

ST MARY & ST PETER
NEWSLETTER

June 2021



Cover Picture: Lane Reproduced by kind permission of Andrew Stacey .

CHURCH SERVICES

6th June

9.30am gathered at St Peter's -
Eucharist or Morning Prayer depending
on availability of clergy
10.00am Village parishes Holy
Communion on 'zoom'

13th June

9.30am gathered at St Mary's -
Eucharist or Morning Prayer depending
on availability of clergy

20th June

9.30am gathered at St Peter's - Eucharist
11.30am Village parishes Holy
Communion on 'zoom'
4.00pm gathered at St Peter's - D.E.E.P.
service

27th June

9.30am gathered at St Mary's - Eucharist

Email Jo Russell, Church Administrator,
for the Zoom link

(wb.wb.gb.parishes@gmail.com)

A recording of each service will be on
the website on Sunday afternoon:

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

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

Both St Mary's Langham and St Peter's
Boxted are now open for private prayer.



Deadline for submissions for the July edition: 15th June
Contact the editor via email: lwbnewsletter@gmail.com

“Normal service will be resumed as soon as possible”.

In my childhood, many decades ago, this was a phrase that caused our hearts to sink into our boots. At railway stations it meant there was no prospect of continuing the onward journey except by an overcrowded bus running at snail’s pace between far-flung railway stations. At bus stops, it meant ‘wait here for a few hours, but you’d be better off walking if you can’. On the television, it meant an evening staring at a monochrome snowstorm with the occasional flash of a testcard while technicians with nerves as frazzled as the defunct wiring fought with cutting-edge valve technology to bring us the nine o’clock news.

Today, those fateful words have taken on a new meaning - more joyous, more hopeful, more uplifting. Slowly the shops and amenities are beginning to open up for trade. It is once again possible to pop out for a haircut, get a heating engineer to call, book an hour in the swimming pool. Who could have foreseen the sheer pleasure to be gained from wandering down an urban High Street with the prospect of actually being allowed inside the shops to look at the items for sale?

Food and drink has to be taken in the open air for the moment. A friend of mine from Merseyside used to say that when you see people sitting outside on the pavement eating, in the south of England it is called *café culture* and in the

north it is called ‘eviction’. That aside, slowly what passes for normal is beginning to return to a state something like what we enjoyed—ignorant of the rigours to come—in 2019.

The world of commerce—unwilling to let a little thing like a global pandemic to get in its way—has largely moved online. This trend was already underway, of course, and has merely been brought forward by the Lockdown. Broadband cables have been laid in our area, to keep us all connected to friends, family, retailers and other services. We have all been offered entry to the global community and for many of us it has been a lifeline.

I have taken to working from home more readily than I thought I would. Having a dedicated office space, a computer and printer and the references I need to hand on the bookshelves, I confess it is no great hardship for me to perch on my chair for several hours—and without the cost and inconvenience of commuting to an office.

Not all are as fortunate though, and I do spare a thought for those of us whose lives have been curtailed for months. The opportunity to meet and socialise is immensely important. I will include notices of as many local clubs and societies in these pages as space allows (see p.13 for just a few). Email me details of your events and meetings please: hubnewsletter@gmail.com

Steve Pollington, Editor

Dear Friends

As we approach Pentecost we think about a time of waiting. When Jesus rose from the dead on the first Easter day he spent 40 days with his disciples to give them comfort and confidence and courage. Then he ascended back to his Father in heaven and asked the disciples to wait for the promised Holy Spirit. They waited for ten whole days, unsure of what was going to happen, unsure of what Jesus had meant, unsure of what they would do without their friend and Lord.

But after ten days, when all the believers were gathered together in one place “there was suddenly a noise from the sky which sounded like a strong wind blowing, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire which spread out and touched each person there. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to talk in other languages as the

Spirit enabled them to speak.” (*Acts chapter 2*)

Uncertainty changed into confidence and courage as the Holy Spirit gave the believers the power to boldly tell the good news of Jesus in different languages, to heal the sick, even to raise people from the dead as Jesus had done.

Perhaps you are feeling unsure at the moment. Unsure about the future, about your work, about your family situation. Perhaps you’ve been waiting for something to change. Maybe you would like to ask God to fill you with his Spirit and to give you the confidence and certainty that nothing can separate you from his great love for you.

“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8 v 38-39

May you know this love more deeply and more richly in the coming days and weeks.

Joanne Jeffery

Dear Neighbours,

Following my letter in last month’s newsletter, I am pleased to report that a joint Parish Profile has now been completed and that an advertisement for a new Priest in Charge has been posted on the Chelmsford Diocesan website. If

you would like to read it, you can find it at

www.chelmsford.anglican.org/vacancies/clergy/priest-in-charge-west-bergholt-with-great-borkesley-langham-with-boxted-wor

Depending on the response we receive, we could be interviewing candidates for the post in the second half of July.

After the 9am service at St. Peters on May 9th, Dominic Sheil was re-elected by parishioners as Church Warden for St. Peters Church and Stephen Garner and Denise Hobday for St. Mary's.

At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting which followed, the Annual Report and the Financial Statement were received. For anyone interested to read them, copies are available in both church buildings and from the PCC secretary Emma Fowler at emmafowler81@gmail.com

We are always grateful to everyone who helps with the running of our

two churches in so many different ways. This year we wish to express our particular thanks to the four Trustees of Langham Church Support Trust who are retiring this year - namely Sally Carbutt, Elizabeth Durlacher, John Greenwood and Ian Hollands. It has been very largely due to their unseen labours as well as those of the Friends of St Peter's Church Boxted Trust that the PCC has been able to apply for and receive grants for the maintenance and improvement of our two Grade 1 listed buildings.

Kind regards,

Patsy Ann Maggs

Vice Chair, LwB Parochial Church Council.

Boxted Parish Council Seeks Volunteers for Biodiversity and Sustainability Working Group

Do you have a keen interest in preserving and improving the health and quality of the countryside and local environment of Boxted and its surrounds? If so then Boxted Parish Council (BPC) would like to hear from you.

BPC are seeking expressions of interest from local volunteers to form a working group to explore ideas and schemes that could be implemented in Boxted to improve local Biodiversity and Sustainability.

If any of the above interests you then please do not hesitate to send an email to boxtedparishcouncil@gmail.com with a short paragraph explaining your

interest, ideas, and what level of participation you are willing to give? At this stage, all input is valuable.

Even if you do not have the time to commit to being a member of the group, we would still welcome your ideas to put before the group. No commitment is required at this stage, we are simply collecting expressions of interest and everyone who emails in will be kept up to date with progress as we establish the group.

For further information on this project, please visit

<https://boxtedparishcouncil.org.uk/boxted-biodiversity-sustainability-working-group/>

Jonathan Hunt

Langham Parish Council Report – May 2021

1. Langham Facilities Survey

You will by now have received a paper version of the survey to your home address. If you haven't, please contact the Parish Clerk on 07837 714615 or clerk@langhamparishcouncil.co.uk for your copy. Please complete and return this document using the freepost envelope provided. Alternatively, please complete the survey online using either of the links below.

www.langhamparishcouncil.co.uk (Notice Board – top item), or

<https://forms.gle/6zqPXp78iWMREu277>

The deadline for completion of the survey has been extended to 7th June.

Remember, this is your opportunity to have your say about the future facilities in Langham.

2. Local Elections 2021 (6th May 2021)

Langham Parish Council Election Nominations

Langham has capacity for 7 Councillors. As there were only 6 nominations the **election was uncontested**. The PC will continue to try to fill the vacancy so that they are up to full complement for the year ahead. Elected Councillors for Langham are:

Paul Armstrong, Martin Bottwood, Sally Brockman, Tony Ellis, Tony Emms, Ian Mansel-Thomas

Contact information can be obtained from www.langhamparishcouncil.co.uk

or contact the Parish Clerk on 07837 714615

Colchester Borough Council Rural – North Ward Election Nominations

There were nominations from 5 parties for the Rural North Ward Councillor post. **Darius Laws the Conservative candidate was elected**. The Conservative party has 3 Councillors covering Colchester Rural North Ward which is made up of Boxted, Chappel, Dedham, Fordham, Great Horkesley, Mount Bures, Wakes Colne and Wormingford. The Councillors that cover Rural North Ward are Darius Laws, Nigel Chapman and Peter Chillingworth. It is understood that Nigel Chapman will continue to represent Langham.

Contact:

Darius Laws at dariusglaws@gmail.com

Nigel Chapman at nigel.chapman@colchester.gov.uk

Essex County Council Constable Division Election Nominations

There were nominations from 5 parties for a County Councillor for Constable Division. **Lewis Barber the Conservative Party Candidate was elected**.

Contact:

Lewis Barber at lewis.barber@colchester.gov.uk

3. Key Housing Development Sites in Langham

i) Vistry Homes (formerly Linden Homes) site in School Road.

This site for 46 new homes was finally approved in December last year. Initial site clearance work had commenced but is now halted (as of 17th May

2021) whilst the developer applies for the 38 planning conditions to be discharged, removed or varied. This is an important phase as there are several key areas of concern in the planning conditions imposed by CBC. One that is now the focus of the PC and residents is the state of the Water Recycling Centre on Greyhound Hill which is believed to be oversubscribed based on homes currently connected. No work appears to have been done on upgrading the WRC. Therefore, at the moment, no work on the site can continue until this upgrade work is carried out.

ii) Williamson Developments Limited site in School Road.

This site for 30 new homes is at phase one now which is the publication of a site plan for comment. A dialogue between Trinity Planning and the PC has commenced. Trinity Planning are acting on behalf of Williamson Developments Ltd. at this stage of the project. It is expected that Williamsons Development Ltd. will submit an outline planning request in the next month or so.
Langham Parish Council
17th May 2021

Boxted Parish Council Report – May 2021

As we come through the lifting of lockdown restrictions and aware that the legalisation that was in place to allow meetings to be held virtually expires soon, we held our **last Parish Council meeting** by zoom on the 5th May. We are back to face to face meetings in June.

At this month's meeting Cllr Cheryl Damen was re-elected as Chair of the Council for this year with Cllr Jamie Seakens elected as Vice-chair. Cllr Brentnall will continue to chair the Committee which has the task of allocating the S106 funds which must be spent on the Recreation Ground and Community Hub building.

Cllr McLaughlan is acting Chair of the **Village Hall Management Committee.**

The Council have also agreed to create a Planning Committee which will take more time than is usually available to look at all the planning applications relevant to Boxted. We can then submit local pertinent information to Colchester for when they decide the application.

We also have Cllr Jonathon Hunt bringing together volunteers for a village biodiversity group that explores ideas and schemes that could be implemented in Boxted to improve local Biodiversity and Sustainability. If you would like to join the group you can register at <https://boxtedparishcouncil.org.uk/boxted-biodiversity-sustainability-working-group/> or drop an email to us (address at end of this report).

Our end of year account will be available on the Parish Council website in the next few weeks. We now undergo an internal audit and then we submit everything to external auditors in July. Over the last 3 years the Council has rebuilt its reserves to a healthy level but with a feeling that we have only maintained the amount of things available in the village we may be in a position to update and provide.

The **Hub café** should be open again from 18th May and you will see football and cricket in action at the **Recreation Ground**. We have been approached by fitness instructors looking to run local classes on the field. Our new outdoor gym equipment will be installed in May. We are putting additional bins on the Recreation Ground and replacing a

broken bench. There are also two new push/wheelchair friendly picnic benches on the field.

Boxtoberfest is back this year – a community event with live music and craft beers – we have a diary date **16th October**.



If you want to get in touch with the Council, please drop an email to: **boxtedparishcouncil@gmail.com**

LANGHAM LADIES

The **Langham Ladies** are reopening the season with a **Picnic Day** on Sunday 15th August. It will commence at 12 midday and existing members only are invited to bring your own picnic to eat in the beautiful gardens at Langham Lodge.

Members are permitted to bring one additional guest. (Should it be inclement weather, alternative arrangements are available so come along and enjoy a free glass of wine or soft drink with other members.

Numbers will have to be limited so book your reservation with Ginny on **01206**

323419 or email her on virginia.mary.moss@icloud.com

The next meeting to be held in Langham Community Hall will be a talk on Coco Chanel by Paula Short on Thursday, 9th September at the revised time of 7.30 pm. **At this event, any ladies wishing to join the group are very welcome.**

All events will be held in strict observance of Government regulations in force at the time. Details of the renewal of membership for the year 2021/22 will be sent out in due course.

SPRINGTIME, LANGHAM, 80 YEARS AGO

Ian Hollands

Vera Brittain (1893-1970), author, broadcaster and leading member of the Peace Pledge Union, was a frequent visitor the Adelphi Centre (1936-42) at *The Oaks*, Langham.

Here are some extracts from her celebrated "*Wartime Chronicle*" (Ed. Alan Bishop & Y. Aleksandra Bennett, Victor Gollancz 1989), describing Langham in the Spring of 1941. But the shadow of war was always present.

Thursday 3rd April

To Max Plowman's place, The Oaks, Langham, nr. Colchester (community centre founded in 1936 by John Middleton Murry & others) for weekend. Given a bare but pleasant single room looking south over wide Essex field from on top of The Oaks. Daffodils in bloom everywhere. Went to bed early being tired & slept well. Evacuees¹ not yet come to house; everything very peaceful. Had dinner in kitchen. Shown round by Kenneth Wray, who is now Warden here.

Friday 11th April

Milder & rather rainy. Large number of more able-bodied evacuees volunteered after breakfast to do washing up & cleaning wh. enabled



Vera Brittain was a memoirist, poet, essayist, and novelist whose work and life were forever marked by the losses she endured as a result of World War I. She is best remembered for her classic memoir, *Testament of Youth* published in 1933.

Image: literarjadesquide

me to get on with own work. Went for a walk [by] myself after lunch. This country very like Holland; wide horizons, pageants of cloud, wealth of spring flowers. Lanes now filled with celandines; gardens full of daffodils & primroses. Lines of daffodils in Langham Garden; some under



Max Plowman's essays and poems are still in print today

trees near white bee-hives. Walked up a little lane² past a derelict farm left to go to ruin, at top found an old woman cultivating a lovely little garden filled with daffodils & grape hyacinths. She looked ancient enough but said her employer was 93! & she and her husband³ did the garden. Had supper with the C.O. farm boys at the Little Cottage⁴; very warm & comfortable.

Sunday 13th April

Easter Sunday. Usual housework in morning. Max got me together a box of vegetables, including leeks & onions, to send to Mother in

Cornwall. Went for a walk after lunch but it had blown up cold; came back to garden & at Max's invitation picked daffodils in bud & forsythia to take back to London. German planes over this part of Essex this morning, & guns firing.

Monday 21st April

Owing to masses of debris & detours similar to those of last Sept. caused by last week's raids, we missed the train to Colchester for Langham. Took nearly 3 hours to reach Colchester. Went via Gilea [sic] Park & Shenstone [sic], changing at both instead of usual route.

Tuesday 22nd April

Worked most of the day on Aberystwyth oration. G⁵. went around the place on his own & helped in various ways. In afternoon walked as far as Langham Church but couldn't get in. Saw view of Stour Valley that Constable painted.

Wednesday 23rd April

Walked with G. in afternoon to Valley of Stour. By stream found pumping station⁶ guarded by only 2 workmen rolling lawn!

Sunday 4th May

Went off by 10.0 train to Colchester for a management committee of the Community Centre (on which I have just been put) at 3.0. Train to

Colchester unimpaired this time but slow. Beautiful day; country looked perfectly lovely in what was really early morning as we changed to yet another “summer-time” hour⁷ last night....Committee meeting in garden under trees. Garden in first day of warm spring sunshine so lovely as to be almost heartbreaking. Shrubs all coming out; one budding Japanese sycamore with pale flamingo-coloured leaves looking like a Japanese print against the blue sky. Daffodils fading but lawns pied with daisies; coloured primroses and blossoms everywhere. Listened to news with Plowmans at 9.0 & went to bed early. Many planes over & a good deal of gunfire – also it seemed by shaking of windows that some bombs were dropped not far away.

Notes

¹ On 10th April, *The Oaks* received the first contingent of elderly or disabled evacuees transported from Bermondsey, Bow & Bethnal Green under the auspices of the Friends' War Victims Relief Committee.

² Grove Hill *.

³ Mr & Mrs Walker, Grove Cottage; Mr Walker worked for Mr Bryant of Langford Hall *.

⁴ Tudor Cottage, School Road, to which the younger Conscientious Objectors (obliged to do agricultural work as a condition of exemption from military service) had decamped from *The Oaks* in February.

⁵ Gordon Catlin, VB's husband.

⁶ Presumably “Low Lift”.

⁷ Double British Summer Time

**Identification by Bob Schofield*

BOXTED HISTORY GROUP

The Group's **River Orwell cruise** on Wednesday 23rd June is now fully booked but if you would like to record your interest should there be cancellations please call **Derek Kirby** on **01206 231047**. Members attending should meet at the Orwell Quay in Ipswich (Satnav code IP3 0BQ) at 1.30 pm at the latest.

There is a car park in the road behind the quay but an alternative is the Copdock

Park-and-Ride, getting off the bus at the Cattle Market stop and walking down the hill.

Assuming the easing of the Lockdown continues as planned the first group meeting of the Winter programme will be held on Wednesday 15th September in the Boxted Village Hall at 7.30 for 8.00 pm. with Janet Robinson's talk “*You'll Make a Lovely Sergeant, Flora Sandes*”. Details of the remaining talks in 2021 will be in September's village Newsletter.

Enjoy your summer freedom.

Keith Middleton, Chairman

Stratford St Mary and Langham Community First Responder Group

The Stratford St Mary and Langham Community First Responder (NZ581) group has had another successful year. The group still comprises Peter and Stephen as the active responders. We did have another potential responder but she had to drop out of training due to a change in personal circumstances.

Peter and Stephen share the bag between themselves and try to be on call for a least part of every day.

During the last financial year they recorded 1113.25 hours on call, this was again an increase over the previous year, the previous year was 676.5 hours. During the year they received 78 alerts or direct calls from Ambulance control. Out of these alerts they attended thirty-seven. On the others, they were stood down by control (for numerous reasons such as a crew on scene, control deciding it was beyond the remit of Community First Responders or the person has passed away).

The pandemic greatly reduced the amount of calls the group was receiving. This was to protect the responders from being in contact with Covid patients. Extra PPE was provided for responders

to wear to all calls attended. Stephen and Peter still went on call though, just in case any alerts came through. Even with all the additional procedures and protection in place both Stephen and Peter contracted Covid19. Both are now fully vaccinated.

The group purchased a new Pulseox meter to replace the old one that was starting to give errors to readings. The NHS trust also provided new equipment to the group, this comprised digital thermometers and blood pressure equipment. Peter and Stephen had to do additional training to enable them to use this new equipment.

In the first part of 2020 both Stephen and Peter volunteered to drive front-line ambulances. They attended driving courses run by the Police in Ipswich, a two day course in Newmarket training on equipment and then a day course which was familiarisation of the Ambulance stations and Hospitals in North Essex and South Suffolk. A matter of days after completing the familiarisation course they were on the road, helping to relieve some of the pressure that the regular crews

were experiencing during these difficult times. They both continue to do this volunteer driving alongside the Community First Responding.

The group finances remain in a healthy state with the only expenditure being for the Pulseox (£453.60) and the renting of the Parish Rooms (£30) to enable us to carry on training as and when we are allowed to. We got a refund from the Langham Community Centre (£198) as we were not allowed to do training, donation Boxes brought in £37.54 and Easy Funding raised £43.20. There are still three donation boxes outstanding from the Black Horse, the Anchor and the Shepherd, these will be recovered as soon as they can be. This puts the group with a healthy bank balance of £5,109.69.

The group would still like to increase the number of active responders it has. 2020 did see training for new responders halted making recruitment very difficult. This has now been re started so recruitment and training should return to normal. Hopefully this year as the Pandemic starts to settle down we can make a push to advertise and recruit new people.

The trust is trying to **recruit new responders** as well, they have a target of 5 responders per kit bag , a tough target to achieve. So if anybody hears of anyone who is interested, please get them to contact me on **07775 667753** or **peterdaw50n@hotmail.com**

Peter Dawson,
group co-ordinator.

Boxted Cricket Club

The season has resumed and details of future fixtures can be found on the club's website:

www.boxtedcricketclub.co.uk

BOXTED AMATEUR PLAYERS

The village drama group returned at the end of May. All are welcome to come along to Boxted Village Hall on every second Saturday at 2pm. Join in to practice acting skills, improvisation and have fun.

Under 16s to be accompanied please, no experience necessary. Info, please email

scottdolling@hotmail.co.uk

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100 Club Draw

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

1. Bob Schofield (49)
2. Gill Salt (88)
3. Alan Cadman (76)
4. Karen Jones (65)

Some numbers available.

Contact Sue Armstrong

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2021

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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.

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revdannemason@gmail.com

Lay Minister Denise Hobday 230918

Church Administrator (for the parishes of
Langham with Boxted, West Bergholt and Great
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Email: lwb.wb.gh.parishes@gmail.com

Churchwardens

St Mary's Langham

Stephen Garner 272599

Sgarner.22@btinternet.com

Denise Hobday 230918

hobdaylangham@hotmail.com

St Peter's Boxted

Dominic Shiel 273324

Zone Youth Group

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St Mary & St Peter Newsletter

Editor Stephen Pollington 683670

Email: lwbnewsletter@gmail.com

Advertising Paul Armstrong 616604

Email: boxlangads@gmail.com

Distribution

Elaine Mott (Boxted) 273183

Linda Tralau (Boxted) 272710

Andrew Stacey (Langham) 272806

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Contact

Debbie Eley

Telephone:- 01206 870266

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 July edition:

15th June

Contact the editor via email:

lwbnewsletter@gmail.com

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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.

Revised 13/04/2021. Organizer Arabella Brentnall, 01206 272013