



ST MARY & ST PETER
NEWSLETTER

June 2024

CHURCH SERVICES

2nd June First Sunday after Trinity

9.30am at St Peter's – Holy Communion (said)

10.30am at St Peter's – Morning Worship

Refreshments are served at 10.15 between the services

9th June Second Sunday after Trinity

9.30am at St Peter's – Holy Communion

16th June Third Sunday after Trinity

9.30am at St Mary's – Holy Communion (said)

10.30am at St Mary's – Morning Worship

Refreshments are served at 10.15 between the services

23rd June Fourth Sunday after Trinity

9.30am at St Mary's – Holy Communion

30th June Fifth Sunday after Trinity

10.00am at St Peter's – United service of Holy Communion and Confirmation—Bishop of Colchester presiding.

7th July Sixth Sunday after Trinity

9.30am at St Peter's – Holy Communion (said)

10.30am at St Peter's – Morning Worship

Refreshments are served at 10.15 between the services

To check for other services and any alterations email Revd Heather Wilcox-
RevHWilcox@outlook.com
(lwb.wb.gh.parishes@gmail.com)



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

Welcome to the June Newsletter.

June is the month in which the D-day landings took place, and this year is the 80th anniversary of those momentous events — probably still the largest ever combined-ops opposed landing in history.

The 6th June will see a celebration with ceremonial lighting of the Langham Beacon at 9.15; the event starts at 6pm at the Recreation Grounds.

9th June will see a D-Day commemoration at Boxted Airfield from 1pm onwards.

Special commemoration for John Barker of Langham, one of the last surviving flight engineers, who passed away recently.

Quite a lot of television these days can be dismissed as ‘trivial’ or ‘pointless’, so it will come as no surprise to learn that your editor and his esteemed wife were recently competitors on the BBC1 teatime quiz show *Pointless*, hosted

by Alexander Armstrong and—on this occasion—Anita Rani.

Filming took place last autumn in Hammersmith, but lead-times for telly are quite protracted and the episode only aired on 2nd May this year. Modesty forbids me to reveal how we fared, but suffice it to say that I believe we did not let the side down. We will not, however, be booking any world cruises just yet....

TV aside, this year has been quite encouraging: it has already seen the re-issue of a book of mine which first saw the light of day in the 1990s, before the internet intruded upon our lives; and a new historical title dealing with the archaeology and literary history of a figure from both myth and legend. A busy year indeed, and it’s not even midsummer yet!

Steve Pollington,
Editor

Boxted Parish Council Report – May 2024

Our May Parish Council meeting is by law an Annual Parish Council meeting where we elect the chair of the council for the following year and Jamie Seakens volunteered to continue and was elected.

We also co-opted David Taplin onto the council to fill the vacant position. David has been in the village for over 10 years. He has a background in government and looks forward to his new role.

A reminder that the formal consultation on the National Grid project involving pylons across Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex runs until 18 th June. A recent meeting in Boxted Village Hall saw a lot of people come along to see how they could make their views known. The excellent campaign group of facebook led by Rosie Pearson is a good place to access the resources/information that might shape your views but also with help to understand the wording that explains the local impact on Boxted, and the wider environment, habitat and visible impact. We are all advised to submit (and resubmit) comments and not to expect that anything previously submitted to be carried forward as they will not be. Formal consultation runs until 18 June 2024.

The parish Council will be agreeing it's impact statement at the June PC meeting. Representatives the Dedham Vale Dark Skies project presented the clerk and a councillor with a thank you certificate to recognise the early involvement with the project to install safety lighting in the

Village Hall Car Park. Their advice led to a specification with time limited, warm LED downward lighting being installed which minimises the impact of light pollution and habitat disturbance as well as being much cheaper to run.

The Council plans to work with the Dark Skies project to influence Colchester City Councils policies on lighting at the Northern Gateway.

We are still looking for some volunteers to help review and amend the Boxted Neighbourhood Plan – this is a really important document as it forms part of the legal framework around what can and can't be built or developed in Boxted. We would like to involve residents and hear their views. Our first meeting took place in April. The next meeting is 26th June. If you want to be involved, then please email Karen on clerk@boxted-pc.gov.uk.

We haven't yet convinced Essex Passenger Transport team that the location of the North bound bus stops on Straight Road at Boxted Cross and near Cooks Hill need to be re-sited, but we keep trying.

The next council meeting is Wed 12th June at 730pm in the Village Hall 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'.

SESAW NEWS

Ollie has definitely mellowed. Our resident black cat has watched a brood of baby robins fly



the nest without the slightest twitch of his tail! He hasn't even tried abseiling off the garage roof to reach the blue tits nesting box.

Apparently he is more interested in finding a home for Lizzie, a pretty, but shy, tabby cat that has been with us since last summer.

She is slow to come to you, hardly surprising after being cast aside, yet another casualty of the pandemic. She arrived pregnant and with her first litter of kittens, all of which have been homed. Now she waits for that special someone with the patience and love she deserves. We can loan a large crate to house Lizzie

as she is introduced into her new home.

We still have Lily and Grey, a bonded pair of Saluki dogs. They are looking for a loving home with a comfy sofa. If you could be the perfect person for them or our pandemic puss, please visit them between 10am and 1pm, Thursday to Sunday.



That pesky puss has just smashed Mum's favourite mug in the kitchen. Now, instead of admiring a cute Yorkie dog as she sups her tea, Mum has a photo of Ollie staring back at her but he's not so clever. He hasn't noticed there is a different picture on the back. Yes, you guessed it's a photo of me,

Kenny (the Boss) Chihuahua

Suffolk & Essex Small Animal Welfare, Registered Charity No.1124029, Stoke Road, Leavenheath, CO6 4PP. Tel: 01787 210888, email: info@sesaw.co.uk website: www.sesaw.co.uk

LOVE YOUR BURIAL GROUND WEEK &
CHURCHES COUNT ON NATURE
SATURDAY 8th - SUNDAY 16th JUNE

Love Your Burial Ground Week is a celebratory week which has been running for many years. Caring for God's Acre (this is a Conservation Charity for Burial Grounds across the UK, Protecting Wildlife – Preserving Heritage – Involving People) have been encouraging all who help to look after churchyards, chapel yards and cemeteries to celebrate these fantastic places in the lovely month of June, in any way we choose.

Churches Count on Nature 2024 is running at the same time and is focusing

on the brilliant wildlife to be found in churchyards and chapel yards. This is a joint initiative promoted by:- Caring for God's Acre, the Church of England, the Church in Wales and A Rocha UK. There have been 27,000 wildlife records submitted during this dedicated week over the past two years. Please join us on Saturday 15th June at St. Peter's Church, Boxted and join in all the various activities.

See posters opposite for further details.



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Churches Count on Nature 2024 and Love Your Burial Ground Week



Saturday 8th - Sunday 16th June

2024

This special week is dedicated to observing and recording plants and animals in burial grounds, and we would love it if you would join us. Event details are below:

Boxted St Peters Church Invite you to join this event on Saturday the 15th June from 11:00am to 4:00pm in The Churchyard

Boxted Wildlife Group will be joining us, there will be volunteers to help you bug hunt and do other activities.

Refreshments Provided
You are welcome to Bring a Picnic.

For More Information Please Contact Dominic Sheil
At dominic@poplargs.co.uk or on 07748305727

in partnership with:





BOXTED AIRFIELD Involvement in **D DAY**

Commemoration Picnic

Boxted Airfield Museum, Sunday 9th June
1pm~5pm, £5 per adult (children & members free)

1334 Manningtree Squadron ROYAL AIR FORCE Cadets
presentation & display in the museum, film showing
hot drinks & ice creams, bring your own picnic & drinks
1940s music, 40s dress optional, plenty of parking or cycle to us

Remembering John Charles Barker who lived in Langham & passed away in
March, age 99. One of the last living flight engineers on Lancaster bombers

For tickets, or for more information call 07503 952354
or purchase directly from Langham Community Shop



1944 D DAY 80 2024

Langham Community Centre's

100 Club Draw

April's winners were:

43	Elizabeth Ellis	£40
18	Denise Hobday	£25
99	Nicola Meacham	£15
80	John Helliwell	£10

We have some spare numbers if anyone would like to join.



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BOXED HISTORY GROUP

Until about 200 years ago, Japan was a backward country, a feudal society. It was ruled over by an emperor with most power invested in a *shogun*. The shoguns were strong military men appointed by the emperor. Japan was divided into regions with local wealthy landowners employing *samurai* warriors to enable them to keep control. It was a closed society having little contact with the outside world. Indeed, foreigners were thought of as barbarians.

In 1853 Matthew Perry, an American naval commodore, arrived with the intention of opening up Japan for trade but reached no agreement. He returned a year later with a much larger fleet and, through gunboat diplomacy, got the arrangements that he wanted. The American motivation was to expand its trade in the area as they needed coal depots to service steam ships. The arrival of foreigners on Japanese soil provoked a culture-clash and there were violent incidents. When Meiji became emperor he was only 15 years old. Born of a concubine, he suffered from congenital defects owing to in-breeding and was much influenced by his advisers. Under his rule, however, sweeping changes were

introduced. Shoguns were abolished, samurai were reduced in number and a new civil service was established. Experts from Europe and America were invited to share their technological expertise but were not allowed to own businesses. Education for boys and girls and military service for young men were made compulsory. A new slogan for the country was unveiled: "Rich country; strong army". Meanwhile in Europe interest in Japan was growing, as indicated by the popularity of Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado* and Puccini's opera *Madame Butterfly*.

Japan was becoming more confident and was determined not to be colonised by Europeans as so many other countries had been. It bought battleships from Britain that saw service in the war against Russia and, by the time Yoshihito became emperor in 1912, was expanding its territories in the Far East. By the 1920s right wing politicians had become very powerful and militaristic. Although increasing in military might, the army and navy were at

perpetual loggerheads. In 1931 Manchuria was invaded.

The Japanese empire was at its most extensive in 1942 but it made the mistake of bombing Pearl Harbour, thinking that America, where the isolationist movement was very strong, would not retaliate. It was grave error of judgement and brought America into the Second World War. The war in the Far East finished in total defeat after the dropping of atomic bombs on

Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Since then Japan has recovered and is now a technological powerhouse.

Neil Dickinson talked to the History Group about Japan. For information about future meetings phone 01206 272250.

Alan Ladbrooke

BOXTED W.I.

Boxted W.I. held their AGM in May. Reporting healthy membership and finances.

Following the business, a cocktail/mocktail evening was enjoyed by all. Members tasted to determine the country associated and guesses were indicated on a world wallchart. They tasted *Moscow Mules* to *Manhattans* and a few in between. It has to be said that some of the ladies were impressively knowledgeable!





Teddy Parachute Jump



6th July
11:00am - 4:00pm

Bring a Picnic,
Drinks and Cakes available
At St Mary's Church, Langham CO4 5PS




Please bring your own Teddy to Parachute
£5.00 a Teddy.

Teddy Bear Tombola,
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4:00pm - 6:00pm
Pimms and Hymns

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and Help for Heroes.



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VILLAGE WALKS

MEET AT THE VILLAGE HALL
10:00 AM

SAT 18TH MAY
SAT 15TH JUNE
SAT 20TH JULY
SAT 17TH AUG
SAT 21ST SEPT
SAT 19TH OCT
SAT 16TH NOV

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THEY LIVED IN LANGHAM

An occasional series by the Langham Heritage Group

4. SAMUEL LEVY BENSUSAN 1872-1958

Godfreys, Nightingale Hill, 1932-1956

Part 2: The Langham Years

Bensusan's sister (1), Ruth Bensusan Butt, Colchester's first woman doctor, had lived at *The Minories*, Colchester, since 1915 and it may well have been through her that he became aware that Godfrey's Farm was for sale. In 1932 he acquired the

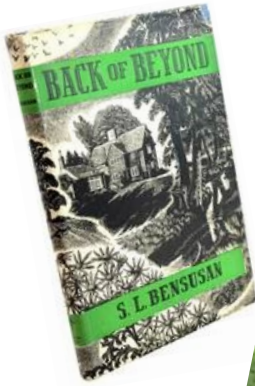


Godfreys 1950s by Marian Bensusan

Samuel Bensusan in 1942



farm with its 17th century cottage, derelict chicken houses and woodland, Sprike's Grove. Mount Pleasant, The



Back of Beyond
1945

Quiet Evening
1950



Grove and land as far as School Road were added in 1935 (2).

In his delightful *Back of Beyond* (1945), Bensusan describes his acquisition of Godfrey's, the restoration of the 17th century cottage and his efforts to bring the land back to productive life. Other books – *Fireside Papers* (1946), *My Woodland Friends* (1947) and *Quiet Evening* (1950) – also describe Langham scenes, some of which are familiar to us today. Most of these books are still available but, sadly, the local 'characters' whose rural wisdom Bensusan admired have long gone.

In wartime, Bensusan was discommoded by the compulsory felling of his trees for pit-props, which were taken out past Keeper's Cottage to School Road. Other wartime disturbances included the siting of a searchlight unit below Mount Pleasant and a flying bomb falling on The Grove. However, until it was demolished by an American aircraft landing short of the airfield, Bensusan maintained a flow of articles from his woodland studio, although he could not complete his 'signature' *Marsbland* series of books until 1955. From 1938 to 1952 he delighted listeners to BBC Radio with readings from *Marsbland Omnibus*.

While at Langham, Bensusan served as a magistrate (in which duty he was known for his sympathy with the less fortunate), a manager of Langham School and chairman of the Parish Council. In 1936 he placed an acre of land next to the school at the disposal of the village for use as a recreation ground (3); it was later acquired by Essex County Council for the school's exclusive use.

Bensusan was a familiar and affable figure around the village, invariably

greeting everyone he met. He did not drive, his wife taking the wheel for journeys between Langham and their Holland Park home. It was said that the back seat of their car had been removed and a commode installed, a most useful accessory in the days before ubiquitous service stations.

In failing health, Bensusan left Langham in 1956 for St Leonard's on Sea, where he died in 1958. His ashes were scattered in The Grove. Marian Bensusan died six years later.

NOTES

1 Another sister was married to Lucien Pissarro, the post-impressionist painter.

2 On the final sale of The Oaks estate. At the same sale F E Williamson bought School Farm.

3 The gateposts of the former recreation ground may still be seen in School Road.



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LANGHAM LADIES

Langham Ladies talk at the May meeting was about the amazing life of a honey bee. Sarah Curtis was the speaker and she was brilliant explaining so thoroughly the life of the honey bee starting from winter through summer back to winter.

The bees' busy year starts about the end of March when the bees wake up. In the winter they prefer the cold and do not like damp conditions. At the end of March the queen bee starts laying her eggs, one in each cell while the workers start collecting pollen in their pollen sacks on their back legs. A baby bee hatches in 3 days and starts cleaning as a house keeper. In summer there is usually about 50,000 to 60,000 bees in a hive, usually about 200 of these are drones. The drones' job is to fertilise the queen bee and do nothing else and they do not have a sting. The queen can use her sting more than once but when a worker uses its sting it then dies. Some queens can live for 7 to 8 years. The workers decide when it is time for the queen to leave the hive leaving space for a new queen. A swarm consists of a queen and the workers but no drones. Sarah covered everything so thoroughly it made us think how wonderful it is to arrive at a delicious jar of honey after all the hard work of the bee during the year.

June meeting is a week earlier in the month June 6th. The speaker is Tony Friedlander who was adopted and about his search for his birth mother who he found out was one of the Kinder Children. The meeting is in Langham Community Centre and starts at 7.30pm. This meeting is an open meeting so, husbands, friends and family will be very welcome. A small charge £5 includes tea/coffee and homemade cakes. We look forward to seeing you there.



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Thy Kingdom Come

As I write this, in the churches we are in the 10 days between Ascension, when we remember Jesus returning to heaven after the resurrection and Pentecost, when we remember the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Nine years ago, Archbishop Justin Welby encouraged us to use this 10 days as a call to prayer, encouraging us to pray 'Thy Kingdom Come.' That first call to prayer, saw an estimated 300,000 people gather around the UK for special prayer events and services. 9 years later and 'Thy Kingdom Come' is a global prayer movement involving millions of people from 90% of the countries of the world of many different denominations, as we come together to pray for God's kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven.

As part of this 10 days of prayer, I have been taking daily prayer walks around the seven different villages encompassed in the six parishes, and I have been reminded each day of the sheer beauty of God's wonderful creation and I have been reminded of how blessed we are to live in such a beautiful part of the world.

As I have walked, I have been praying for God's blessing on each of our communities, for schools, village halls, businesses, organisations, farmland, clubs and individuals, and I have been reflecting on the wonderful gift we have that we can, as the hymn '*What a friend we have in Jesus*' says, Take everything to the Lord in prayer. What a great gift that is, whether we are happy or sad, excited or frustrated, we can bring everything to God.

Sometimes we might feel like our prayers are going unanswered, but a few days ago I saw a message from Pete Grieg on Facebook. Pete is one of the founders of the 24/7 prayer movement which began over 20 years ago. In this message he was telling of how some churches were seeing remarkable signs of revival in both the UK and France. It may have taken over 20 years of faithful prayer, but things were changing. Sometimes it takes a while, but God is always faithful ... sometimes we need to be faithful and persistent too. So let us keep on praying and may God bless you.

Revd Heather.

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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.

Beavers: 5.00 to 6.15 pm. Cubs: 6.15 to 7.30 pm. Scouts: 7.30 to 9.00 pm.

Contact Group Scout Leader, Denise Hobday 01206 230918.



Boxted Bingo

Boxted Village Hall
Every other Tuesday
3pm - 5pm
£8 per session
(Includes 4 games of bingo)

For more information
Call Dot on 01206 272676

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

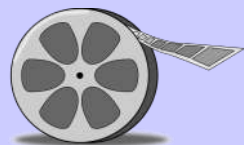
Come and join us for a friendly, enjoyable afternoon playing bowls at **Boxted Village Hall** Fridays 2pm - 4pm

Any information contact Chris Lawrence 01206 272654.

chris-lawrence@hotmail.co.uk

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

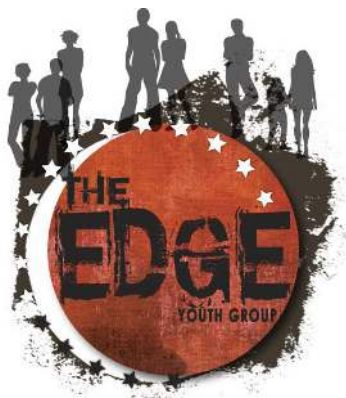
Meet on first Wednesday of each month throughout the year, 10.00 am to 3.00 pm at the Community Centre. Subscription £26 due March and September. Contact Chrissy Todd tel. 07742 131454.

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.

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!*



The advertisement for 'Beer and the Bible' is set against a light blue background. On the left, a stylized waiter in a white shirt and green striped apron holds a tray with a tall glass of beer. Next to him is a black and white dog. A speech bubble from the dog contains the text 'at the Shepherd & Dog Langham'. To the right, the words 'Beer and the Bible' are written in a large, elegant, black script font. At the bottom, the text reads 'Every second Monday of the month from 8pm All welcome'.

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

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IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE GROUP.

Please mention the Newsletter when replying to advertisements

We at the Mindful Life Group are delighted to have now received funding from NHS East and West Suffolk Clinical commissioning Groups and Suffolk Community Foundation to provide free online mindfulness courses to support older adults aged 65 and over and carers and former carers living in Suffolk.

Background and information on the course:

The Mindful Life Group is offering an online mindfulness course that is fully funded to support older adults (over 65) in Suffolk. The course is led by a clinical psychologist who is also a mindfulness teacher. The course is based on the mindfulness-based stress reduction course developed by John Kabat Zin but has been adapted for these populations.



We have had really good feedback from participants, and we have found that it improves peoples' attention and memory, as well as reducing loneliness, low mood, stress, anxiety and chronic pain. Many participants have found it simply helps them deal with day-to-day stresses.

We currently have one course running every Thursday from 6th June for six weeks between 1-3pm.

Places are free but limited to around 15.

More information can be found on our website: <https://the-mindful-life.com/>

Dance to fitness

Fun Latin dance class

Boxted Village Hall



Thursdays 9.45 am



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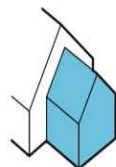
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www.2ndlanghamscouts.org



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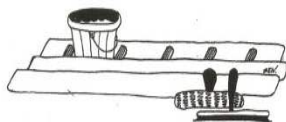
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Anyone wishing to come along would be given a warm welcome. Our members are always asked for their suggestions before our yearly entertainment programme is arranged, so we do try our best to cater for everyone.

If you would like more information about our club please call Linda on 01206 272710.

GOOD 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
- or make a friendly visit just for a bit of company.

Call so that we can help you, Monday to Friday, 8am to 7pm

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Tuesday.....271813 or 273195

Wednesday....272755 or 272013

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Friday..... 07842 034489

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**.

This scheme is associated with the Churches of ST Mary's Langham and St Peter's Boxted

**THE PARISH OF LANGHAM
WITH BOXTED**

Contact Details

Websites

Boxted – [www.achurchnearyou.com/
church/6458](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6458)

Langham – [www.achurchnearyou.com/
church/6459](http://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

Associate Priest 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 Russell (Thur- Fri)

Email: 6parishescolchester@gmail.com

Churchwardens

St Mary's Langham

Stephen Garner

272599

Sgarner.22@btinternet.com

Denise Hobday

230918

hobdaylangham@hotmail.com

St Peter's Boxted

Jos Carter

272755

Zone Youth Group

Dominic & Linda Shiel

273324

The Edge Youth Group

BOXTED VILLAGE HALL

Cage Lane, Boxted , CO4 5RE

Contact

Debbie Eley

Telephone:- 01206 870266

Email:- [boxted@community-
centre.org.uk](mailto: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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