



ST MARY & ST PETER
NEWSLETTER

April 2021

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

Cover Picture: *Magnolia & Thatch*. Reproduced by kind permission of Andrew Stacey .

SERVICES

1 April - Maundy Thursday

8pm - MMU Reflective Service on Zoom & Agape meal

2nd April - Good Friday

10 am - Reflection & dramatic readings via 'Zoom' 2 pm - *An hour at the Cross* - meditation and vigil via 'Zoom'

4th April - Easter Day

6.30 am Sunrise service - gathered outside at St Peter's 10 am Three Parishes Service of Holy Communion on Zoom

11 April

9.15am - Messy Church on Zoom
10.00am - Holy Communion on Zoom

18 April

10.00am - Holy Communion on Zoom
4.00pm - DEEP - on Zoom

25 April

9.15am - Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion on Zoom
10.00am - Praise on 4 on Zoom

Email Jo Russell, Church Administrator, for the Zoom link (lwb.wb.gh.parishes@gmail.com). A recording of each service will be on the website on Sunday afternoon.

All services subject to change depending on relaxation of Covid measures. In addition, there is Morning Prayer via Zoom at 9.00 am each Tuesday

ACCESS to CHURCHES

St Mary's, Langham

The precautions recommended for Covid 19 security have been completed in St Mary's Church and the church is **open again** for private prayer.

St Peter's, Boxted

The necessary risk assessment has been completed for St Peter's and this church **will remain open each day** for private prayer

Deadline for submissions for the May edition: 15th April

Contact the editor via email: lwbnewsletter@gmail.com

Spring is upon us at last with its blooming flora and blustery days, showers and sunshine, lengthening evenings and chilly mornings. T.E. Browne remarked "*A garden is a lovesome thing, God wot!*" But then he went on to mention the 'rose plot, fringed pool, fern'd grot' - which shows he spent more time at his desk than out in all weathers with a spade in his hand.

Long weekends of back-breaking toil in the garden lie ahead of us, raking out the detritus left by recent windy days and planting bulbs and seedlings in the hope that they don't end up with mould or blight, or succumb to the attentions of

next door's cat. In my garden, seeds fall into two categories: (i) down the cracks between patio paving slabs; (2) where starlings gather for breakfast.

Now is the time to open up the shed and clean off the spade, fork, rake, dibber and any other pieces of arcane horticultural equipment you have at your disposal.

If all that sounds too much like hard work, don't forget we have a number of reliable garden maintenance contractors and other professionals among our advertisers who will be pleased to help you create your own miniature version of Longmeadow, Giverny or Versailles.

Steve Pollington, Editor

DISTRIBUTORS URGENTLY REQUIRED — BOXTED

We are looking for **delivery volunteers** for Boxted, to meet the expanded demand for the Newsletter.

Please contact **Ann Barnard** direct on 01206 272349.

Families at a loss over Easter Weekend ?

A **Muddy Church Easter Trail** will be held at St Peters Church in Boxted over the Easter weekend in the churchyard. There will be signs indicating things to look for on the Trail. The whole activity takes place outside within the churchyard. Families can come along at any time during the day and go round the trail—no need to book, just observe social distancing. There will be a small prize on completion of the trail.

You may be reading this article around Eastertime, or a little later. It's at Easter that Christians the world over celebrate Jesus's death and resurrection, and are reminded of God's free gift of forgiveness and love. In the Bible we read, "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails." (1 *Corinthians* 13:4-8).

Love is the defining characteristic of God's presence, and should be the defining characteristic of ourselves too. But however hard we try to live up to these words – being patient, kind, not envious or proud, always protecting, trusting, hoping and persevering – we will fail in some way or other. But God's love never fails. And it's an unconditional love that is present both in this world and in the next. God loves us so much that He sent Jesus to live among us, and it was when Jesus gave His life for each one

of us - for everyone in the world, that He was able to make us right with God.

When something happens that shakes our lives, when we experience personal difficulties, or when something like the pandemic impacts the world, we can experience many mixed emotions – sorrow, anger, confusion, and perhaps feelings of despair and hopelessness. The week before Jesus was arrested and crucified, He ensured that He spent time with His disciples to reassure them about His love, and what would happen after He died. He said to them, "Do not let your hearts be troubled." (John 14:1). And as we look around us there are signs of hope – daffodils are flowering, buds are appearing on trees, we are travelling along the Government Roadmap to a time when we will be able to meet up again, and the Covid vaccine is being rolled out in great numbers.

My prayer is that we are not troubled, anxious, or afraid, but that we know how much God loves us, and we experience hope and peace.

Revd Anne Mason, Assistant Curate



Boxted Parish Council Report – February / March 2021

Boxted 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

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. 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

We continue to campaign to persuade Essex Highways to repair and restore the lovely **Boxted Bridge**, near Boxted Mill, rather than replace it with a new bigger structure. The **Save Our Bridge campaign**, run by Boxted residents, has a petition with over 4000 signatures. The Parish Council very much supports the local campaign and although discussions with Essex Highways have led to a much better design of the bridge with efforts to imitate the look the existing structure, the Essex Highways team is not moving from its plan to replace the bridge.

Highways originally said that they would submit a planning application to secure permission to replace the bridge, they then said that they were not legally obliged to do this so had decided to use their 'permitted

rights' to replace the bridge. But after local pressure from residents and the Parish Council they have reverted to their plan to submit a planning application. This will give interested parties like the **Dedham Vale Society**, **CPRE** and **Save Britain's Heritage** the opportunity to comment and object. You can find the link to the petition on the Boxted Village website at <https://boxted.org.uk/2020/11/10/bridge/>

The recent weather has resulted in **flooded roads and gardens** in several places in the village and has overloaded the waste system resulting in surface sewage flooding. This is very distressing for all involved and we would like to see improvements to the water systems to stop this happening in the future.

Climate change means that we will experience much more winter rain in future, resulting in more local flooding.

It is everyone's responsibility to maintain and keep clear water courses and ditches that are on or adjacent to their property. We hope that increased awareness will mean that ditches are cleared and build-up removed, so improving our chances of not seeing water or sewage in our properties.

Talking about weather, we would like to express our sincere thanks to the volunteers that have managed to salt some of the more dangerous pathways and corners that aren't part of the **Essex gritting routes**. We probably don't cover all treacherous paths, but if you know of a difficult area that you

would be able to grit with parish council provided salt then please let the Clerk know.

We very much hope to develop a **Rural Exception Site** providing a small number of lower rental cost housing for local people. The Council will work with the Rural Community Council of Essex to work through the process.

Lockdown means we still can't have organised sport at the **Recreation Ground**, so no football, and the Hub café and Village Hall area is still closed to the public until the lifting of restrictions is confirmed. The play areas are open but please know that the equipment is not cleaned. You should either bring hand sanitiser or get hands washed as soon as possible.

We should be installing seven pieces of outdoor gym equipment alongside the **children's play area** soon; we are just waiting for permissions from Colchester Borough Council. This project was in response to the village questionnaire that identified many residents suggesting more should be available on the field.

We haven't yet been able to take ownership of the corner grassed area of the **Hill Farm development** at Boxted Cross as a Village Green.

Did you know that Wivenhoe Town Council are working on a pilot of **wildflower verges**? We are following this with interest as we may be able to negotiate some areas of verge to be left wild in Boxted too.

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The Parish Council has launched a **facebook page** so do pop along and send us a like. We shall try and make sure that posts are also shared to other village groups.

Please stay safe and continue to enjoy your lovely village.

If you want to get in touch with the Council, please drop an email to:

boxtedparishcouncil@gmail.com

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

21st March is **Census 21 day**. Please do take part as local services are planned on the basis of Census information.

Local elections for Colchester Borough Council and Essex County Council are taking place on **6th May**. We understand that these will be normal elections with polling stations but if you want to stay safe, especially if you are shielding, then please apply for a postal vote. You can download the form from this site :

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-a-postal-vote>

Langham Community Shop – Past, Present & Future

It's hard to believe that our Community Shop has been trading for over 16 years and has recently passed its 10th anniversary in permanent premises! Time flies, and with all the recent changes adapting to the pandemic, this important milestone slipped past almost unnoticed. But as we hopefully begin a return towards normality, now seems a good time to reflect on how we got to where we are today, and look forward to the future.

The last commercial Village Shop closed in 2002. The village seemed to lose its heart and focal point. The idea for a Community Shop came from a group making soup for the village Bonfire Night in 2002. There followed almost two years of meetings, fundraising, legal wrangles, setbacks and delays. The Community Centre was the obvious location as it is central, well used and has a car park. Initial discussions with planners resulted in a refusal of permission for an extension, but a temporary structure was authorised and our 'green cabin' was the result. It was positioned on the 13th September 2004; the shop opened fully on the 16th October 2004.



After one year of trading the outstanding loans had all been cleared, and a paid part time manager was appointed to work with and coordinate the efforts of the team of volunteers. Sadly, over time we were affected by rural Post Office closures and the post office facilities were reduced, but we now have an extremely popular Outreach Post Office providing a full service on Monday mornings (9am to 12.30) and Thursday afternoons (12.30 until 4).

The temporary planning permission became an issue and in 2009 the Parish & Community Councils produced a plan to extend the Community Centre to provide a purpose built Preschool and a permanent site for the Shop. Many funding sources were sought, with

Sure-Start and the Plunkett Foundation both providing substantial amounts. The building was finished in December 2010; the new Shop was formally opened on 22nd January 2011.

An amazing team of local volunteers have now clocked up over 16 years' continuous operation of a 364-day-a-year service for the village. Things have not always been easy, with rich and lean periods, but a strong core of committed



volunteers have continued to move the shop forwards, now led by Manager Charlotte Parker.

The arrival of COVID, which has changed so much in all our lives, has only served to re-inforce the value of a friendly local shop at the heart of our village. The shop has of course had to adapt. An emergency local home-delivery service was introduced in early April 2020 – a new service which continues to this day. The shop has also established a number of new outdoor-based services as restrictions have allowed. These have included Autumn and Christmas Fayres and the encouragement of weekly scheduled visits by various mobile vendors to complement the shop's existing range of products and services.

Our next event is the Easter Market (www.langhamessex.org.uk/easter-market) offering an abundance of delicious food, drink and treats for the Easter weekend. The shop has expanded into other areas to provide more of a complete service, for greetings cards, gifts and luxury foods for special dates, trying to offer an alternative to heading to large stores or into town. Our volunteers are always ready with a warm (but



COVID-secure!) welcome, and we hope to see you soon.

The next 10 years will undoubtedly bring fresh challenges. The village population is also set to grow significantly with the new housing estates being built along School Road and we will take this in our stride. We are always happy to receive feedback on how best to serve you. We are always pleased to welcome new volunteers to the team to ensure that the shop stays open, come rain or shine, for 364 days each year.

Charlotte Parker – Shop Manager



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Thank you for your continued support

100 Club Draw

The 100 club February draw was made on the Random Number generator again and the lucky February winners are:

1. Karen Jones (65)
2. Simon Gallup (26)
3. Jean Newnham (42)
4. Mr & Mrs David Morell (24)

Some numbers available.

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Operation Christmas Child update 2020



What a success story! After a lot of hard work, rearrangements, bespoke collection points, market stalls and the takeover of my parents' living room for a couple of months we collected 225 shoeboxes for **Operation Christmas Child** in 2020.

These have now been safely delivered to children across Central Asia, Belarus, Georgia, Albania and Bosnia.

Find out more about the destinations you helped this year by visiting :

www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/2020-shoebox-destinations.

Together an amazing 265,975 gifts of love were sent from all over the UK, bringing great big smiles to thousands of precious children across the world. We really appreciate each and every shoebox gift given and know that your generosity is making a difference to families.

Thank you once again for partnering with us to share God's love with the world's children. Despite the challenges of 2020, our global shoebox packing family enabled 9,113,853 children to be blessed with a shoebox gift and we think that's worth celebrating!

PARISH CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION

In readiness for the Annual Parishional Church Council Meeting, the Parish Electoral Roll will enter a period of revision concluding on Sunday 18th April.

In order for a person to be entitled to attend the annual parochial church meeting and to take part in its proceedings, they must either currently be on the parish roll or an Application Form for enrolment

must be returned by the date shown above for the ending of the revision of the Church Electoral Roll by the Parochial Church Council.

Application Forms for enrolment can be obtained from Tim Clarke, the Church Electoral Roll Officer by either emailing

timclarkie03@gmail.com

or contacting 07792060597.



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The £1.00 NHS Appeal

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When we visit a restaurant, coffee shop, hairdresser or even use a taxi we often leave a tip for the person who served us. This is a personal choice we make to say "thank you" for the service we have received and is a tangible and immediate expression of our appreciation.

What if on receiving the C-19 "jab" there was the same opportunity for us to say "thank you" to the people that have worked so hard and endured so much simply because it is their job ... or because they have a sense of duty or ... because they care? Care about us. All of us. Strangers they have never met before yet immediately and unquestioningly look after for as long as it takes to make a difference.

That's it. Let's each give a tip to the NHS workers as a thank you for our "jab" and for all they have done and continue to do for us.

Here is the QR Code to the JustGiving page where you will find a little more detail and the chance to make a donation if you would like to.



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

Robert J. Spittal
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*Langham and its Parish Council
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The Parish Council needs new members to enable it to continue efficiently.

This Council represents the Village and looks after its interests.

If new members are not elected or co-opted to bring the Council up to its full capacity, there is a possibility that the Council could be disbanded. This would result in the interests of the village being passed over to others, with no representation from the village residents. This could be the end of Langham as we know it, an independent rural village, not just another village that is swallowed up by Colchester.

We need enthusiastic residents of Langham to step forward and join the Council before it is too late.

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clerk@langhamparishcouncil.co.uk

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Tel: 01206 271127 or 07741 284132

email: 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 Interim Secretary **Paul Armstrong** on **01206 616604** or email

langhamccsecretary@gmail.com

**Someone at the door?
Suspicious new email?
Strange letter in the post?
Unknown phone call?**

Stop

Think before you act.

Challenge

Are you certain of their intentions?

Check

Are you sure they are who they say they are?

Protect

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Enquiries may be phoned to 01255 201763 or emailed to

wheelchairloan@gmail.com

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Please mention the Newsletter when replying to advertisements

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Contact Details

Website www.lb-churches.co.uk

Rector [Currently in vacancy]

Please contact the Church Office with any enquiries

Church Office available by appointment
Mon: 9am - 12pm; Tue - Fri: 9am-1pm

Assistant Curate Revd Anne Mason

01206 851792 / 07895 970834

revdannemason@gmail.com

Lay Minister Denise Hobday 230918

Church Administrator (for the parishes of
Langham with Boxted, West Bergholt and Great
Horkesley) Jo Russell 243683

Email: lwb.wb.gh.parishes@gmail.com

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Stephen Garner 272599

Sgarner.22@btinternet.com

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Dominic & Linda Shiel 273324

The Edge Youth Group

Dominic & Linda Shiel 273324

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Cage Lane, Boxted, CO4 5RE

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Email:- boxted@community-centre.org.uk

Home to a number of local clubs and regular activities, it is also available for hire for parties and functions, with a capacity of 120 seated in rows or 100 seated at tables.

If you have any new clubs or events planned in the future, please consider using the village hall as your venue.

**Deadline for submissions for the
May edition:**

15th April

Contact the editor via email:

lwbnewsletter@gmail.com

NEED TO TALK TO SOMEONE?

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DISTRIBUTORS URGENTLY REQUIRED — BOXTED

We are looking for **delivery volunteers** for Boxted, to meet the expanded demand for the Newsletter.

Please contact **Ann Barnard** direct on 01206 272349.

The Churches of ST Mary's Langham and St Peter's Boxted



Are you elderly or vulnerable and live in the Parish of Langham with Boxted? Do you need help with transport to an important appointment, collection of prescriptions or just a friendly visit?

We can give you a lift to your Covid Vaccination Appointment! Call so that we can help you, Monday to Friday, 8am to 7pm

Monday.....230525 or 272773

Tuesday.....273804 or 271079

Wednesday....272755 or 272774

Thursday.....078420 34489

or 07765 037892

Friday..... 271813 or 619907

or 07598133413

Please telephone the number(s) shown for the DAY ON WHICH YOU MAKE YOUR CALL (not the day of your appointment). If there is no reply, please do not leave a message but RING ANY OTHER NUMBER.