

ST MARY & ST PETER NEWSLETTER



October 2025

CoverPicture : *BOXTED W.I. – grape-picking* Thanks to Jacquie King

CHURCH SERVICES

5th October – Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

9.30am at St Peter's – Harvbest
Thanksgiving

12th October – Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

9.30am at St Mary's – Holy
Communion

19th October – Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

9.30am at St Peter's – Holy
Communion
3.00pm at St Peter's – Harvest
Messy Church

25th October – Saturday

3.00pm at St Peter's churchyard –
Forest Church

26th October – Last Sunday after Trinity

9.30am at St Mary's – Holy
Communion

2nd November – All Saints Sunday

9.30am at St Peter's – Morning
Worship
3.00pm at St Peter's – All Souls
service

To check for other services and any
alterations please email The
Reverend Heather Wilcox –
RevHWilcox@outlook.com



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

Welcome to the October Newsletter.

You know it's getting late in the year when you start to see the Autumn schedule programmes on terrestrial telly and the Operation Shoebox advert in the parish magazine. The details are in this issue (Shoebox, not the TV listings) and your support is invited.

Speaking of support for local causes—sadly, Aldercar Wood oil club has now closed. The reasons behind this were threefold: Poor support from residents across the two villages; Poor response from suppliers; Minimal achievable savings. We would like to thank Steve Skennerton for his voluntary time over the last few years, who helped make some savings for us all but, given the lack of volumes being ordered, it was no longer adding value for the time and effort involved. Fuel prices are inherently volatile (like the fuel itself) and even a small movement in the market can wipe out any price-advantage that the bulk

purchaser might benefit from. But it's still a shame that a local business has been hit with the consequences of wars and turmoil in distant parts.

Homeowners are now encouraged to trim and tidy up any hedges and overhanging greenery at this time of year so that they (the greenery, not the homeowners) do not pose a hazard to passers-by and to traffic. I am tempted to say that you should wish them a 'frond farewell', but that would be frivolous so I won't mention it.

The last issue was delayed in production and distribution —entirely my fault—so I have included a double helping of History Group reports so that you need not feel cheated. Next issue will probably have details of the panto (Oh no it won't! Oh yes it will!) and other Yuletide fun to come.

Steve Pollington,
Editor

BOXTED RUNNERS

On Saturday 13th September 10 Boxted Runners took on the challenge of the Suffolk Coastal Path 50km which involves running from Lowestoft to Aldeburgh. All of them had trained for months and months to get themselves ready for this event. Ready on the start line were:-

*Chris—Gillian—Deena — Ian—
Jacs—Janos - Lou—Michelle -
Norman -Vanessa*

They were met with a variety of conditions throughout, but all of them finished the event with real aplomb. All of them can be incredibly proud of themselves and have no doubt inspired a number of Boxted Runners. There were some particularly notable achievements. Deena was the 3rd lady home and the first lady in her age group. Vanessa was the 4th lady home and the first lady in her age group. Very well done everyone. Just superb.

BOXTED EVERGREENS

Our Club meets in the village hall every fourth Thursday of the month from 2.00pm to 3.30pm. The age of our members varies but the club would suit anyone over 60 so please come along and you would be given a warm welcome. Our members are always asked for their suggestions before our yearly

entertainment programme is arranged and we do try our best to cater for everyone.

If you would like more information about our club please call Elaine on 01206 273183.



Langham Community Centre's

100 Club Draw

July winners were

1st Marlena Lipski

2nd David Gill

3rd Sylvia Mays

4th Karen Jones

New members welcome.

Contact

01206 323007

shannon955@msn.com .

WHEELCHAIR LOAN

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

Enquiries may be phoned to 01255 201763 or emailed to

wheelchairloan@gmail.com

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PROBUS CLUB OF COLCHESTER

After our annual summer break our members met on Wednesday 10th September 2025. There was a very good turnout of 27 individuals including 2 guests, potential new members, 7 ladies and 19 gentlemen. A very good start for our winter season of talks and lunches etc.

Our meeting started with the sad news that Bob Juniper a long time member, had passed away the previous week and so we stood for a moment of reflection. Bob will be greatly missed because he was a stalwart of our club. Those attending were treated to a talk titled **COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION**

This was presented jointly by Peter Rowbottom and Barrie Sears.

There are 1.7 million Commonwealth servicemen and women commemorated with 1.1 million headstones in 23000 locations around the world, equivalent to 994 football pitches. Six countries and their governments contribute to the cost of maintenance of these war graves. There are war graves in Europe, Asia, Africa, Oceania, North and South America. Two of the largest sites are in Belgium and France. Slides were shown of graveyards in Gallipoli, Iraq, Singapore, Hong Kong, El-Alamein, Egypt and the UK. The war graves commission was set up under the

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leadership of Sir Fabion Ware and Rudyard Kipling played a very active part. A slide was shown of a body density map for 1916/17, it was stated that many bodies were incomplete. The commission agreed a design of a headstone and these are made either from Portland stone or Scottish granite. Each headstone etched on it the following: Regimental badge, Rank Name, Number, Religious emblem, Date of death and age.

The Menin Gate memorial was mentioned. This is located in the Belgium town of Ypres and includes the names of those who fell in the 2nd World War that currently have no known grave. In the UK 185K war graves have to be maintained including other nationalities. One example of a gravestone simply states "*Ein Deutsche Soldat*".

Slides were shown of badly damaged war graves in Mosel and in Iraq and today efforts are being made to reinstate them.

One of the speakers gave an example of his grandfather and when he was killed. He met a gentleman who coincidentally was in the same regiment and was with his grandfather when he passed away.

At the end the Commonwealth War Graves website was mentioned that contains many details of those who had fallen during the 1st and 2nd World Wars, in addition there are details of those who served since the 2nd World War who were killed in action. This was a most detailed and interesting talk. And resulted in many questions from members. One member who

was working in Africa mentioned that he had been asked to find a remote war grave and he and his workmen cleared the site of trees and bushes and sent photos back to the CWGC.

The Probus Club of Colchester meet every two weeks at the modern club house of Colchester Rugby Club. This is located just off the A12 near to the Park and Ride. There is ample parking and easy access for those with disabilities.

Our club have a few social outings, including friendly Croquet matches and Golf, so if you enjoy a game of golf you would be most welcome. Our club also have lunch meetings at the Rugby Club where we enjoy a good standard of food. In the Autumn our Presidents lunch is held at the Colne Valley Golf club. At these lunch meeting our members may bring their partners.

Ladies and Gentlemen who have retired or about to retire from the Business and or a Professional career are welcome and if you are interested then please contact the clubs President Mr Alan Gilbert on E: alaneorgegilbert@yahoo.co.uk He will explain more about our club.

The Hon. sec Keith Augustus on M: 07860 371714 or E:

keithAugustus@outlook.com or the clubs president Mr Alan Gilbert on T: 01206 853437 or E:

alangeorgegilbert@yahoo.co.uk

Bob Cash

Publicity Officer

Operation Christmas Child 2025

This autumn we are excited to be partnering, as a parish, with the charity **Operation Christmas Child** and their shoebox project—who are extremely excited at the thought of receiving shoeboxes for needy children around the world this November.

More info: Get gift suggestions and full guidance for packing shoeboxes here:

SamaritansPurse.org.uk/PackAShoebox

There's a suggested donation of £5 per box to cover shipping and other project costs.

As we prepare for this year's campaign we will again be having donation boxes and giving trees in both Langham and Boxted

Churches along with **Harpers Caffe, Boxted** during October and early November for items to be dropped into which can then be used at this year's packing event.



This year Operation Christmas Child will be collecting shoebox gifts during **National Collection Week, 10-17 November 2025.**

Why not get involved with your loved ones by packing some shoeboxes or come along to our **Community Packing Party on Saturday 8th November** at St Peter's Boxted, between 2 and 4pm ?

Also in the run up to Collection Week and to raise funds to help fund the shipping and processing costs for the boxes being packed at our Packing Party we will be holding a **Quiz Evening on Saturday 18th October at Boxted Village Hall at 7pm for a 7.30pm start.** Teams of 6 with a £5 entry fee per person.

For More details please get in touch with Tim Clarke, on 07792060597 or email timclarkie03@gmail.com

Essex Highways

Landowners urged to cut vegetation now bird nesting season is over.

Overgrown trees, hedges and ditches can quickly turn into safety concerns.

Landowners are being reminded that trees, hedges, ditches and other vegetation close to highways needs to be maintained with summer drawing to a close.

Overgrown vegetation can prevent roads and paths from being safe when wetter weather and shorter days draw near, blocking paths and restricting clear view of the highway.

Grass cut in wet conditions can also lead to clumps being deposited by lawnmowers onto highways. Therefore, grass cutting is ideally carried out when the weather is drier.

Landowners are responsible for maintaining foliage on their land, even if it is close to a road or pavement. They have a duty of

care to take reasonable steps to prevent risk.

Overgrown vegetation can restrict paths, reduce sight, and cause floods when ditches and drains become clogged. Now bird nesting season is over, landowners should carry out work such as:

removing overhanging branches that obscure the view of the road

removing overhanging branches that lower the road's clearance for tall vehicles, such as double-decker school buses

trimming or removing trees that are in danger of falling onto the pavement or road

removing overgrown shrubs that block lighting or traffic signs

removing trenches on private property to prevent flooding when it rains

Most trees and hedges by roads are on privately owned land. Owners can include district councils, parish councils, housing associations, farmers and homeowners.

Essex Highways' £25 million Priority One programme of highways maintenance included 582

vegetation clearances during the summer.

Councillor Tom Cunningham, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport, said: “It is paramount that landowners maintain vegetation on their own properties to help ensure clear visibility on our roads and footpaths for pedestrians and road users alike.

“We appreciate the cooperation of landowners in carrying out these essential maintenance tasks. They play a crucial role in creating a safer, greener and healthier Essex, while helping to enhance the pride we all have in our great county.”



Boxted Wildlife

WORKING TO CREATE A WILDLIFE FRIENDLY VILLAGE.

VILLAGE WALKS

MEET AT THE VILLAGE HALL
10:00 AM

SAT 16TH AUG
SAT 20TH SEPT
SAT 18TH OCT
SAT 15TH NOV
SAT 20TH DEC
SAT 17TH JAN ('26)
SAT 21ST FEB ('26)

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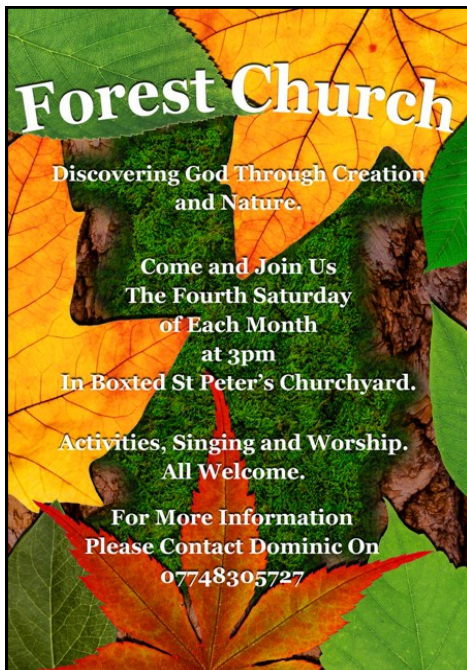
 www.facebook.com/BoxtedWildlife  Info@BoxtedWildlife.co.uk

LANGHAM LADIES

The Langham Ladies meeting will be held Thursday October 9th in Langham Community Centre starting at 7.30pm. As the subject the speaker is talking about will be of interest to many people this will be an open meeting so non members and gentlemen will be very welcome to come for £5 which includes refreshments coffee/tea and homemade cakes.

The speaker is Michael Reynolds his talk being "*The World of Secret Intelligence*" We look forward to seeing you all.

New Members will always be made welcome also if you want to give it a try come as a guest £5 to see what we are about.



Forest Church

Discovering God Through Creation and Nature.

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at 3pm
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The Joy of Community

A couple of weeks ago, at the beginning of September, the churches in the Kings Ridge Parishes - comprising the churches in Langham with Boxted, Great Horkesley, Little Horkesley, West Bergholt, Mount Bures and Wormingford—came together for what we called a ‘Community Festival’.

It was a wonderful occasion, the sun shone, and gathering at a farm in Little Horkesley, we had the use of an amazing barn, orchard, garden and Little Horkesley church, and around 300 people of all ages, enjoyed the Inter Parish games, organ music, crafts, garden games, tea and cake, a bouncy castle, worship and a Ploughmans supper, topped off with a free ice cream.

The 6 parishes, which includes 8 churches, which makes up the King’s Ridge Parishes, as I reflected on during the time of worship, are a diverse group of people. Our strapline sums us up by saying: *‘Many Voices, One Mission’*. We do have many voices, many different ways of doing things, but we are all united in one mission, to love and serve the Lord our God.

The Community Festival, celebrated all that unites us, whilst also celebrating our diversity and the rich tapestry of

our churchmanship. Throughout the afternoon a series of 6 videos were playing both in the church and in the barn, 1 for each parish, which celebrated something that each church holds dear to them. Each video was different, but together they made a wonderful whole.

Throughout the summer, there have been wonderful occasions, drawing communities together, be it through village fetes, or vintage car shows. Over the coming months, we look forward to many more such occasions, ranging from fireworks displays, Remembrance day parades, Christmas fayres and Carol singing events.

At times, scrolling through social media or watching the news, it might feel that we live in a society, which is becoming increasingly fragmented and polarised. I would encourage us rather to focus on all that unites us. To celebrate, those moments when we can come together, and rejoice in the fact that though each one of us is totally unique, I believe, we are all made in the image of God, and God’s beloved children.

May God bless you

Heather

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Langham Fireworks Display
Sat 1st November 2025

Visit langhamfireworks.com
for more details & tickets



A friendly and welcoming group meeting regularly at the Village Hall with occasional trips. Come for just one evening (entry of £5) or take a year's membership for just £15. You don't need to be a specialist or academic, just interested in history and hearing about something new.

Next meetings:

Wednesday October 15th 7.30pm

London's

Docklands

Wednesday November 19th 7.30pm

**A high-speed run through
200 Years of Rail History**

For more information on the group contact Scott on 07904 887000

BOXTED HISTORY GROUP

Located at Bawdsey on the Suffolk coast is a museum that represents the birthplace of modern radar. A base was set up as the world's first fully operational radar station in September 1937 when the political situation in Europe was becoming increasingly fraught and was escalating towards the outbreak of World War Two. After World War One there was much discussion among politicians and strategists about how the country could be defended and the setting up of the station was a response to this.

Work on radar began in the 1930s when Robert Watson and Arnold Wilkins, based at nearby Bawdsey manor, conducted a range of

experiments to show that radar waves could detect aircraft. This was a major breakthrough in defence technoradarology and, when World War Two started, the radar station became fully operational and played a vital role in the Battle of Britain. It enabled the RAF to detect and intercept incoming German aircraft. It was an important element in the Chain network, a series of stations that gave early warning of aircraft approaching from mainland Europe. During the war Bawdsey was identified as a potential target for enemy aircraft and large guns were installed. As fear of invasion increased, trenches were dug and more gun

The Electric Palace—in its heyday



emplacements were put in place together with pill boxes. In spite of these precautions Bawdsey was bombed on at least twelve occasions. Fortunately the station itself was not hit.

After 1945 the station continued to be in use during the Cold War, finally closing in 1991. Today the transmitter block serves as a museum that demonstrates the groundbreaking work that was done there. It is open to the public on certain days of the week.

The Boxted History Group paid a visit to this fascinating place.

The Electric Palace in Harwich was one of the first cinemas in the country when it was built in 1911. It was the brainchild of Charles Thurston, a travelling showman who wanted somewhere local to show the new silent films that were fast becoming fashionable. Put up in 18 weeks, it was inexpensive to go into the cinema, with three levels of pricing that reflected the class structure of the day. The cheapest seats were simply wooden benches. It had its own generator to generate electricity.

The Electric Palace was very popular especially during World War One but, as a result of newer cinemas opening in town together with the decline in Harwich's population, attendance at what became known as *the fleapit* began to drop off. However, it still managed to struggle on. The spread of television in the 1950's led to a further decline in cinema going but the greatest blow to The Electric Palace came in 1953 with the east coast floods which inundated the building. It was pumped dry but too much damage had been done to remain viable. It closed in 1956 and became derelict, used by fishermen to store their nets and a colony of cats. The Council did not know what to do with it and so it was just left in the small side street where it stood. Eventually a demolition order was put on it in the 1970's. Just before it could be pulled down a polytechnic lecturer, Gordon Miller, spotted it in 1974 and recognised its architectural importance and its significance in the history of cinema. He managed to get the demolition order lifted.

Raising money for the restoration of the cinema was difficult but *The Harwich Society*, *English Heritage* and local people rallied around to try to do something. They set up a trust to



Electric Palace—restored to former glory after its recent refurbishment

raise money but this was before the lottery Fund and was not an easy task. They made the building usable again and bought a small projector so that cinema-goers could pay a modest fee to watch films. Local people gave it a lot of support. Financing the whole operation was very difficult and the project had to rely heavily on volunteers.

Now registered as a charity, the cinema is able to apply for grants and, while it is doing well, it still relies on volunteers. During its restoration many of the original features were retained, including the frontage and the ticket office, the

exterior projection room and the interior wall décor. It now has new seats and an up to date sound system even though the projection room is still reached via an outside ladder.

The History Group visited The Electric Palace where Hayley Forrest talked to them about the building's past. The next meeting of the Group will be in the village hall at 8.00pm on 15th October when Peter Tatam will talk about London Dockland. For information phone 07904 887000.

ALAN LADBROOKE

BOXTED W.I.

With harvest season upon us, some of our members very much enjoyed joining the team of volunteers picking grapes at the vineyard.

Setting the mood for the September evening meeting, our organiser for the night gamely sported a fetching banana costume and briefed us on the 'rules'. Some members certainly revealed their wordsmith talents and the games produced much fun and laughter!

Finally, the W.I. are very proud to announce the achievement of two members; Gillian & Jacs who on a blustery September Saturday took part in the Suffolk Coastal Trail running event from Lowestoft to Aldeburgh - a huge distance of 50k!! Congratulations to them!

In addition to the 14 October main meeting, members will be meeting in Harpers Caff  /Hub for an am coffee and chat, wearing pink in support of fighting Breast Cancer



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- * We also visit folk who are housebound for friendly chats**
- * Registration is very simple—just phone the number for the day shown on the posters or in the Parish Magazine a few days before your appointment**
- * There is no charge for the service, although donations are very welcome**
- * All our volunteers are DBS checked and are friendly and experienced**

Interested in volunteering? Please get in contact with Annette Whybrow:

annettejwhybrow@gmail.com

01206 272773

07983519825

Langham with Boxted PCC Registered Charity: 1131211

BOXTED HISTORY GROUP

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

7.30 for 8pm.

Guests always welcome.



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

BOXTED CARPET BOWLS CLUB

Come and join us for a friendly, enjoyable afternoon playing bowls at **Boxted Village Hall on Friday 2 - 4 pm**, Sept to April

Further info please contact:

Michael Hubbard 01206 271892

Sue Smith 07465443795

sueronben@gmail.com

2nd Langham Scout Group

Meetings are held each Wednesday evening at the Community Centre.

Squirrels 5:00 to 6:00

Beavers 4:45 to 6:00

Cubs 6:00 to 7:30

Scouts 7:30 to 9:00

Contact Group Scout Leader:

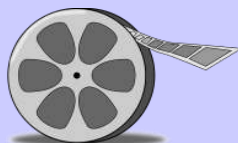
James Puxley 07935 909063

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/



Crafty Ladies

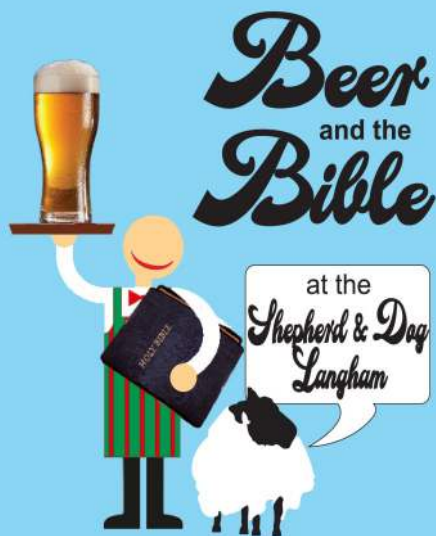
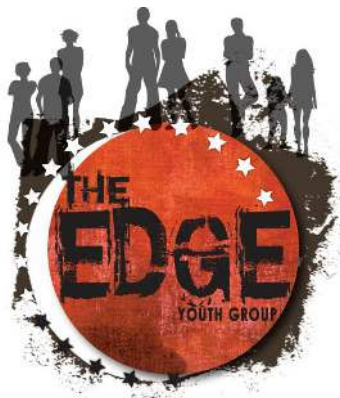
Meet on first Wednesday of each month throughout the year, 10.00 am to 3.00 pm at the Community Centre. Subscription £26 due March and September. Contact Chrissy Todd tel. 07742 131454.

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!*



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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LANGHAM—The Early Years



The picture shows the location of a group of ancient burial mounds indicated clearly here in the cropmarks in a local field. Each ring shows where a round ditch was dug, and the excavated earth was then piled up in the middle to form a ‘hillock’ . The burial was usually placed in the centre. These ones probably date to the Bronze Age, perhaps 2000 BC.

It is just about possible that these mounds were still visible in the landscape 2500 years later because the Saxon settlers of the area in the 5th century AD called their dwelling-place *Hlawingabam* ‘settlement of the people who dwell by the mounds’ - the earliest form of the name ‘Langham’. There are no other known burial mounds in the immediate vicinity—but who knows what features were lost to the picks and shovels of railway navvies and the bulldozers of housebuilders between the wars? (Photo: Langham Heritage Group)

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

Monday.....230525 or 273324

Tuesday.....07707 602702 or 273195

Wednesday....272755 or 272013

Thursday..... 07765 037892 or 323007

Friday..... 272773

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

Creating space in Boxted's graveyard

St Peter's in Boxted is a beautiful church for weddings, christenings and funerals as well as a peaceful place for visitors. The church and graveyard are maintained by a team of volunteers in conjunction with Reverend Heather and the Parochial Church Council.

As those who visit the graveyard will know, we need to create more burial spaces. Every resident in Boxted has the right to be buried here. Currently we can provide spaces for only the next 18-24 months and so our plan is to create around 50 new spaces by clearing available areas so that we have enough for the next 15 years or so.

At the entrance gates there is a large area on the right to clear back to the roadside hedge. At the far end we need to clear a row of overgrowth and dead elm trees beyond and to the left of the final row of graves. We also need to reduce and cut back the southern boundary hedge to keep it clear for graves along this edge. Other maintenance work will be carried out including raising low-hanging branches, removing dead wood in larger trees and reshaping overgrown holly bushes, as well as renovating the



boundary hedges. There is a fundraising campaign underway to raise £10,000 to cover this work. If you wish to contribute, please email the treasurer stephenwbybrow@msn.com or call Stephen on 01206 272773.

For any queries regarding church matters please contact the parish office on 01206 243683 / 6parishescolchester@gmail.com. The full church contact list is at the back of this Parish News.

All are welcome to attend the All Souls service when we remember loved ones who have died, on 2nd November 2025 at 3pm at St Peter's Church, Church Street, Boxted CO4 5SU (car park on Church Lane).

Reverend Emma



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For more information, or to book a space, please either email enquiries@2ndlanghamscouts.org or contact us via our website.

www.2ndlanghamscouts.org

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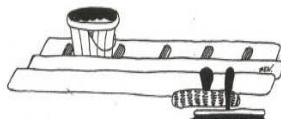
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If you would like more information about our club please call Linda on 01206 272710 or Elaine on 01206 273183. *If you would like more information about our club please call Linda on 01206 272710.*

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Contact Details

Websites

Boxted – www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6458

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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

Rassell (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

Dominic & Linda Shiel 273324

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**Deadline for submissions for the
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