ST MARY & ST PETER
NEWSLETTER



May 2026

Cover Picture: *Bluebells* Thanks to Andy Hardie

CHURCH SERVICES



3rd May – Fifth Sunday of Easter

9.30am at St Peter's – Morning Worship

10th May – Sixth Sunday of Easter

9.30am at St Mary's – Holy Communion

17th May – Sunday after Ascension – 7th of Easter

9.30am at St Peter's – Holy Communion

23rd May Saturday

3.00pm at St Peter's new churchyard – Forest Church

24th May – Pentecost

9.30am at St Mary's – Holy Communion

31st May – Trinity Sunday

10.30am at All Saints, Great Horkesley -United celebration of Holy Communion

7th June – First 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 June edition: 15th May
Contact the editor via email: lwbnewsletter@gmail.com

Welcome to the May Newsletter.

Bluebells on the cover this time, to remind us that spring has definitely sprung, the days are getting longer and the rain is getting warmer—all signs that summer is on its way at last.

If you are feeling motivated, you could do worse than go on a guided walk. From June to November, the Farming Community Network is organising free rural walks along sections of the Essex Way. Saturday 9th October and Saturday 13th November are the scheduled dates for the walks through the Higher Langham and Boxted sections so get your waterproofs out of the cupboard, lace up your hiking boots, grab that *Wandelstock* and off you go. The publicity says that tea, coffee and biscuits are available on completion—in case you need an additional incentive.

Be careful where you walk though. The ongoing tussle surrounding use of Boxted Bridge looked like it might be resolved back in January when Essex Highways put out a statement to the effect that, following safety tests, it should be safe for pedestrians and cyclists to use the bridge—but only the central section is open and vehicles are not allowed over it. Read it here:

(www.essexhighways.org/news/boxted-bridge--public-consultation-open)

In other news, the wartime refugee community at *The Oaks* (which featured in a series of articles in these pages by Ian Hollands some time back) is covered further in a book by Ken Worpole called *No Matter How Many Skies Have Fallen*. It came out in 2021, but I missed it. The subject is Max Plowman and the *Adelphi Project* and what happened when they took over a farm at Frating. Local history meets international politics—great stuff!

Steve Pollington,
Editor

Langham Community Centre Annual General Meeting

Join Us and Discover What's New!

Date: Thursday, 21st May 2026
Time: 19:30
Venue: Community Centre Main Hall
We invite you to join us and discover the exciting fresh ideas being introduced at the Langham Community Centre. During the meeting, we will outline the recent changes to our procedures, ensuring greater efficiency and clarity for all users.

In addition, we will present new clubs and events that have been introduced to offer a wider range of opportunities for all.

These initiatives reflect our ongoing commitment to providing a vibrant and inclusive environment for everyone. We encourage you to attend and learn how we are working to improve your community space and ensure it meets the needs of all.

Your input matters – come along and be part of our community.

Agenda, previous minutes, reports, and finance details will be posted on our website, the centre notice board, and the village Facebook page by 11 May 2026.



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.

We are not just a group of people that turn up every now and again, we are a family, we are friends and we all do it for each other, for the shop and for our amazing community. Many of our volunteers have been here since the very beginning, some played a huge part in getting the shop started and everyone has helped to keep it what it is today.

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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Saturday 30th May 9.30am – 4.00pm

Tollgate Hall Villa Road,
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(behind Stanway Village Hall)



This event will be run by Christina Georgiou, an internationally renowned expert in sugarcraft

Minimal equipment will be required, a list will be given on application

Please bring your own lunch

Tea and coffee will be provided

The fee is £60

Example model

Email Carol at b15hie@hotmail.co.uk

Numbers are strictly limited, so apply soon.

© Colchester Sugarcraft Association 2026

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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LANGHAM ARTISAN & FARMERS MARKET

13TH JUNE 2026

from 10am to 1pm

Langham Community Centre, School Road, Colchester, CO4 5PA

Please contact Dawn if you are interested in exhibiting at the market:
langhamccbookings@gmail.com

BOXTED W. I.

Our April meeting welcomed Valerie Kemp and Olga Hammond, local apiarists with much thanks. The members enjoyed an animated, energetic and amusing presentation on beekeeping.

Of the 275 species of bees, the native British black bee was once feared extinct and the European honey bee was introduced to provide honey. We were given insight into how the bees manage their colony with drones, workers and the queen each playing their part, some with very short gestation periods and some extremely short lifespans.

With emphasis on how we can help bees in our gardens and fields we learnt how royal jelly and honey properties provide us with many heath benefits.

Concerningly, the invasive Asian hornet has arrived from Eurpoe and can kill 100s of bees per day! Beekeepers are trying to track and destroy these hornets' nests.



***Right**: Honey and other products were available to try and buy*

***Opposite**: Valerie and Olga*

***Below**: Beware! The hornets are coming!*





The members enjoyed tasting the different honey products and a number of jars went home with us.

For those unable to attend and or just wanting to know more, for there was so many interesting facts too numerous to mention here- the beekeepers will be at the Tattingstone fete on 27th June and will be talking everything beekeeping.

Our next meeting 7:30pm at Boxted Village Hall on 12th May will be our AGM and support for the charity **Love Grace** handbag appeal.

Notice for those tending graves at St Peter's Boxted graveyard

Reverend Heather and the Parochial Church Council need to remind all of us tending to graves about what is allowed according to the churchyard rules which have been in place for many years, but which have been less well applied more recently. These follow guidance from the Diocese of Chelmsford which applies to all churches and they ensure that the graveyard has a tranquil, ordered appearance.

Each grave may have one flower vase integral to the base where this exists in front of the headstone, for cut flowers or cut stems of shrubs. Wreaths at Christmas or for a short period around the anniversary of the death are allowed. It is requested that old flowers or wreaths are removed for composting or disposal at home.

The following are not permitted: (i) kerbs, borders, cages or fences around the grave; (ii) the planting of flowers, shrubs or trees; (iii) vases, pots, planters or tubs; (iv) artificial or plastic flowers; (v) other items such as photos, toys, windmills, wood chimes, stones/statues, extra urns.

It falls to the current team to request that prohibited items are removed. We realise that this may cause concern and we are trying to get in touch with families. Please do contact us for further explanation (contact details on inside back cover).

Currently there are many artificial flowers and plants and increasing use of kerb edging, some with gravel. Extra items, such as memorials and kerbs, make it harder and more time consuming for mowing. The restriction on kerb edging was introduced many years ago (once stone edging started collapsing). As a Garden of Remembrance, the Church insists on only real cut flowers and for the churchyard to be kept as a natural environment.

Items not allowed under the rules will need to be removed as soon as you are able to do so. The deadline is 30th June after which the PCC will regretfully need to clear these.

For further information, the burials and memorials guidelines booklet is on the table inside the church. This includes the Diocese of Chelmsford Churchyard Handbook. Alternatively Emma Fowler is currently Secretary to the PCC and will forward this (email: emmafowler81@gmail.com).

With thanks from Reverend Heather and the Parochial Church Council.

BOXTED RUNNERS

Well the 2nd weekend of April was an exceptionally busy one for Boxted Runners.

We had members at the Brighton Marathon,the Brighton Trail Marathon,the Colne Engaine 5-mile race, the Little Bromley 10km and the London Landmarks Half Marathon!!!

At every event Boxted Runners stepped up to the plate and ran superbly. Everyone was first class and wherever they were they were cheered on by the ever enthusiastic Boxted Runners supporters. Boxted Runners pride themselves on staying behind to see every one of their Club mates finish. We're proud of this as a Club.

Later in April we'll have runners at the Manchester Marathon and the London. I'll report on those in the next issue.

If you feel inspired to get involved in Boxted Runners please contact us via

www.boxtedrunners.co.uk





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BOXTED HISTORY GROUP

English canals had their heyday at the end of the 18th century and the beginning of the 19th.

They came into being as a response to the need for a new transport system in the industrial revolution. They were valued because the roads at the time were very bumpy and manufacturers needed a safe way to transport their products, especially fragile items such as ceramics. Most are in the northern half of the country because that is where most of the manufacturing was. Among the leading figures who were instrumental in developing canals was the Duke of Bridgewater who owned mines around Manchester. He had travelled widely as a young man and had seen how effective the canals in France were. He had a canal built, now named after him: the Bridgewater canal. His engineer was James Brindley. Other key figures were Thomas Telford, Josiah Wedgwood, John Renney and William Jeffries.

Constructing a canal was a slow and expensive undertaking, There were no modern diggers so everything had to be done with shovels and wheelbarrows. It was also dangerous, as there were no health and safety regulation in those days. Many men died especially when difficult terrain had to be negotiated. On some sections of the proposed routes there were inclines and hills and these posed problems. One answer was to construct locks to raise or lower the water level. Particularly steep inclines required a large number of locks. Impressive ones such as Bingley Five Rise were opened to great fanfare with a band turning out and a large crowd attending. In extreme cases great ingenuity was needed and lifts had to be incorporated into the system. A notable example is the hydraulic lift that raised and lowered boats 50 feet to and from the River Dee into a canal.

Where the terrain was particularly hilly other solutions had to be found: aquaducts and tunnels. Some of these are now listed monuments and have been awarded a plaque by the National Transport Trust. The most noteworthy is possibly Standedge tunnel in the north of England. Going under the Pennines, it is three and a half miles long and took 16 years to construct at a cost of £160,000 – a colossal sum in those days. As well as the tunnel itself ventilation shafts had to be incorporated and, because the towpath didn't go through the tunnel, professional "leggers" were employed. They lay on their backs on top of the boat and used their legs to propel it forward.

The coming of the railways put an end to transporting goods by canal and they fell into disrepair until the 1940's when Robert Aickman had the idea of restoring them and founded the English Waterways Association. It was a great success and attracted many volunteers. Now the canals are widely used again for leisure purposes and attract visitors from all over the world.

Angela Bell talked to the History Group about English canals. The next meeting will be on **Roman Findings at Fenwick**s at 8.00pm on 20th May in Boxted village hall

ALAN LADBROOKE

WHEELCHAIR LOAN

The Short Term Wheelchair Loan Charity (*Reg. No.112657*, *www.wheelchairloancharity.com*), based at Clacton Hospital, helps people needing the short-term use of a wheelchair. The chairs are for all ages and reasons. The service is a perfect interim solution if you require a wheelchair for an occasion such as a holiday, a wedding or to help accommodate a visiting relative. The service is funded by donations and is free to users, although a deposit of £40 from borrowers is asked for.

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May the Fourth be with you

This year, the May Day Bank Holiday falls on Star Wars day ... where '*May the Fourth be with you'* becomes a playful pun on the iconic Star Wars phrase, 'May the force be with,' which is used in the films to wish someone good luck or success, invoking the mystical energy known as 'The Force'.

The earliest known use of the phrase dates back to May 4th 1979, when the UK conservative party placed a newspaper advertisement congratulating the newly elected prime minister Margaret Thatcher with the line *'May the fourth be with you, Maggie.'* Over time, fans adopted the pun to celebrate the Star Wars franchise, and it has gradually evolved into an informal holiday, where celebrations might include, sharing memes and greetings, featuring the phrase, 'May the fourth be with you,' rewatching Star Wars movies, dressing up as characters from the franchise, or participating in themed events, online discussions and fan gatherings.



Whilst the first Bank Holiday in May, may be Star Wars day, the second bank holiday, falls on the day after Pentecost, the 25 th May, which is a day when we remember the disciples in the locked room, being filled with the Holy Spirit, sending them out onto the packed streets of Jerusalem, speaking in the languages of all those gathered there.

For Christians, 'The Force', that Star Wars speaks about, is the Holy Spirit, God, working in each one of us, Paul tells us in Galatians, that the fruits of the spirit are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control.

To be filled with the Holy Spirit, is to know the power of God working through us, transforming us more and more into the people God wants us to be.

So as we celebrate Pentecost this year, may we know the true force of God's Holy Spirit, living with us.

May God Bless you

Rev Heather

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 273183.

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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:

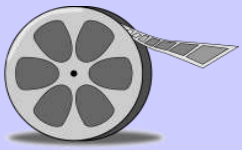
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LANGHAM FILM NIGHTS

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

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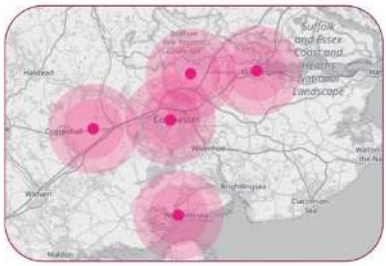
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annettejwhybrow@gmail.com

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- **with collection of items such as prescriptions**
- **or make a friendly visit just for a bit of company.**

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Please telephone either number 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.

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www.2ndlanghamscouts.org

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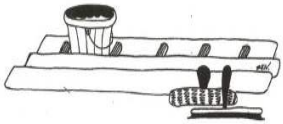
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*For **ALL** Advertising Queries, contact*

Paul Armstrong
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Tel: 07766 747497

LOVE ESSEX

THE PARISH OF LANGHAM WITH BOXTED

Contact Details

Websites

Boxted – www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6458

Langham – www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6459

Rector **Heather Wilcox**

01206 240906/07503151715

RevHWilcox@outlook.com

Please contact the Rector with any enquiries

Church Office available by appointment

Mon-Fri: 10am - 12pm

Priest with PtO (Permission to Officiate) Revd Anne Mason

07895 970834

revdannemason@gmail.com

Curate Revd Emma Barr

07801659345

Lay Minister **Denise Hobday 230918**

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

Donna Luxton (Mon - Wed) & Jo Rassell (Thur- Fri)

Email:

6parishescolchester@gmail.com

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Stephen Garner 272599

Sgarner.22@btinternet.com

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hobdaylangham@hotmail.com

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Dominic & Linda Shiel 273324

The Edge Youth Group

Dominic & Linda Shiel 273324

St Mary & St Peter Newsletter

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BOXTED

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Contact the editor via email:
lwbnewsletter@gmail.com

LANGHAM

Langham Community Cafe



Langham Community Centre

Friday 29 May

10:30 to 12:00

All welcome

Hosted by Langham Parish Council