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SUNDAY SERVICES are on the Langham and Boxted Church Website for all to view under Streamed Services

https://lb-churches.co.uk/streamedservices/

They will be uploaded on Sunday afternoons for as long as services are streamed.

DAILY HOPE - a free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers.

Available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044, it has been set up for those unable to join in online church services during the period of restrictions.

The Churches of ST Mary's Langham and St Peter's Boxted



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Revised 28th October 2020. Any queries please ring the Organiser, Arabella Brentnall 01206 272013

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

A Christmas Message from Reverend Amanda Elmes

hen we started to prepare for Christmas last year, we had no idea what the coming twelve months would bring ... the Covid19 Pandemic and all of the associated ill-health, deaths, isolation, quarantining, lock-downs, closing of schools and offices, hand washing, masks, social distancing etc. We had no idea what an amazing job the many unsung heroes of our communities, the doctors, nurses, cleaners, essential delivery drivers, shop assistants and others would do, to keep us safe and alive. We owe them all a huge debt of gratitude.

As I write this letter, none of us knows whether we'll be able to share the Christmas celebrations with our families and friends, or if we'll spend it in lockdown. But, regardless of this, the message of Christmas remains the same: God loves each one of us, so much that he sent his only son, Jesus, who he knew

would die a terrible death, into the world, as a baby, so that all who believe in him as Saviour and Lord, can have their sins forgiven and inherit eternal life with God. This wonderful message of hope is as true today as it ever was, and it remains with us whatever our circumstances, whether they are easy or tough.

ne of the names of Jesus is *Immanuel*, which means 'God with us', and this is exactly what Jesus' birth means to us in practice. Jesus is 'God with us', in our daily lives ... even lives controlled by covid19! I believe that this means that we can come through our current circumstances, not unscathed, but as richer and more rounded people.

So, between now and Christmas, let's thank God for his wonderful gift of Jesus to us, and let us take hope and encouragement from it.

May I wish you all a very happy and h e a l t h y
Christmas,

Mandy

Elmes

The editorial team wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I'm sure we all hope that 2021 proves to be less turbulent than the present year. Many of us have developed a new appreciation for birdsong now there are fewer vehicles on the roads. I have begun to re-read some of my favourite old books as an escape from the constant drone of TV news with its doom and gloom. Simple pleasures can mean so much.

One of these books contains the Old English poem *Deor* in which the poet recalls legendary stories which were already ancient in his day (the 10th century) and the dreadful circumstances in which the characters found themselves. Each episode ends with the refrain *Des ofereode*, *pisses swa mæg* 'That passed by, so may this'.

Let's all bear Deor's wise words in mind, recalling that even a thousand years ago people could comfort themselves with the thought that "life goes on" regardless!

Steve Pollington



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Boxted Parish Council Report – November 2020

Boxted Parish Council meets ten times a year as a full Council on the second Wednesday evening of the month (not August or December). Members of the public are very much welcome to join us on these meetings, just email the Clerk on

boxtedparishcouncil@gmail.com for a link to click and you can join us on your computer, tablet or phone. There is a regular slot at the start of each meeting for people to raise any issues which, if they can't be answered straight away, the Council can take them away and respond afterwards.

The minutes of each meeting are published on the new Parish Council website (boxtedparishcouncil.org.uk).

We still have a **vacancy** on the Council, if you are interested in stepping forward please contact the Clerk. Our Councillors give up some of their time each month but have the satisfaction of having a say in how best to look after the parish. Full training is provided.

You will have seen that during this year we have had the Hub building rendered and now it has been painted, it looks a lot smarter. The new garage door is a big improvement and we shall be painting the garage to match the main building.

We have been fortunate to have a grant awarded to the Council to part fund some outdoor gym equipment which should be a great addition to the Recreation Ground. Hopefully we can get this installed in the early part of 2021 along with a couple of picnic benches by the play areas.

The Council will put a recycling bin, as well as a general waste bin, near the field entrance.

This is so the plastic bottles, that are part of young people playing sport, can be recycled. Recreation Ground litter is a constant problem, but this should help.

You may have seen a petition and video, put together by residents, which is seeking public support to persuade Essex Highways to reconsider the plan to replace the beautiful old steel girder bridge, known as **Boxted Bridge**. It is as the junction of Wick Road and Skye Hall Lane. The bridge sits in the Dedham Vale

M

AONB and is now recognised as a heritage asset by Colchester Borough Council. The Parish Council support keeping the character and heritage of that lovely location and have asked Essex Highways to reconsider their decision to push forward with a replacement bridge but without

success. If you wish to support the residents' campaign - the video and petition are on the Village website at https://boxted.org.uk/

uring this second national lockdown we aren't able to have organised sport at the Recreation Ground, so no football and the Hub café is still closed to the public but the takeaway service and delivered "meals on wheels" service helping those people shielding in the village are still available. Just phone Bonny on 01206 272129 and she can sort a meal out for you and your family. This time round we can keep the play areas open but please know that the equipment is not cleaned. You should either bring hand sanitiser or get hands washed as soon as possible.

The Village Hall will reopen in December. If you are interested in booking the Hall for meetings etc call Community Halls in Partnership on 01206 870266. Don't forget our four newly installed bike racks on the Hall's front wall; it would be great to see these used – remember to bring your own chain. To get in touch with the Council please drop an email to bootedparishcouncil@gmail.com.

Fruit Orchards in Langham

Simon Gallup

t's hard to believe these days but not so long ago Langham was known for its fruit orchards.

In 1930 Major Harter, **James** DSO, MC, (later Major bought General) Whalebone House and purchased 100 acres of arable land from the Hall Estate. He started to plant mainly apple and and pear trees established Langham Fruit Farms. By 1933 he was selling 200 tons of soft fruit a year. In 1933 Captain Charles Maturin-Baird, (later Lt. Colonel), brother in law of James,

bought Langham Hall and joined Langham Fruit Farms. That meant the area of their farms more than doubled in size and later on included a vineyard behind Malting's Farm which continued to sell Langham wine until 1994. That is why the village sign shows apples and grapes.

To the south of the village Frederick E.Williamson had a small orchard from about 1936 which he ran from Park Lane Farm. When the old airfield was sold in 1947 he bought about 350 acres and planted mainly apple orchards. Mr Williamson had bought the School Farm which was a small dairy farm. He then sold off the farmhouse and converted the



The aerial photograph from 1948 above shows Hillcrest looking towards Langham Church. The pear orchards in the background are just a small part of Langham Fruit Farms.

outbuildings into his cold storage and distribution centre for the Langham orchard and other orchards that he owned. That is now the Whitnell business area. The Williamsons finally sold most of the land in 2006.

In addition to the two large businesses there were several small orchards, like Guy Spencer's which was adjacent to School Road and run from Oak Apple Farm. The houses called Spencer's Piece are in one corner of the old orchard. He

used the area now called Hornestreet Nature Reserve for a morello cherry orchard, his cold store and a piggery. On old maps of Langham that area is called Hornestreet and hence the name of the wild life area.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Boxes can be dropped off at our stall at both the Langham and Boxted local

markets: **Langham** Sunday 6th December, 10 am to 3pm **Boxted** Sunday 13th December 2pm to 5pm **or** Wednesday 9th December 1.15 to 2.15 at **Langham Community Centre**, 2.45 to 3.45pm at **Boxted Village Hall**.

An additional date has been added: Monday 14th December 10am till 12pm at **Langham Community Centre.**

Alternatively they can be left at 1 Pegasus Way on St Johns Estate, Colchester CO4 0QG between 10 and 4pm.

Thank you again for the support shown to this year's appeal. You truly are helping to spread joy in a year when it's needed more than ever.



Boxted Remembrance Sunday Service

DROP-OFF

INFORMATION!

8th November 2020

With the kind permission of Will Lodge, photographer

Correction: Last month it was stated that Ian Hollands is a member of the Heritage Group of the Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers. He is in fact a member of Langham Heritage Group

BOXTED METHODIST SILVER BAND

Boxted Methodist Silver Band (at the time of writing, according to national lockdown restrictions but hopefully they may be lifted) will not be able to undertake

all of its hectic December schedule of performances ahead of Christmas, which last year totalled nearly 20 – with the Band bringing the spirit and joy of Christmas to an estimated 4,500 people at supermarkets in Colchester, outdoors at Nayland and Long Melford, and, of course, here in Boxted at our annual concert at Boxted Village Hall...and touring different residential areas in the village.

However, the Band are committed to doing whatever we can do to reach out with the Christmas spirit and music as we have for more than 120 years.

Boxted Methodist Silver Band is the only surviving Methodist band in England. It is unique, writes Sir Bob Russell, Chairman of the Band since autumn 2019. It was formed in 1898, and until this year (prior to Covid-19) it was based in the School Room next to Boxted Methodist Church – which closed the previous year, in July 2019.

It had been the Band's hope to remain in the School Room, which we persuaded Colchester Borough Council (with support from Boxted Parish Council) to register as an "asset of community value". This gave a legal protection for the Band to have six months to raise £145,000 to buy the School Room. Alas, the shut-down caused by Covid-19 meant that our fundraising efforts were in vain. To those that did

donate, thank you. If, as we did not purchase that hall, you wish for your donation to be returned please get in touch. We really appreciates these donations and support as it has been a very difficult year for the Band.

Colchester Methodist Circuit has shut four Methodist churches in villages around

from England's only

surviving Methodist

Silver Band

Colchester, but they cannot shut England's only surviving Methodist Band – and the Band will stay in Boxted, loyal to its Boxted roots and keeping the word *Methodist* in its unique title.

The School Room has now been sold by the Methodist Circuit. However, Boxted Methodist Silver Band plays on.......

Remaining in the village is key for the Band and it gives us great joy to announce that we have a new home! The owners of Fillpots Garden Centre have welcomed us and rehearsals will commence there shortly. This is truly wonderful for the Band, and for the village, and we thank Fillpots owner Richard for his kindness and community spirit. More about the Band's and Fillpots events in the New Year.

Once the Covid-19 restrictions are lifted the Band will resume its regular programme of performing not just in Boxted but also the wider area of Colchester and across the border into Suffolk as it has done for decades.

Last year we performed at Windsor Castle, in Her Majesty the Queen's private chapel. Similar prestigious locations are planned for the future – Westminster Central Hall and a concert at Dedham church with the Band's 125th anniversary in 2023 very much something to look forward to.

Boxted residents have given great support to the Band in the past, and the Band will continue to support the village in whatever way it can through the Christmas season and beyond.

Trevor Bellis

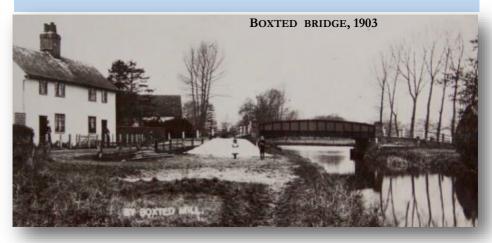
Vice Chairman, Boxted Methodist Silver Band



BOXTED BRIDGE UNDER THREAT

The present bridge over the Stour was erected in 1900 to replace an older wooden structure. The ravages of time and too much heavy vehicle traffic have since taken their toll. Limited remedial action or full-scale replacement of the structure are the options under consideration, the latter with a redesigned road layout likely to alter irredeemably the character of the area.

A **Save Boxted Bridge** video has been published by a local group campaigning to improve rather than replace the present historic structure - the course of action currently favoured by Essex County Council. A facebook page is being established and a petition is underway: www.change.org/p/essex-county-council-save-our-bridge while a YouTube video has also been uploaded. A **'Save Our Bridge'** page has been added to the Boxted website: boxted.org.uk/2020/11/10/bridge/ where the petition can be accessed.





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Coronavirus Update : Libraries

Essex Libraries is closed for book borrowing from Thursday 5 November. Some libraries are continuing to offer public computer use by appointment only.

The mobile library service is temporarily paused. A new click-and-collect service will be put in place. The home library service will continue and the e-library service is still fully accessible.

Essex Registration Service and Blue Badge Assessments that take place from libraries will continue to operate.

Boxted Parish Council are calling for sites of interest to develop **housing for local people** on a Rural Exception Sitesee the website https://boxtedparish.council.org.uk/call-for-sites-for-rural-exception-affordable-housing/ for details

Boxted Parish Council has a vacancy!

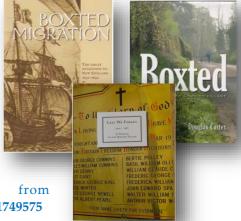
If you live in Boxted and would be interested in giving your time to help improve the village by becoming a Councillor, then please see the advert at boxtedparishcouncil.org.uk/vacancies/

The advert is open until the 6th January 2021.

Three books on Boxted and its past make excellent Christmas presents. Boxted:Portrait of an English Village (£20), Boxted Migration: The Great Migration from Boxted to America 1630-1640 (£5) and Lest We Forget 1914-1918:A Tribute to the Boxted Fallen (£5).

All proceeds will go to Boxted and Langham Church funds.

The books are available from **stephenwhybrow@msn.com** or **07801749575**



This year, for the first time ever, we are making a Christmas Appeal.

Unfortunately COVID-19 has severely curtailed our fundraising efforts but a regular monthly payment for as little as £2 (more if you wish) will help us so much at the moment.

If you would like to give someone a present that will help a needy animal throughout the year, please make cheques or BACS payable to **Suffolk & Essex Small Animal Welfare at NatWest Bank, Account No. 52717321, Sort Code 60-21-30.**

Alternatively, go to our sponsorship on our website at: nnnv.sesan.co.uk/np-content/uploads/2018/04/sponsorship-form_2018.pdf or phone for a form. Thank you to all supporters, past, present and future.



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- 4. Gill Brown (71)

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Scheduled dates for meetings.

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December 2

2021

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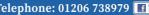
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Please visit www.korban.org.uk/online-donations

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Church Office currently closed due to COVID19 – all enquiries through email please.

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Cage Lane, Boxted, CO4 5RE

Contact

Debbie Eley

Telephone:- 01206 870266

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

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