# ST MARY & ST PETER NEWSLETTER

TANK TO PAR



Cover Picture: Untitled Reproduced by kind permission of Andrew Stacey.

# CHURCH SERVICES

#### 4th February – Second Sunday before Lent

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

10.30 at St Peters - Morning Worship

## 10th February (Saturday)

3.00pm St Peter's churchyard—Forest Church

## 11th February Sunday next before Lent

9.30am at St Peter's - Holy Communion



#### 14th February Ash Wednesday

10.00am at St Mary's - Holy Communion

18th February First Sunday in Lent

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

10.30 at St Mary's - Morning Worship

## 25th February Second Sunday in Lent

9.30am at St Mary's - Holy Communion

## 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

To check for other services and any alterations email RevdHatherWikox- RevHWikox@outlook.com (lwb.wb.gh.parishes@gmail.com)

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

## Welcome to the February Newsletter.

ypical, isn't it? I take the opportunity to slip away for a nice winter holiday (Caribbean cruise, since you ask) and while my back is turned, our quiet corner of north Essex becomes a maelstrom of ecological calamity.

I refer of course to the recent flooding which has caused no end of problems for local agriculture as well as for road-users. The many overgrown ditches and blocked drains have been unable to cope with the quantity of rainwater suddenly deposited in them. The problem has reached such dire proportions that Essex County Council have been moved to produce a leaflet(!) explaining to householders how to maintain effective drainage on their property (as if the lack of adequate drains and the badlymaintained roads are down to us). Meanwhile, the sewage system has backed up in Langham (no tasteless jokes, please) and a public meeting is to be convened with Anglian Water and the Environment Agency. Our MP has also got involved. The date has been set as 2nd February-details on p.26 herein. Factor in also the January storms which have not only dropped vast quantities of water but also torn down trees and damaged buildings, and the whole thing risks becoming an ecological and environmental mess which will not be fixed any time soon, and will involve countless meetings of the highways and

planning committees. The area round Boxted bridge is particularly badly affected, but standing water is everywhere in the fields as far as Stoke by Nayland. At a guess, I'd say it will take more than a downloadable pamphlet to sort this lot out.

The front cover shows the results of flooding—in the winter of 2002-3. *Plus ca change* ....

In happier news, Langham church is to have its organ rebuilt after more than a quarter of a century of planning and frustration. Anyone who would like to contribute to this project will find details in these pages. While in Dedham, you might want to drop off any old spectacles you have lying around for redistribution in Sierra Leone, where they are in short supply.

> Steve Pollington, Editor



# A Spiritual 'Wake-Up Call'

B ack in September, I was sent a letter from my GP. Following some routine blood tests, I was being encouraged to sign up for a prediabetes course, which would run over 9 months, a course, which I knew as my father was already 6 months into it, took up a lot of time. Mindful of the time commitment, I was reluctant at first to even attempt to join a course, but having logged in to sign up, I found I could opt for a virtual course via an app, meaning I could fit it around my other commitments.

My other reluctance to join the course, was probably a reluctance to have to change some of my lifestyle habits. I knew that I would have to examine what I was eating, particularly the carbohydrates and sugary treats, and look at ways of cutting some of my favourite foods out of my diet and I wasn't really sure I wanted to do that!

In the end, I signed up, downloaded the app and am feeling the health benefits. Yes, I have had to cut down on some foods, almost fasting completely from some, and I have also been encouraged to take on more exercise, joining a gym and walking more.

In many ways it has been a wake-up call, to do something now, and hopefully I will be able to have a healthier, diabetesfree, future, alongside the other benefits that will be reaped through having a healthier lifestyle.

n the 14<sup>th</sup> February, Valentines day, it is also Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the season of Lent. For many lent is a time when we might consider what we want to fast from, or indeed, take on, as we seek a healthier spiritual life.

Lent is if you like a spiritual wake-up call, a time when we are called to examine our walk with Jesus, and either through the discipline of fasting, to use our fast as an opportunity to spend more time with God, through prayer and bible reading; or through taking something on, like a daily act of kindness, or weekly environmental pledge, we are encouraged to grow in faith.

We might be reluctant to give up anything, or take anything on this Lent, but when we do the spiritual benefits may far outweigh the challenges.

May God bless you

Reverend Heather



SESAW NEWS ave you made any resolutions as you hang the new calendar, flip through the seed catalogues and holiday brochures or search for evening classes? Maybe you want to turn over a new leaf, eat less, exercise more – or how about volunteering once a week?

A few hours of your time can make a huge difference to charitable organisations struggling to provide much needed support in the community. Charity shops, food banks, befriending services, hospitals need help, or if you happen to love animals, the rescued dogs, cats and rabbits at SESAW need you too. Volunteering is a two-way street, your gift is more than compensated by the feelgood factor. Our human carers go home tired, sometimes dirty but happy to have spent time with the animals. They are happiest of all when they see people or families going home with their new pets.

If you would like to volunteer at SESAW, please contact me at: *sesawken@gmail.com* I'll ask one of my humans to call you to discuss how we could help each other.

If you plan to share your life with a new pet, do visit SESAW. At the time of writing, we still have kittens in need of new homes. We are open by appointment only due to our annual



Winter shutdown so please email or leave a message on the answerphone and someone will get back to you.

Mum's new diary is open on the desk, ready to take your calls but she'll find her pen is missing. A nice, crunchy biro is too tempting to a little dog like 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* 

# 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 Langham Church Support Trust Pollyfield, Chapel Road, Langham, CO4 5NY or by bank transfer to Langham Church Support Trust a/c CAF Bank 40-52-40 a/c 00003341 reference: ORGAN Please provide name, house name and postcode if Gift Aid may be claimed



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## BOXTED HISTORY GROUP

ontainer ships that take huge loads originated in the 1950's. Their loads are a familiar sight on the A14 as they are transported to Felixstowe, a port that handles 73 vessels a week. What is less known is that some of them take passengers.

Peter Hesketh decided to circumnavigate the globe using them, a journey that took 4 months. He found the experience very different from that on a cruise ship. There was no one to look after you and you had to carry all your own luggage up stairways. Meals were basic and you dined separately from the crew. For much of the journey there were no other passengers and he dined alone. There was no on-board entertainment and he spent long periods of time on his own. Fortunately he is a keen reader.

There were some hazards on the way that gave moments of excitement. While *en route* he learned that the ship he was booked on for the return leg was not going to Europe, but the matter was eventually resolved by the booking agency. With containers piled high on the deck the ship was at the mercy of strong winds as the height of the load caught the gusts as a sail does and caused the vessel to slew sideways. This happened in Zeebrugge where a sudden gust made the ship hit the side of the port. They also caught the back end of a typhoon as they made the 3 week journey across the Pacific. The ship rolled badly in the high winds.

Other hazards were the fear of attack by pirates as they crossed the Red Sea and the ship's alarm system. This went off one day and all on board followed the emergency drill and locked themselves in the engine room. Happily it was a false alarm. Another crisis was when they were off the coast of China and a fishing net got caught up in the ship's propellers. It was soon released but there was no sign of the fishing boat that they feared they may have crashed into.

Although the workers on the ship came from all over the world there were no language problems. English was spoken when the men were working. In their time off they spoke their own language. Peter conceded that this type of holiday is not for everyone but felt that he had learned a lot about the shipping industry and had at least circumnavigated the globe.

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s the 1930's drew to a close preparations for conflict began. In 1936 the War Executive Committee, which had initially been set up during the first world war, was revived. It was quickly recognised that the involvement of women would be essential. Various schemes were established such as the Women's Voluntary Service (WVS). The Committee approached Lady Gertrude Denman, who had been a suffragette, to increase homegrown food supplies in the event of German attacks on ships that were bringing in imported goods. The idea was that women would make up for the lack of men who were away fighting and give a boost to the work force. The result was the Women's Land Army. It made an enormous impact and by 1943, 70% of the country's food needs were being met under the scheme.

The scheme was centrally driven but locally organised, with local organisers being of high social standing in accordance with the social structures of the day. Their duties included advertising for volunteers, finding accommodation, providing a uniform and generally overseeing the work force. The uniform consisted of a green jersey and brown trousers and workers were given a badge.

The women came from all over the country with a variety of motivations. Some had a spirit of adventure, some saw it as a good alternative to military service or work in a munitions factory, some wanted an escape from city life and some felt a sense of patriotic duty. Those who came from the countryside made the adjustment easily but for many who came from towns it was a steep learning curve in spite of being issued with a book of guidance. Many had not had close contact with animals before and had to learn how to manage them. They had to drive a tractor, sow seeds, maintain crops and harvest them. Work was hard and sometimes dangerous. Training was given and this grew more sophisticated as the war progressed.

Some women took on specialist roles such as forestry work and tree clearing. These were known as Lumberjills. Some farms were designated as training farms (such as Writtle in Essex) and other small ones were amalgamated to make more efficient units, Woods were cleared to make way for airfields. The Women's Land Army made a huge difference to the war effort and this was recognised in 2007 when a campaign was launched to give medals to women who had been a part of it.

Wendy Shepherd talked to the Boxted history Group about the Women's Land Army. For information about future meetings phone 01206 272250.

## Alan Ladbrooke



# **BOXTED EVERGREENS**

irst and foremost the committee would like to wish all our members a Happy New Year and a healthy one. We hope 2024 is kind to everyone.

It seems a long time since our last meeting which we held at The Hub and members were treated to a cream tea which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. To finish off the year our Christmas meal was held at The Anchor, Stratford St. Mary.

Our first meeting this year is on the **22nd February** and we will be having a **bring and buy sale** so we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible

with your unwanted gifts.

We already have entertainment booked throughout the year and trust it's varied enough to please you all.

If anyone is interested in coming along, we meet on the fourth Thursday of every month in Boxted Village Hall between 2pm and 3.30pm. The monthly subscription is £4, tea, coffee and cakes are always provided at each meeting.

We look forward to seeing you at our meetings this year and welcoming any new members.

Regards to all,

Elaine, Linda, Carole and Diane



Saturday 10 February 2024, 6pm Boxted Village Hall, Cage Lane CO4 5RE



# Boxted Methodist

# Family-friendly Valentine's Concert

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... a retiring collection so you can 'pay what you can' for the concert – no need to buy tickets in advance, just bring your family, friends and neighbours on the night

... a raffle to help cover expenses ... tea/coffee available

We look forward to seeing you there!

## Probus Club of Colchester

Ur club is getting back to regular meetings for the Winter and Spring programme. On Wednesday 10th January 2024 members were entertained to a very interesting talk by Tony Friedlander, titled: *MY LONG LOST FAMILY* 

When he was 8 years old he found a letter that suggested he had been adopted at the age of 4, and became determined to eventually trace his biological parents. His adopted mother indicated she was going to tell him when he was older. He found out that his birth mother originally came from Germany in the Kinder Transport where she arrived in Harwich in 1938, as one of 10,000 Jewish children saved from Nazi persecution. She was only 14 years old. He had no memories of the time spent with his natural mother and they spent a lot of time moving from one home to another and his mother doing a variety of jobs.

When he was 21 he moved to London and lived in a GLC hostel in Chelsea. He worked at Imperial College on an IBM 7090 computer that cost at that time 2.9 million dollars. He married in 1968. It took 13 years of searching old records and archives in Somerset House before he was able to find his birth mother, & he learned that he had 3 half-siblings in May 1979. It took another 7 years before she would eventually tell him that his father was an American Soldier. He tried to find his father through an extensive search of US telephone directories & US Army records. He was helped greatly by his daughter. However it was too late, for his birth father had passed away two years before his birth mother told him, but he continues to unearth distant relatives on both sides, some of whom he is now in regular touch with.

Members asked a number of questions – always a good indicator that they found the talk most interesting.

ur club is open to both ladies and gentlemen who have retired, about to retire or are semi retired from a Professional or a business background. Our club meet at the Colchester Rugby Club house that is located just off the A12, not far from the Park and Ride. Meetings commence at 1030, but members usually arrive at 1000 for a coffee and catch up. Every three or four meetings we commence at 1230 for lunch. Our next meeting is on the 24th January and is titled *Health begins at Home*. 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 Bob Cash

Publicity Officer

# LUNSAR COLLECTION BOX



There is a collection box in the porch at Dedham Church for donations of unused prescription glasses which will go to the eye hospital in Lunsar, Sierra Leone. The hospital will read the prescription of the glasses sent and give them out to patients accordingly.

There are many patients in Lunsar in need of treatment and glasses but after receiving their prescription many patients cannot afford to buy a pair of reading glasses as all of their wages are spent on feeding their family.

# GOOD GAN 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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Thursday	07842 034489 or
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Friday	07510 504026

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

Any queries, ring the Organiser Arabella Brentnall, 01206 272013

## LANGHAM LADIES

A t the Langham Ladies January 11th monthly meeting we welcomed six new members and one guest whom, we were very pleased to see. The speaker was a return visit of retired forensic scientist Mary Newton. She continued her talk on rape. She explained what the process is for the victim by the police and forensics. It is a very thorough process and supported by a mental health officer as, as a victim it not only affects a victim physically but mentally as well. The next meeting is **Thursday 8th February** in Langham **Community Centre** starting at 7.30 pm. The speaker is a local lady, Pauline Coverley , her talk being Essex Therapy Dogs, "A resounding Success". Pauline will be bringing her own therapy dog to meet us.

New members will always be made very welcome. The yearly subscription £25 is now due. Amazing value for 12 monthly meetings one of which one is a summer garden party. Speakers ,homemade cakes , tea and coffee with the occasional Prosecco. Please come and see what we get up to as a guest for £5.

# Heavy rainfall and flooding

In view of the heavy rainfall experienced this winter, it is worth remembering that it's important to keep any crossover pipes clear.



ECC's Highway authorities Guide to ordinary watercourse maintenance is available online:

https://flood.essex.gov.uk/ media/1289/essex-county-councilordinary-watercoursemaintenance-guide.pdf

## BOXTED HISTORY GROUP

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

Guests always welcome.



## 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.

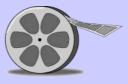
**Contact** Group Scout Leader, Denise Hobday 01206 230918.

# 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/nextcinema-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.

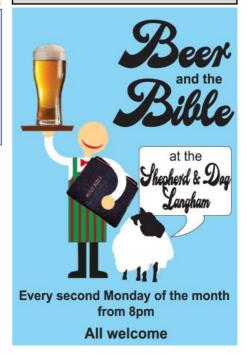
The Art and Craft Club meet on the third Wednesday of each month, 2-4pm at Boxted Village Hall. All welcome - *come and join in!* 



# 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 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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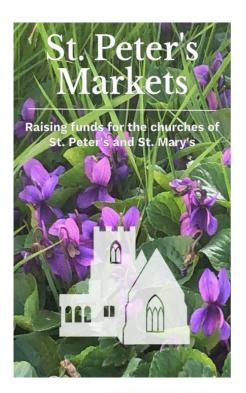
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# **BOXTED W.I.**



Meeting on the second Tuesday of each month 7.30-9.30 pm at Boxted Village Hall





At Langham Community Shop WE NEED VOLUNTEERS for regular shifts, but also, just as importantly, we need stand ins to cover any holidays & gaps in the rota. You will never work alone & full training is given. Meet new people & learn lots of new skills, for just two & a half hours of your time! For further information & an informal chat Call our Volunteer CoOrdinator Cath Hine on 07825 952560

## PUBLIC MEETING WITH ANGLIAN WATER AND SIR BERNARD JENKIN Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb, 11am – 1pm, Langham Community Centre

This will effectively be our third annual meeting to discuss longstanding sewage and flooding issues in Langham.

The difference this time around is that we have invited the Environment Agency and the Local Press to attend as well as Anglian Water and our MP.

The sewage situation has actually deteriorated since our last meeting, so it is vital that we have an even stronger turnout of local residents this time, to voice our valid concerns, to demand effective action, and to show solidarity with the unfortunate residents who have recently seen their homes flooded with raw sewage for the second time since 2016.

We look forward to seeing a really strong turnout on 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

Thank you,

Langham Parish Council



## Are you reliable and well organised?

## Could you spare a few hours each month to help others?

Langham with Boxted PCC are looking for a new **Organiser** to manage our **Good Neighbours** scheme which offers free transport and other help to elderly or vulnerable people living within the parish.

The scheme is already well set up and basically runs itself but we do need someone to manage the records and iron out any minor hiccups.

If you are interested, please contact Patsy Ann Maggs on 01206 273195

## THE PARISH OF LANGHAM WITH BOXTED

## **Contact Details**

*Websites* Boxted – www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6458 Langham – www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6697 *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 Hobday230918Church Administrator (for the parishes of<br/>Langham with Boxted, West Bergholt and Great<br/>Horkesley Donna Luxton243683

Email: lwb.wb.gh.parishes@gmail.com

## Churchwardens

#### St Mary's Langham Stephen Garner 272599 Sgarner.22@,btinternet.com **Denise Hobday** 230918 hobdaylangham@,hotmail.com St Peter's Boxted **Ios Carter** 272755 Zone Youth Group Dominic & Linda Shiel 273324 The Edge Youth Group Dominic & Linda Shiel 273324 St Marv & St Peter Newsletter Editor Stephen Pollington 683670 Email: lwbnewsletter@gmail.com Advertising Paul Armstrong 07766 747497 Email: boxlangads@gmail.com Distribution Elaine Mott (Boxted) 273183 Linda Tralau (Boxted) 272710 Andrew Stacey (Langham) 272806

## **BOXTED VILLAGE HALL**

Cage Lane, Boxted, CO4 5RE

Contact

**Debbie Eley** 

Telephone:- 01206 870266

Email:- boxted@communitycentre.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 March edition: 15th February Contact the editor via email: lwbnewsletter@gmail.com

#### **NEED TO TALK TO SOMEONE?**

## **SAMARITANS**

Available 24 hours a day

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