

ST MARY & ST PETER
NEWSLETTER

October 2021



CHURCH SERVICES

3rd October

9.30am at St Peter's - All-age
worship

A 'Back to Church' celebration

10th October

9.30am at St Mary's - the Eucharist

17th October

9.30am at St Peter's - the Eucharist

4.00pm at St Peter's - D.E.E.P.

Service

24th October

9.30am at St Mary's - the Eucharist

31st October - All Saints Sunday

Three Parishes service at All Saints,
Great Horkesley

Preacher: Canon Janet Nicholls,

Diocesan Rural Chaplain

Tuesday 2nd November - All Souls Day

8.00pm at St Peter's -

Commemoration of the departed

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.

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Deadline for submissions for the November edition: 15th October

Contact the editor via email: lwbnewsletter@gmail.com

Welcome to the October Newsletter.

John Keats wrote his haunting poem “*To Autumn*” in September 1819, but the two centuries which separate that poet from our modern world seem not to have changed the natural landscape very much at all these mornings when the “*Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness, Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun*” is upon us.

A series of early-morning dog-walks in the lanes around Workhouse Hill impressed upon me the seemingly timeless nature of the local countryside, and the almost total lack of motor traffic noise reinforced the illusion of being able to reach out across the

centuries to experience the same autumnal *frisson* as Keats enjoyed.

A recent chance encounter provided another link across a great span of years. I was in the churchyard admiring the re-used Roman tiles that have been incorporated into the tower and walls, when I met an elderly visitor and her friend and struck up a conversation during which I learnt that she is the daughter of a former vicar, and grew up in the village — from the context I imagine this would have been during World War II. I hope to meet her again and learn more on her next visit. I'll let you know what I find out.

Steve Pollington, Editor

New Priest-in Charge for Six Parishes

We are delighted to announce that Revd Heather Wilcox has been appointed as Priest in Charge of the six parishes of West Bergholt and Great Horkesley, Langham and Boxted, Little Horkesley, Wormingford and Mount Bures. There will be a Licensing Service at St Andrew's Wormingford at 7.30pm on Thursday 11 November, and a Welcoming Service at 11am on Sunday 21 November at All Saints' Great Horkesley followed by lunch at St Mary's West Bergholt.

Heather brings 10 years' experience of working with a group of rural parishes in Norfolk, and is

passionate about rural ministry. She says, “I particularly love the breadth of traditions and diversity rural parishes embrace. I am looking forward to serving in these parishes and getting to know everyone and to seeing where God is leading.”

I pray that as we move through the Autumn and Winter seasons we can keep our spirits lifted by enjoying time with God and with each other; and I invite you to pray for Heather and her family as they prepare to move here.

Revd Anne Mason, Assistant Curate

Langham Parish Council

Update on Village Facilities Survey

Back in Spring 2021 the Parish Council commenced a major piece of work to better understand residents' views on the existing amenities, events and activities within the village. This will help us set priorities and establish projects to improve the village amenities over the coming years.

By the end of June, we received 173 individual responses to our initial survey. 132 were submitted in paper format; 41 were submitted online. Collating all this detailed information into a single 'database' was quite an onerous task, but this is now complete thanks to the sterling efforts of a Working Group comprising Tony Emms, Maureen Shouksmith, John Palmer, James Puxley and Martin Bottwood.

Thanks are also due to everybody that took the time and trouble to respond to our survey, giving us better insight

into what is most important to Langham residents.

This article presents just a quick 'snapshot' of the initial survey findings and the follow-on activities that are now being planned. More detailed information will be published on the LPC website shortly. A village briefing meeting will also be held later in October (date TBC).

Existing amenities:

52% of respondents felt that existing amenities meet their needs, but 60% also felt that there was scope for improvements. The Recreation Ground received a mean score of about 7.5/10, but a rather lower rating regarding events and activities held on it (mean score about 5.5/10).

The Community Centre also received a mean overall score of about 7.5/10. The Shop received the highest mean score of about 9/10. Survey returns for the Pre-School were too low to be statistically meaningful.

Potential new amenities:

The two top scoring infrastructure ideas were medical facilities (110 'votes') and a coffee shop/cafeteria (105 'votes'). 37 people 'voted' for allotments; 30 people 'voted' for a gymnasium. The three top scoring event ideas were a Christmas Market, a Bonfire Night and a Summer Show, all of which received more than 120 'votes'. Many other ideas for new social events, clubs and activities were also suggested by respondents. If we can match up some of these innovative ideas with the necessary volunteers to help run them, exciting times might lie ahead! With that in mind, we were truly delighted that more than 60 people expressed a potential interest in volunteering to help organise new village events. An initial meeting was held at the Community Centre on 23rd September, where these ideas were explored further.

The initial survey analysis work is now complete. The next phases of work will look at taking forward as many ideas as possible within the practical constraints of time, money and volunteer resources. Ideas generated from the survey are being categorised into five groups to help organise the follow-on work.

Group 1: the major opportunities and top priority items to be explored and if possible taken forwards. Some will be complex and challenging, but we recognise their importance to the village.

Group 2: other opportunities to consider for progression. Some of these may be quicker and simpler to deliver.

Group 3: opportunities to be explored in conjunction with the LCC, Shop & Pre-School.

Group 4: opportunities that will require support from higher tiers of government (CBC, ECC, Essex Highways etc.)

Group 5: survey ideas which, for various reasons, we do not anticipate taking forwards at this time.

We look forward to providing further updates as we start to develop implementation plans for at least some of the ideas included in Groups 1-3 above. Further details will be published on the LPC website as plans take shape. If you would like to offer help or further ideas, please do come along to future **Parish Council Meetings** and/or get in touch with the Clerk by email at clerk@langhamparishcouncil.co.uk or by phoning **07837 714615**.

It's that time of the year when the seasons are changing. The leaves are falling from the trees and the days are getting shorter. There are Harvest celebrations in schools and in churches, crops have been cut and collected, and fruits and vegetables are picked ready to be sold, stored or frozen for us to use. Harvest is the end of a process that has seen farmers and gardeners cultivate and tend their crops, from the initial sowing of the seeds through to the moment the resulting produce is ripe and ready – something to celebrate.

But it may be that we don't feel like celebrating because the gloomier days affect our mood, and some people experience something called SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder) syndrome. This can lead to us feeling a bit low, tired, not enjoying everyday activities, and sometimes might cause us to eat unhealthy food. I'd like to encourage us all to focus on our faith, to lean into God, and seek help and support from Him, and others. His mood never changes, He is always delighted when we choose to spend time with Him in prayer, or meet together in church.

In the last book of the Bible there is a wonderful description of a river flowing through Jerusalem, and a verse that says, "On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations." (*Revelation 22.2*) This is a wonderful picture of the world as it will be in the future, evoking images of the garden of Eden where God originally created a beautiful world for us to live in.

The pandemic has caused many people to experience loss and suffer grief in many ways, but the encouragement is that, in time, God will heal all our sadness and disappointments and restore our relationship with Him and with each other.

Reverend Anne Mason



Boxted Parish Council Report – September 2021

We had lots of members of the public come along to our September meeting as well as our Colchester Ward Councillor, Nigel Chapman and our Essex County Councillor (ECC) Lewis Barber.

The big issues raised were, firstly, the plan to site a 16m high 5G telecoms mast on the Essex County Council verge on the edge of the Village Green. Most people understood the need for better mobile communications but felt the site proposed was a poor choice. The Council decided to lodge an objection based on the location and look of the proposed mast being at odds with the landscape character of the rural setting in Boxted.

The second issue concerning those residents present was the notification that has been received by some stating Colchester Homes' intention to develop the site, known locally as the Garage site, for social housing. We haven't had much information and decided to invite Colchester Amphora Homes to a Parish meeting.

Thirdly, was the issue of congestion and parking at school drop off and pick up times. Cllr Barber is organising a meeting of the Travel Planning Officer at Highways, North Essex Parking Partnership, Boxted School, and the Parish Council to see what workable options could be implemented. This issue is common to a lot of villages and is very difficult to solve but we anticipate making some headway. In the meantime, the **Parish Council** is creating (subject to planning) an all-weather route to grassed parking on the Recreation Ground which might help.

The uncertainty around Highways plans for **Boxted Bridge** goes on. Residents and the Council have been promised sight of the proposals for eight months, but nothing is available to us yet. When we see the plans, we will hold a public meeting to get people's views. The residents **Save Our Bridge** campaign is still very active.

Councillors will walk along Straight Road trying to identify what of the verge and hedging can be strongly cut back to enable

people to walk on the verge rather than in the road.

There is good input from residents about areas of the village green that should be planted with wildflowers and pollinators.

Sadly, the Community Hub has closed. We have plans to refurbish the Hub building which would see a remodelling of the sports changing room side and the provision of extra kitchen space and

more toilets for the café side. Therefore, a short-term lease is being advertised which could be extended after the refurbishment by mutual consent. Do look at boxtedparishcouncil.org.uk for more information.

Don't forget if you want to get in touch with the Council, please drop an email to boxtedparishcouncil@gmail.com and follow the facebook page titled **Boxted Parish Council**.

BOXTED HISTORY GROUP

Hopefully, by the time October's Newsletter is distributed the Group's first meeting in 2021 will have been held. After such a long break due to Covid "Lockdowns: it is difficult to predict how many will attend but, whatever the outcome, we hope all members and friends are keeping well and that we shall see them again at future meetings.

The Group's next meeting will be on **Wednesday 20th October** in the **Boxted Village Hall** at **7.30** for **8.00pm** when Gary Egerton will give a talk on "*Looking After V.I.P.s*".

Guests always welcome.

Keith Middleton, Chairman





Boxted Village Praise Service

5th September

A big thank-you to all who came and took part in this lovely event, and a special thank you to our superb **Boxted Silver Band** who accompanied us so beautifully.

The donations amounted to £90, which will be sent to *Refugee Action - Colchester* to help families coming to our area from Afghanistan



Helen Rollason Cancer Charity's Rural Ramble is back for 2021!

Join the Helen Rollason Cancer Charity for our Rural Ramble at The Forgotten Gardens of Easton Lodge on Saturday 9th October 2021!

The gardens, which are entirely maintained by volunteers, comprise a walled kitchen garden dating back to the 18th century, a wild flowers area for the bees, formal gardens, beautiful carpets and expansive colourful displays of flowers in Spring and Summer.

There are three distance options for participants to choose from; 10 mile walk and garden visit, 4 mile walk and garden visit or a 1 mile walk family trail and garden visit – dogs on leads are welcome. As part of the visit a delicious cream tea is included with each ticket.

Situated a few minutes outside the historic market town of Great Dunmow, this is a unique opportunity to enjoy a beautiful walk around the surrounding countryside and The Forgotten Gardens of Easton Lodge.

Previous participants have been full of praise for the event;

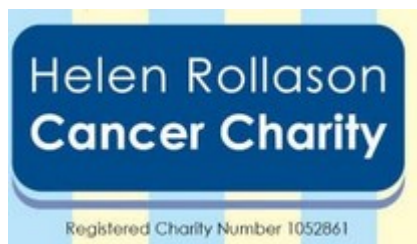
“I would just like to say thank you for organising a great Rural Ramble. My

husband, two children, two dogs and I completed the 10 mile ramble today. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves, the organisation, the route and the tea afterwards were all excellent and for the first time in a long time the weather was on everyone's side!”

Angus Drever - Chair of Trustees at the **Gardens of Easton Lodge Preservation Trust**, said:

“We are delighted that the Gardens are to be the focal point of the Helen Rollason Rural Ramble again on Saturday 9th October. The Grade II listed Gardens are being lovingly restored by volunteers to enable the public to enjoy the wealth of history and biodiversity that the Gardens abound in.

We hope that this event will encourage even more people to come to find out more about these fascinating Gardens. Their history spans from the mid-1590s, through the Edwardian era and Second World War, right up to the current time, when important and exciting renovation is taking place.”



Helen Rollason Cancer Charity Community Fundraiser Karen Mitchell added.

“After we had to postpone our original April date this year, we are so looking forward to returning to The Forgotten Gardens of Easton Lodge in the Autumn. It will be wonderful to see families, groups of friends, children and dogs enjoying the walk and the stunning gardens once again.

We couldn't organise such an amazing and successful event

without the help of our great team of volunteers, staff, sponsors, supporters and of course all of the volunteers at The Forgotten Gardens of Easton Lodge.

This year we already have lots of people signed up and looking forward to a great day out – we're keeping our fingers crossed for sunny skies and warm Autumn weather!”

Book now to take advantage of our early bird prices as places are limited and must be pre-booked! You can register online using the form on our website (www.helenrollason.org.uk) or simply call 01245 380719



The best thing you'll do this week (and that's a promise.)

Tired of dull weekdays? Want to try something new, learn new skills and meet a whole new group of friends?

2nd Langham Scouts have been providing Scouting in the local area on a Wednesday evening for over 60 years and we have recently restarted our meetings face-to-face.

We currently have space in Beavers, Cubs and Scouts and would also welcome any adults who would love to get involved!

For more information, or to book a space, please either email enquiries@2ndlanghamscouts.org or contact us via our website.

www.2ndlanghamscouts.org

Scouts
2nd Langham

QUIZ NIGHT

**Boxted Village Hall
Saturday 23rd October**

**Doors Open 7.00pm for 7.30pm Start
Teams of up to 8 people per table**

Licensed Bar

**Tickets £10.00 including a curry
Tickets £7.00 without**

**To book contact
Dominic 01206 273324
Jos 01206 272755**

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BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY

October 3rd 9.30am

St Peter's Church Boxted

If you feel that you would like to join us to re-engage with Faith, for any reason, maybe as a result of the Lockdowns, or you are looking for Spiritual Expression

— *we would love to see you.*

**Dominic Sheil
(Evangelism Enabler)**

River Stour Trust SQC and Boxted Bridge

Every year the River Stour Trust organizes an event, 'Sudbury to the Sea', where up to 300 boats, mainly canoes, paddle boards and even some coracles, make the 24.5 mile journey down the River Stour from Sudbury to the sea ending at the Cattawade Barrier. The route passes under Boxted Bridge.

<https://www.riverstourtrust.org/events/sudbury-to-the-sea-overview/>

A dedicated email address (boxtedenquiries@essexhighways.org) has been set up to support the

public with any questions relating to the structure that are not already answered on the webpage.

The full website address for the **Boxted Bridge project** is:

<https://www.essexhighways.org/transport-and-roads/highway-schemes-and-developments/highway-schemes/boxted-bridge-wick-road-boxted-colchester.aspx>

For more information and **to sign the petition** to save the original structure of Boxted Bridge, please head to <https://www.change.org/p/essex-county-council-save-our-bridge>

It's Shoebox Season!

As in previous years, the parish of Langham with Boxted is partnering with Operation Christmas Child, a project of the international Christian relief organisation, Samaritan's Purse, to make a difference in the lives of children. This Christmas project takes empty shoeboxes and turns them into tangible expressions of God's love by filling them with fun toys, school supplies and hygiene items. These gifts will be delivered to children overseas this Christmas.

From now until 22 November, different activities will be taking place to collect shoebox gifts to contribute to this year's appeal. Last year, the local area fantastically collected and donated more than 220 gift-filled shoeboxes. This contributed to the 265,000 collected in the UK and over 9 million internationally! Details are below of how you can start to get involved in this year's appeal. If you would like to find out more please **contact Tim Clarke on 07792060597 or email timclarkie03@gmail.com**

In addition to any filled shoeboxes that are donated via the nominated drop of collection points (more details to come next month) there will be a Shoebox packing party on **Sunday 21st November at St Peter's Church, Boxted**, open to all and anyone is welcome to come and enjoy packing boxes as a community with the hope of making 50 boxes across the afternoon. Items



for this year's packing party (ranging from toys, non liquid hygiene, accessories, warmth items and School supplies) can be donated via donation boxes which will be in both St Mary's, Langham and St Peter's Boxted throughout October and the beginning of November. Alternatively you may be able to help with the transportation costs by donating via our JustGiving Page <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/OCCLWB2021>

New for this year, another way to get involved is to pick up a label from one of the giving trees which will be located at each church. These labels can be taken away, items purchased and donated into the boxes to be used at the packing party.

Thank you on behalf of the children who will receive shoebox gifts this year. You'll bring a big smile to a child's face, and let them know that they are loved and not forgotten.



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If there are enough volunteers for 2 teams, then each team would only be needed once a month.

If you are able to spare a little time to help keep the church clean for the benefit of all, please contact

Gill Flack
01206 322999 or 07751 456654



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Langham Community Shop

needs new volunteers to help to keep our valuable shop open

We have a great, but small, team of volunteers who have continued to work throughout the lockdowns over the past year, but more people are now urgently required to help fill the shifts.

Full training will be given and there are always 2 volunteers working together.

There is the option of working a regular shift or to fill gaps in the rota when they occur and when suits you.

A small commitment from you could make a big difference to the continuation of our Shop.

For more information, please contact our Volunteer Co-ordinator

Cath Hine

07825 952560

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100 Club Draw

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

1. Gill Salt (95)
2. Louise Armstrong (7)
3. Liz Durlacher (93)
4. Lynne Dingemans (45)

Have you bought your

100 Club draw ticket for 2021/22?

A new year started 1st September.

Please contact Sue Armstrong on langhamcc@gmail.com or 271127 if you would like to help raise funds for the Langham Community Centre, and a chance to win

*1st prize of £40, 2nd prize £25,
3rd prize £15, 4th prize £10.*

Ticket price £26 for the year's entry.

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**Deadline for submissions for the
November edition:**

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Contact the editor via email:

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