



# ST MARY & ST PETER NEWSLETTER

## November 2020

*A free newsletter published by the church  
for every home in Boxted & Langham*

**SUNDAY SERVICES** are on the Langham and Boxted Church Website for all to view under Streamed Services.

*<https://lb-churches.co.uk/streamed-services/>*

They will be uploaded on Sunday afternoons for as long as services are streamed.

**DAILY HOPE** - a free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers.

Available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044**, it has been set up for those unable to join in online church services during the period of restrictions.

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(Amended 14 October 2020)

**Monday to Friday 8 am to 7 pm**  
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**Thursday.....323007 or 07765 137892**  
**Friday.....271813**



**More Volunteers are now  
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Arabella Brentnall, on 01206  
272013 for details**

**PLEASE TELEPHONE THE NUMBER(S) SHOWN FOR THE DAY ON WHICH  
YOU MAKE YOUR CALL**

If there is no reply, please do not leave a message but **RING ANY OTHER NUMBER**

**Deadline for submissions for the December edition: 15th November**  
**Contact the editor via email: [lwbnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:lwbnewsletter@gmail.com)**

**H**ere it is at last! Hot off the printing press!

The November issue of the *Newsletter* with, among other items, details of Langham and Boxted parish councils' activities in the month of October.

The response to the resumption of printing has been overwhelming, with many expressions of thanks received by 'phone and email. It is gratifying to know that the *Newslettter* has been missed and that its return is so welcome.

Our regular advertisers have supported us through the recent months of online-only publishing and we are very grateful for their continued loyalty. Please remember them when you next consider having your dog trimmed, your garden landscaped, your dining room redecorated, your

plumbing fixed ... need I go on? Without them (and their generous advertising budgets) the *Newsletter* would not exist.

**W**e are very fortunate to have an interesting contribution by Ian Hollands this month on the subject of the **Langham hypocaust** — not, as the name suggests, a previously unknown Roman villa unearthed during pipe-laying, but rather a wonderful Victorian contribution to church architecture and the pursuit of congregational comfort.

With Yule approaching fast, you may wish to contribute to this year's **Operation Shoebox Appeal**, for which details of drop-off points and times are in this issue.

*Steve Pollington*

Editor

### **DISTRIBUTORS IN BOXTED**

Thanks to all who contacted the editor to enrol as **delivery volunteers** for Boxted, following the appeal in the last issue. We still need 2-3 more volunteer for this role



# *Langham Parish Council Report – October 2020*

**L**angham Parish Council has continued to keep busy within the village, endeavouring to keep our village somewhere to be proud of during these difficult and unexpected times.

The Parish Council has been forced to change the way it operates due to legislation but continues to hold its monthly meetings remotely, so business has pretty much been as normal.

One Councillor unfortunately resigned, for personal reasons, Andrew Stacey had been on the Council for many years, so many thanks must go to him for all the time and energy he gave towards the Council and the village of Langham.

This does mean we are a councillor down and following leads to find a replacement for him, not as easy as previously as we cannot just meet an individual for a cup of tea and a chat.

**T**he Recreation Ground has been looked after, the field was kept trimmed, so whenever activities could resume, it was all set to go, which fortunately has happened and the footballers are playing at the weekends again. During the time when the play area was locked up, repairs and servicing to the equipment and surfaces were carried out.

The hedge behind the Pavilion was trimmed to tidy it up. This was fortunately carried out in time for Merchant Navy day. As the hedge had been trimmed, the Red Ensign did not snag on the brambles. A short service

was carried out for this event and the Ensign was flown on the freshly painted flag pole.

A litter-pick was arranged for one Saturday afternoon. Ten volunteers assembled at the Community Centre car park, collected bags and pickers before heading off to all corners of the village for a 2 hour pick. Six large sacks of rubbish were collected: well done to all involved.

By chance on the Monday following, the Highways department were replacing the sign for Moor Road, on the corner of Moor Road and School Road, (the original Moor Road sign had mysteriously disappeared at some point). These gentlemen were also responsible for emptying the rubbish bins around the village, so they took all the rubbish we had collected and gave us a roll of bags, so further litter picks can take place.

**O**ne big event that did take place just after the summer holidays was the replacement of the Pre-School outdoor area floor. The original floor had fallen into a less than perfect state that not only looked unsightly but was also becoming a trip hazard for the staff and children. The Parish Council managed to secure funding for this from the company (NextEnergy Capital) that owns the Solar Farm off Park Lane. This certainly is a great visual improvement to the Pre-School.

There are other projects that need to be carried out around the village as maintaining Langham is a constant and ongoing task.



# *Boxted Parish Council Report – October 2020*

**B**oxted Parish Council meets 10 times a year as a full Council on the second Wednesday evening of the month (not August or December). Members of the public are very much welcome to join us on these meetings, just email the Clerk on [boxtedparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:boxtedparishcouncil@gmail.com) for a link to click and you can join us on your computer, tablet or phone. There is a regular slot at the start of each meeting for people to raise any issues which, if they can't be answered straight away, the Council can take them away and respond afterwards. The minutes of each meeting are published on the new Parish Council website ([boxtedparishcouncil.org.uk](http://boxtedparishcouncil.org.uk)).

We have one **vacancy** on the Council, if you are interested in stepping forward please contact the Clerk.

Last year we tried to get to every residence in Boxted, a **Housing Needs Survey**. The aim of the survey was to identify what need there was in the village for lower

cost housing for local people as well as to understand what support there was for an affordable



housing scheme

for Boxted-connected people. We received a good response, and the Rural Community Council for Essex (RCCE) was able to analyse the results and confirm that Boxted has a need for affordable rented housing units (one 1-bed unit, three 2-bed units and two 3-beds) which is a recommended need of up to 6 units. In addition to this, there was a recommendation for 1 property of affordable sale model of shared ownership. The Council, working with Colchester Borough Council and RCCE, will try to identify a suitable site and look to see how this need can be met.

**I**n the last report we said that we were very concerned that Essex Highways intend to replace the steel girder bridge near Boxted Mill, known as **Boxted Bridge**, which was built in 1901 and sits in the Dedham Vale AONB. It was Council consensus that this would be bad for the village firstly, because it is the very option that Essex Highways own advisors recommended not taking forward, but more

importantly, the bridge represents part of our village heritage and it would be a real shame to completely replace it with something new. We asked Essex Highways to reconsider but we haven't been successful, yet. Our MP, Sir Bernard Jenkin, is involved and we have also succeeded in getting the bridge on Colchester's Local List which recognises building or items of historic or heritage importance. We continue to call into question ECC's decision, especially as it's the dearest option and involves the most disruption. Hopefully we can get ECC to reconsider and go for a more sympathetic outcome.

The **Hub café** is still closed to the public but the take-away service and delivered "meals on wheels" service helping those people shielding in the village are still available. Just phone Bonny on 01206 272129 and she can sort a meal out for you and your family. We have looked to see if a normal (whatever that means) café service could resume and Bonny was hoping to open again but given that Essex has moved to Tier 2 in COVID areas, the future is uncertain again.

We have advertised for a **part time grounds person**. When employed, we will be able to tend to the myriad of small jobs and also concentrate on improving the look of things by keeping the weeds

down and giving things a lick of paint. We have also applied for funding, which if the bid is successful, would help us fund some outdoor gym equipment – keeping our fingers crossed.

**F**ootball and Cricket are back. Our teams are practicing and playing matches which is great to see. The changing facilities aren't available, and whilst the Hub café is closed, the teams are having to be much more self-reliant.

The **Village Hall** is open for bookings as a Covid secure building. We require users to undertake a risk assessment and clean surfaces before any meeting, follow a one way in and one way out system, use the hand sanitiser provided, set the rooms up in a Covid secure way (2m distancing), wear masks, take track and trace details, and clean hard surfaces before leaving. The hall can't be used for social gatherings, so we are not taking party bookings. If you are interested in booking the Hall for meetings etc call Community Halls in Partnership on 01206 870266.

Don't forget our four newly installed **bike racks** on the Hall front wall; it would be great to see these used – remember to bring your own chain.

To get in touch with the Council please drop an email to [boxtedparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:boxtedparishcouncil@gmail.com).

## BOXTED HISTORY GROUP

In view of current problems with meetings in public spaces, the Committee has decided that the 2020 programme of events is cancelled.

The Group hopes to resume meetings in **Boxted Village Hall** in the New Year and will advertise when that becomes possible.

During my 5 months lockdown I was so grateful for the support, kindness of my friends, neighbours, the Hub, and children for their drawings, biscuits, sweets and flowers given to me. Groceries were delivered to my door by my neighbour and friends, to hear a friendly voice on the phone was wonderful everyone so caring. To all my friends of Boxted a sincere thank you.

*Chris Lawrence*  
Roslynne Green Lane

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The Hub Business Centre  
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From 4 November, **Thursday**  
**opening times** for the  
Post Office at the Langham  
Community Shop will change  
to the afternoon,  
from **12.30 to 4.00 pm**

**Please mention the Newsletter when replying to advertisements**

## BOXTED EVERGREENS

The **Boxted Evergreen Committee** would like to say "hello" to all our members and that we really hope you are all keeping well during these unprecedented times.

At the moment, sadly, we feel it's just not possible to restart our meetings but look forward to 2021 with the hope we can resume some kind of normality and along with that our Evergreen Club can open again and welcome you all back.

In the meantime, look after yourselves and stay safe.

## J.M.W. TURNER AT THE CASTLE

*Colchester Castle has announced an English masterpiece by J M W Turner is now on display until the 28 March 2021.*

*The artwork entitled 'Walton Bridges' was painted by Turner in 1806, close to his home on the River Thames.*

*Book your ticket by calling 01206 282939.*

## DIGITAL HELP AT HOME

Remember that this service is still available online.

Michael Smith at Colchester Borough Council is offering digital support via a remote service. For further information. call

**Colchester** 01206 282 452 **Clacton** 01255 686497

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## WALKING ON HOT COALS

Nobody entering Langham Church can fail to see the **Millennium Stone** set in the floor not far from the doorway. But not everybody will notice under the organ gallery a cast iron plate inscribed “*Mitchell’s Patent Reverbrating [sic] Smoke Consuming Hypocaust for warming Churches*”. Few will have pondered on the long patch of cement, partly covered by carpet, in the nave and fewer still will have noted on the outside of the building an angled quoin at the junction of the nave west wall and the tower north wall. These are the more visible indications of an unusual hypocaust heating system installed in the church in 1861-3 and probably abandoned in 1879, when there was a major fire in the tower, perhaps caused by the system.

The hypocaust in Langham Church was one of some twenty-five built, almost all in the Midlands, in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It comprised four or five coke-fuelled fire-pits below the floor from which the hot gases warmed the church as they passed through under-floor flues to a chimney rising through the corner of the tower. In the chimney, a small furnace induced an up-draught to ensure the hot gases vented to the atmosphere. The cast iron fire-pit cover plates would undoubtedly have become so hot that treading on them would be best avoided. The system’s installation coincided with the building of a gas works by the river at

Dedham, with its by-product of coke, which could have been brought to the church by horse and cart, either directly from Dedham or from the river at Stratford.

The Millennium Stone marks the former site of a fire-pit and its cover plate. The cover plate under the gallery is the sole survivor of the four or five. The



cement patching in the nave dates from the 1950s and is believed to be where flues and a fire-pit had collapsed. The angled quoin (4) masks the outer face of the chimney. More remnants of the system were exposed between 1997 and 2000, when the west

end of the church was re-ordered, but were unavoidably obliterated.

Research by the **Heritage Group of the Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers** has revealed three names of builders or designers of 19<sup>th</sup> century church hypocaust systems: Bradshaw, Hodson and Mitchell, all bricklayers of Leamington, Warwickshire. But only Hodson has been identified with any certainty and no patents have been traced to Mitchell. How the systems came to be generated in Leamington and nowhere else and how one came to be built in far-away Langham remain unsolved mysteries.

*Ian Hollands*

**Ian Hollands** is a member of the Heritage Group of the Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers who have been researching unusual church hypocaust systems of which Langham’s is a prime example.

# OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2020

**A**s 2020 continues to be a year which none of us expected, one thing still happening is our annual **Operation Christmas Child Shoebox appeal**. Filling a shoebox with some gifts brings smiles and happiness to children around the world every year. Boxes could include new toys, school supplies, non-liquid hygiene items, warmth items or accessories for hair.

This year's Shoebox collection week runs from Monday 9th to 16th November and details of non-contact drop-off locations and times are listed below; alternatively they can be taken to our designated drop-off location in Colchester which can be found at 1 Pegasus Way. C04 0QG between 10 - 4 each day.

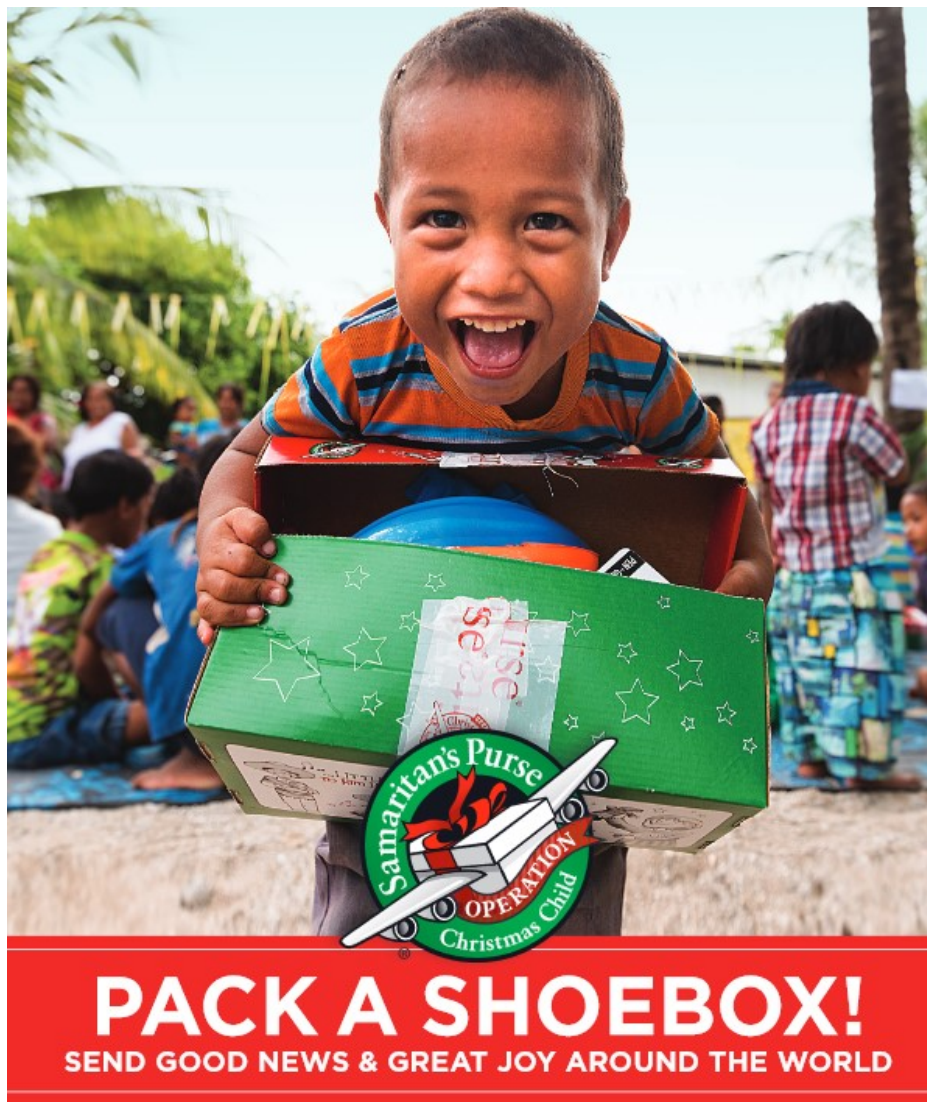


On our traditional **Shoebox Sunday** we are holding a socially distanced **Packing Party** on Sunday 15th November between 2 and 4.30pm at **St Peter's Church Boxted** with the aim of sending further boxes from the two parishes. If you feel you are unable to send a full box this year, you may consider placing a donation on our **just giving page** which will help pay towards the transportation costs. This can be found at

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/operationchristmaschildhvb>

*For more details of this year's appeal please contact Tim Clarke on 07792060597*

|                            |                                  |               |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Friday 6th November</b> | Langham Community Centre Carpark | 11.30 - 12.30 |
| <b>Saturday 7th</b>        | Langham Community Centre Carpark | 10 - 11       |
|                            | Boxted Village Hall Carpark      | 11.30 - 12.30 |
| <b>Wednesday 11th</b>      | Langham Community Centre Carpark | 1.30 - 2.30   |
| <b>Friday 13th</b>         | Boxted Village Hall Carpark      | 10 - 11       |
|                            | Langham Community Centre Carpark | 11.30 - 12.30 |
| <b>Sunday 15th</b>         | St Peter's Church, Boxted        | 1 - 4.30      |
| <b>Monday 16th</b>         | Langham Community Centre Carpark | 10 - 12       |



# PACK A SHOEBOX!

SEND GOOD NEWS & GREAT JOY AROUND THE WORLD

Further details of what can be placed into a shoebox can be found by reviewing the attached or visiting

<https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/what-goes-in-my-shoebox/>

Items will then be used to pack boxes from the parishes at our packing party on Sunday 15th November.



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2. Daphne Bettle (20)
3. Sue Armstrong (22)
4. Liz Schofield (100)

*Some numbers available. Contact  
Sue Armstrong 01206 271127*

## Boxted Arts and Crafts

Scheduled dates for meetings.

**2020**

November 4 & 18, December 2

**2021**

January 20, February 3 & 17, March 3 & 17,  
April 20, May 5 & 19, June 2 & 16, July 6 &  
21.

Contact: [anne@naret.plus.com](mailto:anne@naret.plus.com)

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*Contact the editor via email:*  
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**email: [LanghamCC@gmail.com](mailto:LanghamCC@gmail.com)**

## LANGHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### REQUIRES A NEW SECRETARY

The Community Centre is at the heart of the village and, as well as three rooms for hire, houses Langham Community Shop and Langham Pre-School.

We are a busy Centre with many local and commercial bookings dealt with by our Marketing Manager.

We would welcome someone with fresh ideas and enthusiasm. If you would like to be part of a team of Trustees who volunteer their time to keep Langham Community Centre well-maintained and financially viable, please contact the interim Secretary

Paul Armstrong on

01206 616604

or email [paul.kintail@gmail.com](mailto:paul.kintail@gmail.com)

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