

ST MARY & ST PETER  
NEWSLETTER

March 2024



## CHURCH SERVICES

### 3rd March Third Sunday in Lent

9.30am at St Peter's - Holy Communion (said) followed by refreshments

10.30 at St Peters - Morning Worship

### 9th March – Saturday

3.00pm St Peter's Churchyard – Forest Church

### 10th March – Fourth Sunday in Lent – Mothering Sunday

9.30am at St Peter's – Holy Communion

### 17th March – Fifth Sunday in Lent

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

10.30am at St Peter's – Morning Worship

Refreshments are served between the services

### 24th March – Palm Sunday

9.30am at St Mary's – Holy Communion

### 25th March – Monday of Holy Week

10.00am at St Peter's – Holy Communion (said)

### 26th March – Tuesday of Holy Week

10.00am at St Mary's – Holy Communion (said)

### 27th March – Wednesday of Holy Week

10.00am at St Peter's – Holy Communion (said)

### 28th March – Maundy Thursday

8.00pm at St Mary's – Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altar

12-noon at St Peter's – Meditation on the Passion

### 31st March – EASTER DAY

6.00am at St Peter's - Sunrise service with Holy Communion

9.30am at St Mary's – Holy Communion

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



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**Deadline for submissions for the April edition: 15th March**

**Contact the editor via email: [lwbnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:lwbnewsletter@gmail.com)**

## Welcome to the March Newsletter.

**M**arch is here at last! The last chorus of *Jingle Bells* has barely receded from earshot and the shops are already choc-full of Easter eggs and hot cross buns. In March we reach the Vernal Equinox, the mid-way point between midwinter and midsummer and thus the 'turning point' from which the days start to become longer than the nights, the fields and hedgerows are full of burgeoning life, crocuses and daffodils are out in force and young men's fancies lightly turn to thoughts of love. Even we old men are apt to hobble around for a bit with a spring in our step as long as we don't overdo it.

The **Boxted W.I.** are having a **taster art session** by *Willows of Dedham* at the 12 March meeting (village hall @7:30 pm)

**I**n these pages we have another of Ian Hollands's informal series of historical pieces regarding famous inhabitants of Langham. We are very fortunate to have Ian's help in preserving the record of local notables.

There are advertisements for a number of forthcoming events, too, including Boxted Village Walks, a Spring Sale, and Boxted Village Festival. All of a sudden it feels like we may yet see a little sunshine after all.

*Steve Pollington,*  
Editor





# God's Beloved Flock

Spring is making an attack on winter with the now lighter mornings and drawn-out evenings, something I always rejoice at as we are in the middle of lambing and it makes it so much easier and cheerier having light.

This year with 103 ewes scanned in lamb we were set for a busy time. It is always a time of waiting and watching, with excitement and anticipation knowing there will be the amazing success stories of lambs being adopted to other mothers and little ones making it against all the odds, but as with all things there are also the sad stories of loss.

Lambing is a time of reflection as we spend more time than usual looking at the sheep and really paying attention to their characters. When the sheep are in the fields I find it difficult to see many distinguishing features between one sheep and the next but when in the barn at lambing time you really get to know them and their individual characters.

Jesus says of Himself that He is the Good Shepherd and that He knows His sheep (John 10:14). God, who created all things and each person and each sheep, knows each one by name. How incredible it is that God knows the intimate details of all that

He has created! In Psalm 139 David says:

*"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb... I am fearfully and wonderfully made"*

So we can have confidence in a God who knows us and treasures each one of us, knowing our individual personalities, gifts, strengths and weaknesses, and being able to tell us apart from everything else He has created.

As we come to the end of lambing for 2024 we have had the stories of loss and others of success but above all we have been privileged enough to have witnessed creation at its best. We now watch the lambs play out in the field with their huge skips of joy and the comfort that we are their shepherds just as Jesus was a special baby sent from God to be a loving shepherd to look after us.... And out of love He laid down his life for every one of us, his beloved sheep.

God bless,

Reverend Emma



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\*Terms and conditions apply

## SESAW NEWS

**L**ast month's Great Garden Birdwatch found Sparrows and Blue Tits ranked high in Suffolk and Essex, as they did in the SESA W garden. Since being temporarily housebound after a thyroid op, I've grown quite partial to ornithology. Gazing through a window in a cosy room on a winter's day has a certain appeal for a middle-aged moggie but don't tell Kenneth, I'd never live it down.

An unprecedented number of rescue cats arrived for rehoming last year. Some were abandoned, some made homeless through their owner's circumstances, many were mothers with young families, some in-kitten with a second litter. We have wonderful volunteers who care for the animals but, like most charities, we struggle to find enough helpers. Currently, we particularly need reliable, conscientious adults to look after the cats on Saturdays. We often have youngsters for a while at weekends until academic commitments draw them away. 'Grown ups' who work during the week want time with their families at weekends

and so we fall between two stools. We just need a few good people who could spare a Saturday (or Sunday morning) to feed, clean out and socialise our felines awaiting new homes. If you could help, please email [sesawken@gmail.com](mailto:sesawken@gmail.com) or phone 07881 785535 for more information.



I must go now as there is activity around the nest box, suggesting months of entertainment ahead for me,

*Ollie (the Black) Cat.*

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

## At Last !

The re-build of Langham church organ, begun in 1996, is to be completed with new soundboards and 90 new pipes for the pedal-organ. There is some support funding from a legacy towards a total cost of about £35,000, and Langham Church Support Trust welcomes donations to help meet the shortfall.

*Donations by cheque to  
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## From Councillor Lewis Barber

**I** recently voted on Essex County Council's (ECC) budget for the upcoming financial year. ECC's revenue budget is approximately £2 billion with a capital programme of about £1 billion. The biggest area of expenditure is on social care, with demand and complexity increasing. This is, inevitably, having an impact on other areas like Highways maintenance. Council tax is proposed to increase by 2.99% with a 2% increase in the social care levy too. Balancing these competing priorities is a challenge, but one I must deal with when I vote.

I was pleased to vote for a £12 million increase in Highways. This includes extra money for maintenance, speed and traffic projects and greater enforcement for issues such as overgrown vegetation and flooding. I know these are some of your Highways priorities and I have been lobbying for more money into these areas. It was good to see such proposals come forward so I could support them. These include a further priority budget for me, so please do let me know of your priorities for Boxted, Langham and elsewhere.

I organised a meeting with the councillor in charge of highways prior

to Christmas to discuss traffic and speed issues in Boxted, Dedham and Langham. The meeting was productive and the councillor listened to our concerns about the traffic report produced. They agreed to revisit this and I am looking forward to a positive breakthrough on these issues. We also organised a meeting with campaigners and other stakeholders on site at Boxted Bridge to discuss repair vs replacement and other associated matters. The councillor in charge, who has only relatively recently started in post, was amicable to our concerns and willing to meet with the campaign group and their experts to discuss next steps.

**T**he winter has been particularly challenging for the road network, with high levels of flooding affecting the usability and condition of many roads. There has also been a significant number of properties directly impacted too. There can be a variety of causes of flooding and I aim to mitigate the impact as best as possible. For example, there is ongoing discussions to find solutions with organisations including the Environment Agency, Anglian Water, Parish Councils, MPs and ECC. If you have a



flooding issue, please do get in touch with myself so we can ensure it is considered in any solutions. If your property is affected by flooding, you can apply for Property Flood Resilience Grant to ECC. You can find details of this online, or you can contact me directly.

I continue to monitor National Highways' timeframes for dealing with Severalls Lane Bridge. The length of time National Highways has taken to resolve this has been frustrating, to say the least. You may recall my previous updates that, from May 2023, it was

envisaged that it would be 12 months until the design was completed and 18-24 months (from May 2023) until repairs were completed. This is to coincide to be done before the now approved A12 widening scheme takes place but after the current roadworks. I have checked and been assured that the recent delays to the finishing date for the A12 resurfacing will not affect the bridge works.

**P**lease do contact me directly if you would like to subscribe to our email updates throughout the year.

## **LANGHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE**

### *Treasurer required – Can you help?*

A new volunteer is needed to look after the finances of **Langham Village Hall**. Maureen has kept our accounts beautifully over several years but now needs to concentrate on family affairs. She is happy to ease a new Treasurer into the post while they become familiar with our monthly accounting procedures on an Excel spreadsheet.

If you are able to help, or to suggest someone who may enjoy the challenge, please contact **Liz Schofield** on 07741 488598 or **Liz Winter** on 01206 443753.

*Thank you on behalf of Langham Community Council.*  
Alan Cadman, Chairman.

# Boxted Wildlife

WORKING TO CREATE A WILDLIFE FRIENDLY VILLAGE.

## VILLAGE WALKS

MEET AT THE VILLAGE HALL  
10:00 AM

SAT 16TH MAR  
SAT 20TH APR  
SAT 18TH MAY  
SAT 15TH JUNE  
SAT 20TH JULY  
SAT 17TH AUG  
SAT 21ST SEPT

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# Newsletter Delivery Volunteers Required

We need some new helpers to ensure continued delivery of your Parish Newsletter each month!

*Could you spare an hour or so once a month to deliver to 30 – 50 homes in Langham or Boxted?*

(More than 1,200 copies are delivered in total, so we urgently need to grow the team to help spread the workload, in order for the physical Newsletter delivery service to remain viable).

Please call **Paul Armstrong** on **07766 747497** if you'd like to add a productive monthly walk to your exercise regime!



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## LANGHAM LADIES

Langham Ladies meeting on Thursday February 8th was a very interesting talk on Essex Therapy Dogs. The speaker was a local lady, Pauline Coverley, and her colleague Vicky. The power of the dog is believed to help people and cheer them up. The organisation started in November 2021 and there are now 254 dogs working, of 80 different breeds. All the owners are volunteers and are matched to where they would like to work, whether it be care homes, schools, Essex University, play groups and even at Southend airport where they put the nervous passengers at ease. They do not go anywhere other than in Essex. Rescue dogs can be used but they have to have been with their owner 6 months and then they are assessed. After the talk there was question and answer time.

The next meeting is on Thursday March 14th, starting at 7.30pm in the Langham Community Centre. This meeting is open to everyone, gentlemen, friends and anyone who would like to join us. The non-members fee is £5 which includes coffee/tea and homemade cakes. This

meeting will be of great interest to keen gardeners and plant lovers. We have Jaime from Bressingham Gardens in Norfolk speaking on *Around the World in 80 Plants*. This will be a very interesting talk so we hope lots of people will be able to come along.

Later in the year Langham Ladies are organising a coach trip to **Bressingham Gardens** which is really worth a visit: beautiful gardens, lovely restaurant and gift shop and home to steam engines and a great carousel on which you can take a ride. The trip is **Friday May 17th 2024** leaving Langham by Kings Coaches at 9am and leaving Bressingham about 4.30pm. The cost of the trip is (if a RHS member) coach fee only £16 and a non-RHS member £29. If you would like to come please get in touch with either Ginny Moss mobile.07476649481 or Gill. Brown mobile 07514559961. The coach cost for each person £16 is required with the booking of a place and this is non-refundable. We look forward to hearing from you.



## Probus Club of Colchester

Our meeting on Wednesday 24th January 2024 was well attended with 20 members, including 9 ladies and one new lady member.

This week members were entertained to a talk titled :

### HEALTH BEGINS AT HOME

This was delivered by Dan Trussler, an Osteopath and founder of a company called Vital Health, based in Tiptree.

He spoke about how we should take ownership of our health with a proactive approach.

The first question he asked was “What does HEALTH mean to you?” There were a number of responses from members attending. He went on to state that in the UK and the USA 50% of the population have at least one health problem. He mentioned OBESITY and that the rate of obesity increased with age.

He went on to say that one of the biggest causes of ill health is stress, that retirement is an unhealthy occupation and it is important that when people retire they engage in some other activity such as joining a social group, keep fit classes etc., and going for a walk. One member suggested getting a dog and that was well received.

One of the most important things individuals can do at home is to eat food over an 8 hour period and then have 16 hours without food.

There were very many questions from members which was a strong indicator of how interesting this talk was received.

If you would like to know more about our club then please contact Bob Juniper the club's hon secretary on T: 07770883671 or E:[objuniper2@gmail.com](mailto:objuniper2@gmail.com)

Bob Cash

Publicity Officer

## Boxted Litter Pickers

A group of more than 20 volunteers have been picking up litter along Boxted's roads since 2008 - remarkably the group is now entering its 17th year!

Although our village roads are not 100% free of litter, the group have made a huge improvement and this has also discouraged the dropping of litter. We are always keen to recruit new members not least because a number of members are not as young as they were.

If anyone is interested in joining us then please contact our coordinator Stephen Whybrow on 01206 272773, or 07801749575 or [stephenwhybrow@msn.com](mailto:stephenwhybrow@msn.com)

# THEY LIVED IN LANGHAM

*An occasional series by the Langham Heritage Group*

## 3. SIR LAURENCE PIERCE BROOKE

MERRIAM MC, 1894 – 1966

The White House, Dedham Road, 1933-1964

Laurence Pierce Brooke Merriam's grandfather, Levi Parsons Merriam, came from the United States to London, where, in 1875, Daniel Spill and he formed the British Xylonite Company to manufacture celluloid (xylonite) and other newly-developed plastics at Hale End, Walthamstow. The company was the first in Britain to mass-produce plastic articles such as brushes, combs and boxes, marketed under the brand-names *Halex* and *Bex*. In 1887 land was acquired on the Stour Estuary at Brantham, where plastics of outstanding design were manufactured by British Xylonite (through its subsidiary BX Plastics) until 1966. The products were designed 'in house' at Lawford Place. In 1931 British Xylonite acquired Cascelloid Ltd, a firm producing very popular plastic toys under the brand-name Palitoy. The Scottish Distillers Company acquired BX Plastics in 1961 and five years later the company ceased manufacturing.

An outstanding sportsman, Merriam represented Oxford University at swimming, water polo and rugby. He was commissioned into the Rifle Brigade early in the Great War and was subsequently



SIR LAURENCE MERRIAM MC

posted to the Machine Gun Corps. At the Battle of Flers (1916) he was severely wounded in an action where his courage and leadership earned him the Military Cross; on recovery, he was transferred to the newly-formed Tank Corps. Merriam ended the war as Acting Major.

On demobilisation, Merriam resumed playing top rank rugby, was Captain of Blackheath RFC and was capped twice for England. He rejoined his family's firms, British Xylonite and Halex Ltd, in due course becoming company chairman. In 1921 he married Lady Marjory Kennedy, daughter of the Marquess of Ailsa, and the couple lived at Bluebridge



**The Merriam Plastics Factory at Brantham**

House, Halstead, before acquiring The White House (formerly The Elms) in 1933. Lady Marjory, with Angela South (Old Mill House) and Jane Harter, later Yeatman, (Church Farm) founded the Langham Women’s Institute in 1938.

In the Second World War, Merriam was seconded to the Ministry of Supply, his important contribution to the war effort being recognised by a knighthood. After the war he returned to British Xylonite and its associated companies and served on the national councils of the plastics and furniture industries. He was appointed a member of two hospital boards, a magistrate and Deputy Lieutenant and was elected to the Essex County Council. But he still found time to play tennis and squash: in the 1930s, he had run energetically round Langham in singlet and shorts, more than once being thought a stray from Severalls Hospital. Exuding authority, as chairman of the County

Council’s Finance Committee he incurred the enmity of Harwich’s representative, who commented that “when Sir Laurence was dubbed it was a pity the sword didn’t slip and cut his bloody head off”.

The Merriams left The White House in 1964 to live at Loom House, Dedham. Merriam himself died suddenly in 1966, having collapsed when leaving the train at Liverpool Steet station; Lady Marjory died in 1988.

**BEX Advert, 1957**



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## BOXTED W.I.

*Boxted WI had a hilarious pancake eve on Shrove Tuesday. Making and tasting pancakes finished with the traditional pancake race!*

*The next meeting (March 12th 19:30, village hall) will be a drawing art experience eve. We are looking forward to discovering our inner talent along with our usual laughter and high spirits.*



### *Local Driver Needed - Private Driver Service*

*I am looking for someone who lives in or around Boxted who could provide a driver service for me on an ad hoc basis.*

*I travel to/from a number of work events, as well as some social events, and am looking for someone with a decent level of driving experience that could provide this service (using my car).*

*Please contact my assistant Sophie Harland at [sophieoliviabarland@gmail.com](mailto:sophieoliviabarland@gmail.com) or on 07736306525 for more information.*

*Thank you in advance.*

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD = UPDATE AND THANKS

**Y**ou have been a part of something amazing! As a result of the partnership of churches and groups, Operation Christmas Child in the United Kingdom sent an amazing

237,735 gift-filled shoeboxes to children around the world including the Balkans, Central Asia, the Middle East as well as Romania, Moldova and Ukraine, that is part of a global total of 11,330,126 shoebox gifts sent by partnering countries to hurting children worldwide.

### **Moldova: How a Pink Piglet Showed God's Love**

**A**ll Corina wanted for Christmas was a pink piglet with sparkling eyes that she saw in a shop window. *As Moldova is the most struggling economy in Europe*, her mum explained to her that *like many other families*, she didn't have a lot of money. Corina's mum promised if there was enough money left over then she would purchase the piglet for Corina. Christmas passed and unfortunately, there was no money left to purchase the piglet. One day Corina received an invitation from a local church to attend an outreach event. At this event, Corina heard about Jesus' love for her and received a shoebox gift. When she opened her shoebox, she was stunned, inside was a pink piglet with sparkling eyes. In Corina's joy, she began to cry,



this was all she wanted for Christmas. Corina's mum was also overjoyed, she thanked everyone and said, "Truly God knows what we need and what we want, the proof is today's shoeboxes."

**E**ach year we send 8 lorries to Moldova, so up to 80,000 children receive precious shoebox gifts from our generous supporters in the UK. We will again be hoping to follow up this year with another successful Quiz Night and packing party again in November, more details nearer the time and items can be collected and donated year round in readiness. If you are part of a group / business who would like to find out how you can get involved please get in touch. Thanks again, together the impact of simple shoebox gifts is being felt by children and families across the world.

Tim Clarke [timclarkie03@gmail.com](mailto:timclarkie03@gmail.com)

# BOXTED WI

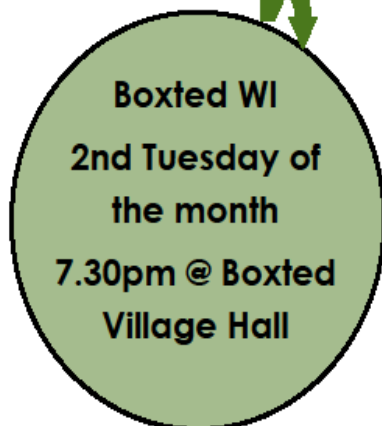
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## BOXTED HISTORY GROUP

Meeting every third Wednesday of the month at Boxted Village Hall.

7.30 for 8pm.

Guests always welcome.



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## 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*

## 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

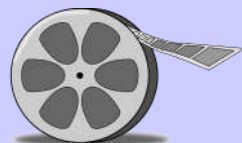
Contact Group Scout Leader, Denise Hobday 01206 230918.

## LANGHAM LADIES

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

## LANGHAM FILM NIGHTS

For details of films and screening times and to book tickets, go to [www.langhamcommunitycentre.org.uk/next-cinema-screening/](http://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 cartoon 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. To the right, the text 'Beer and the Bible' is written in a large, black, cursive font. Below this, a white speech bubble contains the text 'at the Shepherd &amp; Dog Langham'. At the bottom, it says '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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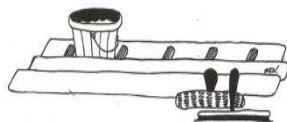
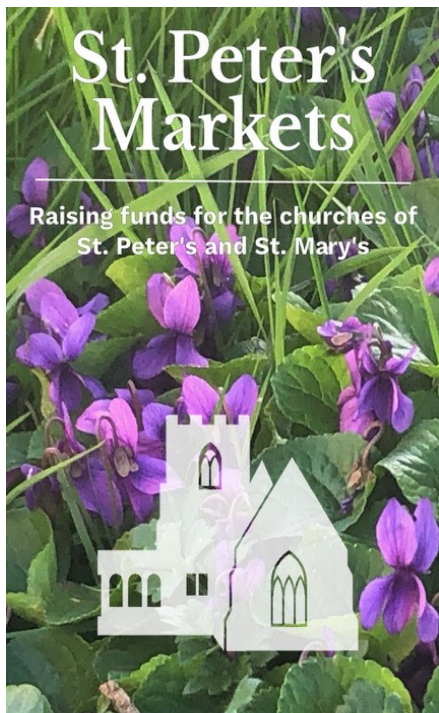
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This scheme is associated with the Churches of ST Mary's Langham and St Peter's Boxted

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**Contact Details**

**Websites**

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

Langham – [www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6697](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6697)

**Rector Heather Wilcox**

01206 240906/07503151715

[RevHWilcox@outlook.com](mailto: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](mailto:revdannemason@gmail.com)

**Curate Revd Emma Barr** 07801659345

**Lay Minister Denise Hobday** 230918

**Church Administrator** (for the parishes of  
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Horkesley Donna Luxton 243683

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**Churchwardens**

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**Stephen Garner** 272599

[Sgarner.22@btinternet.com](mailto:Sgarner.22@btinternet.com)

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**Contact the editor via email:  
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