term, the Year 6 Leavers came to church for their end of year service along with KS2 children. The service was very moving, with the children reading, singing and behaving beautifully. Parents, grandparents and carers stayed after the service to take photos – we hope that the children will remember this, and many other special school services held at church.

At the end of July, we held our annual Strawberry Cream Tea in the village hall. This is first time we had held it here and it was a great success, judging by the number who came and the feedback we received. There are lots of thank-yous – including for the: baked goods, set up and serving, art group display, floral arrangements, raffle prizes and fabulous strawberry themed bunting made by the school children.



In August, Canon Thomas Woodhead (senior pastor to our patron, the Duchy of Lancaster which has given us 3 repair grants over the last 10 years) visited the church and preached at our Holy Communion service. Many folks came from the other churches in our group, and we were grateful to James White for playing the organ. Another special service, later in the month, was a joint one with the Methodist congregation at their chapel.

At the end of August, St Swithun's church welcomed the wedding of Diana-Louise and Paul. Many congratulations - we wish them all the very best for their married life together.

Early September brought the annual Ride-and-Stride weekend when Lincolnshire churches are encouraged to arrange sponsored cycling or walking activities, with donations split equally between the Lincoln Churches Trust and the participating Church. This year we managed to raise over £550, so a big 'thank you' to all those who offered sponsorship.

Looking now to the Autumn, our Harvest Service will be held on October 4th. The collections from this service will be sent to the Grantham Poverty Concern/Grantham Passage - any non-perishable goods can be left in the church from the start of October.

The village Harvest Supper will, as usual, be held at the village hall. The ticket price remains a bargain at £12! As well as a delicious meal and bar, the entertainment will include a harvest-themed quiz and raffle. So, please do come along and bring family and friends to this fun event on Saturday 10th October at 7pm.

Our regular Tea-n-Chat get togethers in St James' Village Hall will resume on 25th September and are held on the last Friday of the month.



Finally, on Sunday November 1st we will be holding an All Souls' Service at 3.30pm in the afternoon – please see more details on the poster in this magazine.

ST SWITHUN'S

ALL SOULS SERVICE

1ST NOVEMBER AT 3.30PM

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St Swithun's Church Clock Needs A New Face

The clock on our church tower, a familiar and much-loved feature of village life, has marked the hours for generations. The clock is in the traditional colours of blue and gold and is fixed to the west face of the tower. Dated 1773, it was restored in 1937 to celebrate the Coronation. It has a self-winding mechanism mounted on a cast iron frame. Over time, the clock face has become faded and damaged, and it now needs to be replaced so that the clock can continue to display the time clearly and reliably. We have obtained quotations for the full repair and replacement of the clock face, including scaffolding, specialist conservation work and re-installation. The total cost is estimated at £11,500. Thanks to the generosity of donors, we have already received £4,000, but still need to raise £7,500 to complete the work. We are applying for grants but would be very grateful for any help the village can offer. Donations of any size will make a real difference, and we would also welcome fundraising ideas or events.

If you would like to donate, payments can be made by bank transfer to:
Account name: Long Bennington Parochial Church Council
Sort code: 05-04-42
Account number: 50110357
Reference: Clock Fund



Alternatively, contact Jane Cowley our treasurer, on 01400 282691, especially if you can gift aid your donation, or speak to any of the worship leaders after a service. With your support, we hope to restore the clock face soon, so that it continues to bless our village for many years to come. If you would like to make a donation to St Swithun's church, please use the QR code here



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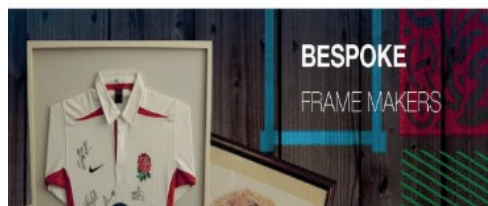
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LONG BENNINGTON WI



After a torrid summer seeing us attend wonderful garden parties (many thanks to all our generous hosts) and a fabulous trip to Matlock, along with a great ride on a steam train (huge thanks to Jenny Flint for organising it, with help from Janet O'Dea) it was a bit of a treat to meet up again in our village hall in a more normal temperature.

We had a packed evening, holding a Bring and Buy Sale with generous donations from our members (as I write I'm admiring the Peace Lily I purchased there and hoping I don't kill it) but there was a huge range of lovely items.



Before we held our “Handbag Bingo” evening, we welcomed Alison Longden and Nicola Hutchinson from Rivercare, who are volunteers looking after our local River Witham, monitoring the water and clearing debris. Old tents, oil drums and discarded children's toys, along with the usual litter of cans and bottles, are being found which pollutes the water and hence harms the wildlife and fish.

Long Bennington Rivercare started when a lady, Vicky Threlfall, bought a kayak to use on the river but was unable to get anywhere due to the debris and weeds clogging the waterway. With advice and help from Grantham Rivercare she began the Long Bennington group, and they now have many volunteers (but more always welcome).

Hours have been spent clearing the water and the riverbank from invasive plants which will hopefully improve the water quality, which is poor at present. The group meet on the fourth Saturday of every month at 2pm near Westborough Bridge.

Our “Handbag Bingo” game was a hoot, each table having a bingo card, and our compere, Lesley Campbell, shouting out the items usually located in ladies' handbags. Methinks a few ladies had stocked up in advance looking at the cavernous bags toted into the hall earlier in the evening! A fun ending to a great evening.

Our next meeting will be held on 6th October when we host Ken Moore who will present a humorous look at life in the RAF. See you there.

For more information about our friendly WI, please contact Jan Leventhall on 07803 892118 or janleventhall@me.com
Elaine Walton – Publicity

Long Bennington Parish Council



The Parish Council had its last meeting on 7th September at St James's Hall.

We have had feedback from residents that the noise from lorries travelling along Main Road has increased significantly. Councillors have met with representatives of Roseland who have positively engaged in trying to reduce the number of transporter lorries going through the village. We are still seeing a significant number of this type of vehicle, so the Parish Clerk is liaising with our contacts at Roseland to make them aware and try and improve matters.

The footings are now in place at Witham Meadow for the storage container to be placed on. Balfour Beatty constructed the pillars under the LCC volunteers' scheme. Our thanks to the gentlemen from Balfour Beatty and to LCC for arranging. Whilst a date is still to be agreed for the container to be brought on site, we have been successful in obtaining a 90% grant from SKDC towards the cost of the container. Our thanks to SKDC for their support.

Whilst the memorial gardens grass and edges are maintained on a regular basis, the borders are looking very untidy now. We have applied to the LCC Councillor Community Grant for funding to tidy the garden and hedges up and also clean the pathway. We have the full support of our County Councillor, Ken Bamford, so we hope to be successful. We can then get contractors in to do the work and provide us with a respectful, contemplative area, that all villagers can enjoy, and the Parish Council can more easily maintain in future years.

The planning request for the children's care home was discussed at the parish council meeting. We had a good number of residents who live near the proposed property attend and share their input, either on the night or via email. Whilst the Parish Council is not opposed to children's care homes or to providing appropriate accommodation for children in care, our objection is to the suitability of this particular property and location for the proposed use. A formal objection reflecting residents' input has been submitted to SKDC.

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.

Get Connected!

Be part of the Long Bennington Parish Council Village Email List ...and never miss what's happening locally.



It's quick and free. Scan the QR code or send an email to: community@longbenningtonparishcouncil.org with your name and preferred email.

Let's build a more connected, informed, vibrant village. Your details are stored securely in line with data protection legislation. 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.

The next Parish Council meeting dates are Monday 5th October and 2nd November. 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



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From the Methodist Chapel

Greetings, friends,

Once again, it is lovely to have the opportunity to share with you. September to October always feels a little like a new beginning. For Methodists, September marks the beginning of a new Church year, and after the different rhythms of summer there is often a sense of returning, restarting and wondering what the months ahead might hold.



I hope you have had a good summer. During my leave, Ro and I finally managed to visit Shetland, somewhere we had wanted to go for a long time. Like many people, some of our interest had been encouraged by the books and television series Shetland. Thankfully, the murder rate on the islands is considerably lower than the programme might suggest!

It is, though, a beautiful and fascinating place, with a strong sense of identity and history. What struck me particularly was the way the islands hold together things which at first seem very different. There is a deep Norse inheritance and communities shaped over generations, yet there is also modern technology, good connectivity and a willingness to adapt and make the most of what is there. The greatest surprise came when we travelled north to Unst, the most northerly inhabited island in Britain. After crossing Mainland Shetland, taking a ferry to Yell, driving across Yell and catching another ferry, we eventually arrived somewhere that seems to possess the most northerly example of almost everything.



What I certainly did not expect to find was a spaceport. At the northern end of Unst is SaxaVord Spaceport, developed to launch small satellites into orbit. At first, it seems rather unlikely. Why build a spaceport on a remote island at the very top of Britain? Yet some of the very things which might appear to be disadvantages are actually part of the opportunity. Its location makes it useful for certain satellite launches, while its remoteness has obvious advantages when rockets are involved.

Somebody looked at the place as it really was and recognised possibilities that others might easily have missed. That thought stayed with me.

It is very easy in church life to begin with what we do not have. We can notice the people we wish were there, resources we no longer possess, things other churches can do which we cannot, or activities which worked wonderfully in the past but may no longer work in quite the same way. Before long, we can become so conscious of what is missing that we overlook what God has already placed into our hands. Perhaps a better question is not simply, "What do we wish we had?" but, "What possibilities are already here?" That seems to me an important question for us at Long Bennington. We do not need to reproduce what another congregation is doing somewhere else. Long Bennington has its own identity, its own relationships, its own history and its own place within the life of the village. Our task is to notice those things and ask how God might use them.

There are people among us with experience, faith, compassion, ideas and practical gifts. There are relationships already established within the community. There is a chapel which has served generations and continues to provide a place where people can worship, meet, talk and belong. So perhaps we need to keep asking, "What has God already put into our hands, and what might we do with it?" That does not mean every idea is possible. Resources are not unlimited, and wisdom sometimes means saying no. But we should be careful that realism does not quietly become pessimism.

Shetland reminded me of something else as well. Things which seem as though they should not fit together sometimes do. Ancient traditions sit alongside new technology. Remote communities remain deeply rooted while being connected to the wider world. And on Unst you can stand looking at a spaceport before driving a short distance to watch puffins on the cliffs.

Perhaps 'church' can hold together unlikely things too. We can treasure the faith and traditions handed on to us while still trying something new. We can value familiar worship while asking how people unfamiliar with church might find a way in. We can care faithfully for those already among us while looking outward towards the community we are called to serve.

As we begin another Church year, perhaps that is a good question to carry with us: what unexpected possibilities might God already have placed among us? Sometimes what appears to be a limitation may turn out to be part of the opportunity.

And perhaps, every so often, God invites us to imagine a spaceport where we had only ever expected to find a field.

It remains a privilege to be minister of Long Bennington Methodist Church and to support you all.

Every blessing, Langley

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.

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 17th October, 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.

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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.

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 to 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.

200 Club for the maintenance of the church and cemeteries. This year the 200 Club is to help the church continue in the village. If you wish to renew your membership and/or existing numbers they are still £12 per year with a first prize each month of £30, second prize £20 and third prize £10.

The bank account details for payment are St Lawrence Church sort code 20-63-28 account no 03579743. Please remember to reference this with your name so we know who has paid. You can also pay direct to our collectors by cash or cheque. Payment can also be made direct to Alan Cook if you miss our collectors. Please let Alan Cook know on 07963553835 or email alpaco47@aol.com if you use this method.

There are spare numbers available if you want to change or add new ones or if you don't currently take part. Winners are announced on the noticeboard each month.

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



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

CHURCH CONTACTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Parish Council Clerks
Martin Wright (L. Bennington) parishclerk@longbenningtonparishcouncil.org
Mon 10:30-12:30 at Village Hall Tel:01400 282716
James Stanley (Foston) clerk@fostonpc-lincs.org 01522 889737
Kate Griffin (Allington) 6 Sedgebrook Road, Allington
Dermot Daly (Sedgebrook) clerk@sedgebrook-pc.gov.uk 01476 577175
Ted Bates (Chair) Long Bennington Charities 01400 281853

Continued...

Village Halls: Booking Secretaries

Allington— Heather Mould Bookings- bookings.allingtonvillagehall@gmail.com

Foston— Pam Fellows -07740 894605 email fostonvillagehall2023@gmail.com

or Richard Wynn 07579 779087 email fostonvillagehall2023@gmail.com

Long Bennington—bookings@longbenningtonvillagehall.org—07816 267927

Sedgebrook—Sue McGreevy on 07952 205599

Other Useful Contacts

Long Bennington Medical Centre- 01400 281220

Long Bennington book group—Moire Barnabas - 01400 283313

Long Bennington & Local Villages Rotary Group Secretary LBR@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—Eileen Ross, President - 07710534732

Long Bennington—1st Tuesday 7:30pm—Jan Leventhall on 07803892118 or email janleventhall@me.com

LB Playing Fields: Booking Manager—Gemma Walker—07946 176034

Management Committee—Mike Manley—01400 282731

Long Bennington Toddler Group—Becca Thirtle—07545 491267

Long Bennington Pre-School—longbenningtonpreschool@googlemail.com 07816 537242

Bowls Club—Peter Fordham—07701059943 email nettyfordham@gmail.com

Friendship Group—Nicola Thorpe—07904 182752

Tea n Chat -Jane Taylor - 01400 282480

Junior Football Club—Steve Rowley—07909 857441

Twinning Association—Margaret Butcher – 07484140914

Village Produce Association—Bev Gledhill— 07753 709513

Writing Group—Shirley Lynn—07726 334280

LB Rotary Club- hello@lbrotary.co.uk

Foston Neighbours - 07422 881448 fostonneighbours@gmail.com



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