ST MARY & ST PETER
NEWSLETTER



June 2026

Cover Picture: *Stoke by Nayland Church* Thanks to Andy Hardie

CHURCH SERVICES



7th June – First Sunday after Trinity

9.30am at St Peter's – Morning Worship

14th June – Second Sunday after Trinity

9.30am at St Mary's – Holy Communion

21st June – Third Sunday after Trinity

9.30am at St Peter's – Holy Communion

Saturday 27th June

3.00pm at The Glade, St Peter's new churchyard
Forest Church and Messy Church family BBQ

28th June – Fourth Sunday after Trinity
9.30am at St
Mary's – Holy Communion

5th July – Fifth Sunday after Trinity
9.30am at St Peter's – Morning Worship

To check for other services and any alterations please email The Reverend Heather Wilcox – *RevHWilcox@outlook.com*

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

Welcome to the June Newsletter.

Summer should well and truly have started by the time your read these words from the comfort of a deckchair in your garden, or sheltering from the rain in a bus shelter. "Summer" is the theme for Revd. Heather's piece this time, as well as a specially written prayer which is reproduced in these pages.

Summer holiday plans are well underway for many of us and the tempting brochures and emails keep arriving, luring us off to exotic places far beyond the borders of Essex. As usual, there will be no issue of the Newsletter in August so if you have a summer event to advertise, please try to get the details to me in good time.

It is with great sadness that we learnt of the death of Doug, the driving force behind Harper's Caffe which has made such a positive difference to the centre of Boxted village the last few years. I am sure many of us have used the coffee, cake and bacon sandwich facilities there, and will miss his cheerful efficiency.

Pursuit of a rather different kind of 'efficiency' seems to impel the housing team at Colchester Council. In the face of stiff local opposition, the proposed building of 900 new homes in a tiny village with few amenities, inadequate roads, power supply and water systems, an amended target of 800 such houses has been adopted. "You couldn't make it up" as they say. Langham fights on, so if you feel moved to take up a torch and pitchfork in defence of your home, see page 12 for details of how you may safely do this.

Stay safe, take care and I hope to run into some of you at the various markets, fetes and other attractions in the coming weeks.

Steve Pollington,
Editor

BOXTED EVERGREENS

The committee have been busy finalising the second half of the year's programme for the Evergreen club and hope our members will enjoy the entertainment we have arranged for them.

In our April meeting we had a returning guest speaker, Brenda Eyers. Due to unforeseen circumstances Brenda had to alter her talk to three ladies from Liverpool, a well known writer Carla Lane, Lita Rosa who was a singer and Bessie Braddock who was in the Labour Party and was quite outspoken. Apparently Bessie once accused Winston Churchill of being drunk and Winston replied, "madam you are ugly but in the morning I shall be sober". I don't think you would get away with saying that these days! Brenda had so much information on these ladies which kept our members amused.

At the time of writing we haven't had our May meeting therefore our members haven't made their flower posies. Our ladies have the choice of whether they want to do a fresh or artificial display. We are sure the combined finished effect will be lovely, especially with all the fresh flowers available now.

June will see us trying to get fit, albeit for an afternoon, as we have Lucy from Move it or Lose it visiting us. Lucy has a regular Friday morning session in the Village Hall so hopefully we can pick up some useful pointers as to how we can stay mobile.

July is a firm favourite as it's strawberry tea time. Lovely scones with plenty of strawberries and cream accompanied by tea and coffee of course.

In August we have John Carter from Boxted coming along to talk about his love of dogs. His wealth of knowledge will definitely create a very interesting afternoon.

Our meeting in September is focused on food with Sue a lady from Wiltshire Foods coming to chat and prepare sample dishes for our members to taste. We feel sure this will be well received by our group.

The above programme will see us through the summer months and an update will be written for the remaining few months of 2026 during the last quarter of the year. In the meantime, we hope you all have a lovely summer and enjoy whatever you do.

Boxted Evergreen Team



Did you know Langham Community Shop has been here for you for over 20 years!
Welcoming you every day, 364 days a year, that's over 7500 times the doors have been opened every morning!



And the most staggering part of all, every friendly, helpful, kind and caring person welcoming you when you walk through the door is a VOLUNTEER.

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We are proud of what we do, and we will continue for many more years.

We regularly see too many small, local businesses closing around us. With your constant and continued support we will continue to work hard and always be here for you.

You can also be part of our family; you can support us and help us to stay here where we belong.
We can not just always rely on the generosity of what we have, we need more volunteers to keep us going and be able to stay open later as we have now managed to do.

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2nd	Karen Knightsbridge	No.91
3rd	Tony Ellis	No. 61
4th	Patricia Mahoney	No.47

The April winners were:

1st	Christine Woodward	No 52
2nd	Langham Bridge Club	No 89
3rd	Gillian Brown	No 71
4th	Jutta Brawn	No 27

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Have you spotted the road signs?
Sadly we get Hedgehog road casualties in our village. As they are nocturnal, this makes them vulnerable. So we have put up signs to remind drivers to take care and look out for them.
Boxted Wildlife


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BOXTED HISTORY GROUP

Cressing Temple near Coggeshall is a site of great historical importance. Archaeological evidence shows occupation from the Bronze Age but the main interest for many visitors revolves around its mediaeval barns. The name Cressing Temple has nothing to do with churches - It came from the name of the Knights Templar.

The site was first owned by the daughter of Henry the Second who became Queen Matilda and in 1137 she donated it to the Knights Templar who built it up for farming, including two substantial barns - one for storing wheat and one for barley.

The early 1300s saw the suppression of the Knights Templar in France where they had been very strong and antagonistic feelings spread to England. On the fall of the Knights Templar the land fell into the hands of the Knights Hospitaller in 1312. By 1335 a chapel had been built and a clergy installed to operate it. Its farming activities continued. In the ensuing years the Black Death brought about a great loss of life both locally and nationally, followed by economic depression. Cressing Temple, like everywhere else, suffered. However, by 1372 a big house had been added to the site.



A deeply unpopular poll tax was introduced, leading to the Peasants' Revolt, and in 1381 the farm was attacked and sacked. Fortunately the barns were not destroyed, presumably because they were too valuable for storing grain. In the 1420s extensive repairs and alterations were made.

1540 saw major changes. Henry the Eighth ordered the dissolution of the monasteries and the Knights Hospitaller were disbanded. However, the estate was permitted to continue its farming activities albeit in private hands. The Smyth family (who shortly changed their name to Neville) took it over. In 1603 they erected a new farm house and a granary. In 1623 a new granary was built with stone and brick. The ground floor was used as a malting and it still stands today.

During the English civil war of the 17th century the Neville family supported the king and, when the royalists lost, Henry Neville was arrested. He was released on the payment of £6,000 - a considerable sum.

In the following years the site changed hands many times and gradually people lost interest in it. In the 20th century archaeological interest in it grew, but it continued as a working farm, with the introduction of mechanisation causing many redundancies. The estate continued to change hands and interest in it remained low until the arrival of Frank Cullen, a local seed merchant who purchased it and welcomed small groups of interested people there, although it was not yet open to the public.

Frank's death in 1979 marked the end of private ownership.. The land was split up and the barns were taken over by Essex County Council.

A Tudor garden was established in 1996. The barns and the immediate area are now managed by a Trust consisting of volunteers. It benefits greatly from the National Lottery Fund and has built a visitors' centre. It welcomes visitors and is thriving.

Friends of Cressing Temple talked to the History Group. The next meeting in the village hall is at 8,pm on 13 July on Tudor costume and food.

ALAN LADBROOKE

Colchester Roller Hockey Club

Colchester Roller Hockey Club is a friendly, community-focused club welcoming players of all ages and abilities. We run weekly sessions at Colchester Leisure World, offering a fun and supportive environment where new players can learn, build confidence and enjoy being part of a team.

Roller hockey is a fast-paced sport played on quad skates, combining skill, movement and teamwork.

We support both junior and senior players, with opportunities to develop, play competitively and even progress through national pathways.

Sessions are run by dedicated volunteers, with equipment provided and two free sessions available for anyone who would like to give it a try.

Wednesdays 5–7pm,
Colchester Leisure World

Contact **Craig**: 07789 880654



Langham Parish Council Update June 2026

Following a recent meeting with Colchester City Council Planners, we now understand that they expect to progress a Local Plan proposal with slightly revised plans for 800 rather than 900 new houses in Langham.



They were, however, totally unable to explain how the sewage issues, Primary School capacity issues, road safety improvements and other infrastructure needs would be addressed and funded.

We recently circulated a "Langham 900" newsletter update to the 278 email addresses on that mailing list, providing further details on these unacceptable proposals and enquiring whether village residents were minded to fight these proposals, if necessary, via a Judicial Review legal challenge. The response was very supportive of this idea, and we are therefore now looking to put in place a crowdfunding appeal to help fund the legal costs of a potential Judicial Review in Spring 2027.

If you've not yet joined the Langham 900 mailing list and would like to do so, please email our Clerk: *clerk@langhamparishcouncil.co.uk* and we will add you to the mailing list.

Pinot, Pizza & Pop!



The May meeting was our AGM and after a resounding rendition of 'Jerusalem' formalities were swiftly dealt with. The Treasurer reported healthy finances and the President's reflective annual report was presented with a slide show highlighting the achievements and fun of the last 12 months.

We are pleased to report that the existing committee are continuing and welcome a new committee member to support the growing membership numbers. With thanks to them all.



The members celebrated the end of another W.I. year with a social theme of ***Pinot, Pizza and Pop***. It just wouldn't be Boxted W.I. without an opportunity to raise a glass to another successful year whilst enjoying each others' company. Much thanks to those who patiently cooked the pizzas too!

Love Grace

In support of the W.I. campaign 'No more violence against women' the members rallied to donate a wonderful supply of handbags filled with toiletries and useful items for the 'Love Grace Handbag Appeal'. The Love Grace charity seeks to empower victims of domestic abuse in honour of Grace Millane, tragically murdered in 2018.

This gesture provides help to women facing a very difficult time.

Our next coffee get together will be on Thursday 18th June 10:30 at Pantry 61, Straight Road. Come and join us!

BOXTED W.I.







A Special Boxted Parish Council Report

The focus of this report is to thank the Harper family for bringing **Harpers Caffe** to the Boxted Community Hub and, in doing so, creating something truly special for our village. Doug began this journey alongside his daughter, Alice, after closing his café in Colchester town centre. He first became involved in Boxted in 2022, working a few weeks before the Hub closed for three months to allow for the changing rooms and café refurbishment. During that time, Doug painted the walls pink, installed the coffee machine, and put up the inclusive Harpers signage that came to represent the spirit of the café.

When the café opened in January 2023, it quickly became known for its warmth and character, introducing gorgeous *pastels de nata* sourced from Doug's trusted London supplier. Doug was soon visited by many of his former customers, and over time he welcomed a numerous folk from Boxted and the surrounding areas.

His café was open to everyone and genuinely reflected the inclusive vision Doug held. Dogs and dog walkers, runners, knitters, bingo players, cricketers, footballers, boot campers, village hall groups, preschoolers, workmen, professionals, keyboard tappers, phone scrollers, readers, chatters, parents, grandparents, carers, children and babies – and, above all, just good friends – we all found a welcome there. Doug, Alice and the Harpers team greeted everyone with warmth and conversation, creating a place where people felt known and valued. What Doug gave to the Hub was something extra special, built on good food, a fine Italian roast blend, and a generous spirit. In the quieter mornings, Doug could often be found sitting in the sun on the patio with a strong black coffee, always happy to be interrupted for a chat about life. Boxted Parish Council were delighted to see the Hub Café grow into such a well-loved part of village life.

Doug was a pleasure to work with as a tenant; nothing seemed to trouble him, and any early challenges were met calmly and without fuss. The café became not just an asset to the village, but a

destination in its own right. As Doug's health declined over recent months, the café continued with great care under the capable management of his daughter, Alice, supported by their great team. We understand how difficult the decision was for the Harper family to leave the Hub, and it was one met with understanding from all who knew how much the café meant to them. Sadly, Doug did not have as much time as everyone had hoped, and he passed away on 6th April.

We look back with gratitude and affection and simply say: thank you, Doug. You are greatly missed.

o0o

Normal parish council business caries on and we hope to see as many of you as possible at the Annual Parish Meeting, not a council meeting but an opportunity for all residents to talk and raise issues is scheduled for 7pm on Wednesday 13 th May in the Village Hall. Please do come along.

There is little news on the sites that will be included in Colchester's New Local Plan, which might have the land adjacent to the Hill Farm development included. They are still looking at the objections raised and looking at potential new sites that have been proposed – none of which are in Boxted.

The National Grid Pylon project is at hearing stage where the Governmental Planning Inspector is examining the case for passing legislation permitting the Pylon project to be implemented. A good place for updates is the Facebook page for '**Essex Suffolk Norfolk Pylons**'. We hope that our MP, Sir Bernard Jenkin, will make the point that Boxted residents are unable to access a national gas supply and often must rely on heating oil. The increase in price will cause financial difficulty. We hope that Sir Bernard will add his voice to that of Suffolk MPs calling out this issue.

Our next council meeting is after the Annual Parish Meeting in the Village Hall and is open to public to attend. Please get in touch with the Council by dropping an email to *clerk@boxted-pc.gov.uk* , look at *www.boxtedparishcouncil.org.uk* and follow the Facebook page 'Boxted Parish Council'.

BOXTED RUNNERS

The second half of April and the first half of May proved to be an exceptionally busy period for Boxted Runners. Members took part in numerous events around the country. Some highlights were the London Marathon,The Manchester Marathon and the Colchester 10km.

At each race there were PBs and inspirational performances. Notably the Club marathon record was broken at the Manchester Marathon by our very own Ryan Baker who finished in an incredible 2:56 !!

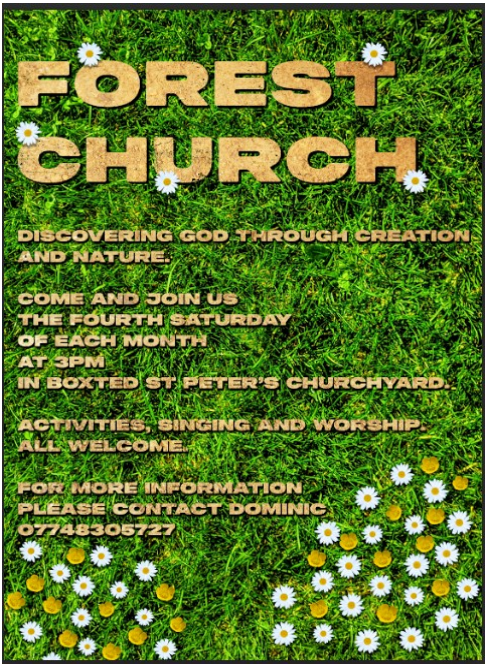
Taking part in these events takes significant dedication in the weeks and months leading up to the event itself. There are no quick fixes or magic pills. It takes hard work, determination, fortitude and lots of willpower to prepare for these events. Thankfully Boxted Runners have these qualities in spades. Everyone who puts on that Yellow Club top makes us proud.

On the 14th June we have the annual Boxted 10km at which we raise funds for the local school. I'll report on that next month.

If you are interested in knowing more about Boxted Runners please contact us via www.boxtedrunners.co.uk

Ian Bown





Gardens and Weddings

This June, I find myself thinking a lot about gardens—and weddings. With six ceremonies ahead this year, and 35 years of marriage behind me, it feels as though both are part of the same quiet work: tending, noticing, returning, and letting things grow in their own time.

The passage from the Gospel of John that often carries the heading "Love in Action" has stayed with me. It reminds me that love is never static. It moves, it responds, it is pruned and replanted through the ordinary days of life. In the same way, gardening is never just planting once and walking away—it is attention, patience, and the willingness to keep showing up.

Marriage, too, feels like that kind of work. Not dramatic or distant, but rooted in small daily acts of care that slowly shape a shared life. And in every wedding I witness, there is that same quiet promise: that love will be lived out, not just spoken.

There is something comforting in the thought that we are not asked to perfect love, only to practise it. As John reminds us, "Love one another" is not an abstract idea but a lived reality—worked out in ordinary time, in ordinary hands. And perhaps that is the gentle joy of it all: love, like a garden, is never finished. It is simply tended.

"Love is not static; it grows where it is tended." Happy June

Rev Heather

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BOXTED EVERGREENS

Our Club meets in the village hall every fourth Thursday of the month from 2.00pm to 3.30pm. The age of our members varies but the club would suit anyone over 60 so please come along and you would be given a warm welcome. Our members are always asked for their suggestions before our yearly entertainment programme is arranged and we do try our best to cater for everyone.

If you would like more information about our club please call Elaine on 01206

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Boxted History Group

Meeting every third Wednesday of the month at Boxted Village Hall. 7.30 for 8pm.

Guests always welcome.

2nd Langham Scout Group

Meetings are held each Wednesday evening at the Community Centre.

Squirrels 5:00 to 6:00

Beavers 4:45 to 6:00

Cubs 6:00 to 7:30

Scouts 7:30 to 9:00

Contact Group Scout Leader:
James Puxley 07935 909063

The Art and Craft Club meet on the **third Wednesday of each month, 2-4pm** at **Boxted Village Hall.**

All welcome - come and join in!

LANGHAM LADIES

*Any ladies wishing to join the group or to come along as a guest, please **telephone Gill Brown** on **01206 273286.***

BOXTED CARPET BOWLS CLUB

Come and join us for a friendly, enjoyable afternoon playing bowls at **Boxted Village Hall on Friday 2 - 4 pm,** Sept to April

Further info please contact:

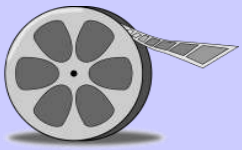
Michael Hubbard 01206 271892

Sue Smith 07465443795

sueronben@gmail.com

LANGHAM FILM NIGHTS

For details of films and screening times and to book tickets, go to *www.langhamcommunitycentre.org.uk/next-cinema-screening/*



Crafty Ladies

Meet on first Wednesday of each month throughout the year, 10.00 am to 3.00 pm at the Community Centre. Subscription £26 due March and September. Contact Chrissy Todd tel. 07742 131454.

Carpet Bowls Club

Meet every Tuesday afternoon from 2.00 to 4.00 pm at the Community Centre.

Contact Cliff Jones on 07922 156545 or Mervyn Bushe on 01206 230209.

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The Zone for 6-11 year olds 5.30pm-7pm and the Edge for 12-18 year olds 7.30pm-9.00pm. Fortnightly during term time. Contact Linda Sheil 01206 273324

LANGHAM LADIES

Langham Ladies meeting was held Thursday 13th May in the Community Centre . Our entertainer was David Caulfield who in 1961 was given a guitar which encouraged him to start playing and eventually he played in a band. The band had an audition for the programme *New Faces* but unfortunately they were not successful but he did meet famous singing artists. David's theme for the evening was the good old 60's music that will never be forgotten. He mentioned so many 60's artists including Lonnie Donegan who played with Chris Barber, Max Bygraves, Pat Boone who became a heavy metal singer, Adam Faith who had the backing of the Roulettes, Eddie Cockran, Buddy Holly and many more.



The members enjoyed singing some of the oldies that we remembered singing as teenagers. They were the good old days.

Our next meeting is Thursday 11th June in Langham Community Centre starting at 7.30pm. Because of the topic of the talk this will be an open meeting inviting friends and gentlemen. Our speaker is Tammy Blest from Essex Police talking about fraud of which there is a lot of , sadly. We all need to know what to look out for so this talk will be very helpful.

The entrance fee is £5 which includes refreshments tea/coffee and homemade cakes. We look forward to welcoming you all.

Summer Prayer

Loving God,

As we enter these summer months, we give thanks for the richness of your creation all around us. For the morning chorus of bird-song that fills the air, for the buds that open into flowers, and for the fields and crops that stretch out in quiet abundance, we bless your name.

We thank you for the familiar comfort of cut grass and warm earth, for the scent that lingers in the air after mowing, and for the simple joy of green spaces cared for and renewed. We rejoice in the rhythm of growing things—the hedgerows alive with movement, the gardens heavy with colour, and the steady promise of harvest in the fields.

We thank you for the warmth of the sun on our skin, for long light-filled days that invite us to pause, breathe, and notice more deeply the world you have made. In these weeks, draw us into a slower pace of living. Teach us to receive rather than rush, to delight rather than demand, to rest as well as to work.

May we find healing in stillness, restoration in beauty, and renewed strength in simply being present to your creation. Open our eyes to your goodness in every small detail and open our hearts to joy that does not hurry. And in all things, may we know that we are held in your care, now and always.

Amen.



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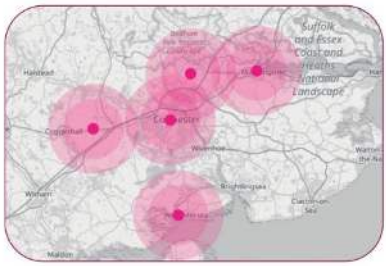
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*** We also visit folk who are housebound for friendly chats**

*** Registration is very simple—just phone the number for the day shown on the posters or in the Parish Magazine a few days before your appointment**

*** There is no charge for the service, although donations are very welcome**

*** All our volunteers are DBS checked and are friendly and experienced**

Interested in volunteering? Please get in contact with Annette Whybrow:

annettejwhybrow@gmail.com

01206 272773 07983519825

Langham with Boxted PCC Registered Charity: 1131211

GOOD GN NEIGHBOURS

Are you elderly, vulnerable or otherwise in need of help, and live in the Parish of Langham with Boxted? We are a group of local Volunteers who can assist:

- **with transport to an important appointment, including Hospital, Dentist or Flu/Covid Booster**
- **with collection of items such as prescriptions**
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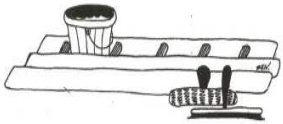
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