

ST MARY & ST PETER NEWSLETTER



April 2026

Cover Picture : *Kestrel spotted in the graveyard at Boxted church.* Thanks to Luke Smith

CHURCH SERVICES

1st April – Wednesday of Holy Week

10.00am at St Mary's – said Holy Communion

2nd April – Maundy Thursday

4.00pm at St Mary's – Holy Communion and stripping of the altar

3rd April – Good Friday

12.00 noon at St Peter's – Meditation on the Passion

5th April – Easter Day

6.00am at St Peter's – Sunrise Service
9.30am at St Mary's – Easter Holy Communion

12th April – Second Sunday of Easter

10.30am at St Mary's West Bergholt
United celebration of Holy Communion (followed by lunch)

19th April – Third Sunday of Easter

9.30am at St Peter's – Holy Communion

Saturday 25th April –

3.00pm at St Peter's – Forest Church



26th April – Fourth Sunday of Easter

9.30am at St Mary's – Holy Communion

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



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

Welcome to the April Newsletter.

ur cover picture this month was taken by Luke Smith, who is a local tree surgeon. Luke was working in the graveyard at Boxted church when he spotted a female kestrel perched on one of the headstones and quickly took this impressive shot of an equally impressive bird. Thanks to Emma Fowler for sending it in.

The resurgence of nature is now all around us, of course, and my garden is full of daffodils and crocuses (all right, *croc*i) and, amazingly, some snake-head fritillaries which we planted last year and forgot about. Lovely! My garden also contains some broken bits of clay pipe which are probably 18th century in date and must have been discarded at about the same time as our colonies in the Americas decided that enough was enough, and they would rather not pay taxes into a system that does not take care of them (we *all* feel like that, lads). It's quite strange to get

such a direct connection: handling humble, everyday things that were in constant use so long ago—and tossed aside by the owner when they were no longer useful. It puts the state of our roadside verges into context—it seems we have always been inclined to throw out things in anger when they break unexpectedly.

Perhaps the pipe's owner was looking forward to a relaxing smoke during his meal break, sat down on a log, took out his baccy pouch and firesteel and — 'oh dear, me pipe's broken!' - then hurled it into the long grass and stumped off in a foul mood. He might even be among the people commemorated on the headstones that Luke photographed. Spooky!

Steve Pollington,
Editor

Did you know Langham Community Shop has been here
for you for over 20 years!
Welcoming you every day, 364 days a year, that's over 7500
times the doors have been opened every morning!



And the most staggering part of all, every friendly,
helpful, kind and caring person welcoming you when you
walk through the door is a VOLUNTEER.

We are not just a group of people that turn up every now
and again, we are a family, we are friends and we all do it
for each other, for the shop and for our amazing community.

Many of our volunteers have been here since the very
beginning, some played a huge part in getting the shop
started and everyone has helped to keep it what it is today.

**We are proud of what we do,
and we will continue for many more years.**

We regularly see too many small, local businesses closing
around us. With your constant and continued support
we will continue to work hard and always be here for you.

You can also be part of our family; you can support us
and help us to stay here where we belong.

We can not just always rely on the generosity of what we
have, we need more volunteers to keep us going and
be able to stay open later as we have now managed to do.

Sunday 14th June 2026

Boxted 10k

5K and 2K Fun Run

<https://boxted10k.co.uk>

**BOXTED
RUNNERS**



- 🕒 Chip to chip timing
- 🏆 Bespoke medal & category trophies
- 🍷 BBQ & Refreshments
- 🏰 Children's Bouncy Castles

Boxted Primary School
Carters Hill, Boxted
Colchester, CO4 5YN



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Do you have a few hours to spare each week? We are on the look out for volunteers to join our happy team of volunteers and drive our van for occasional collections and deliveries.

No special licence is required

Contact us at...

fundraising@helenrollason.org.uk

Helen Rollason
Cancer Charity



LANGHAM SCARECROW TRAIL

13TH JUNE, 10AM-4PM

DESIGN YOUR OWN SCARECROW DISPLAY

REGISTER BEFORE 31ST MARCH 2026

Email to register your interest - communityshoplangham@gmail.com and for further information

ALL money raised for St Helena HOSPICE

MAPS E1 ON THE DAY FROM LANGHAM COMMUNITY SHOP

Kindly Sponsored by **GARDEN GROUND MAINTENANCE SERVICES**

Have you spotted the road signs?



Sadly we get Hedgehog road casualties in our village. As they are nocturnal, this makes them vulnerable. So we have put up signs to remind drivers to take care and look out for them.

Boxted Wildlife



LANGHAM ARTISAN & FARMERS MARKET

13TH JUNE 2026

from 10am to 1pm

Langham Community Centre, School Road, Colchester, CO4 5PA

Please contact Dawn if you are interested in exhibiting at the market:
langhamccbookings@gmail.com



Edward Bear Team

will be hosting their popular

Woodland Walk Easter Trail

@ Lawford Church CO11 2JX

Saturday 4th April 2026

2pm-4pm

open to all preschool, infant & primary aged children.

Cost per a child £2.00 with an Easter gift upon completion

please wear suitable footwear & clothing

Refreshments available in the Church
which will be decorated to celebrate Easter

Please book your place by texting with your details
and number of children attending to
Gill on 07791418388

Langham Parish Councillor Vacancy

YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU!

Langham Parish Council currently has a vacancy for a member of the public to become a Parish Councillor. If you'd like to get involved in decision making about your local community & local issues and would like to make a positive contribution to the area in which you live or work, then this is the position for you.



Do you have an interest in your local community,
environment, transport, amenities,
planning and housing issues,
community events,
as well as your local government finances
and want to make a difference then please apply!

- You must be aged 18 years and over, eligible to vote and have lived or worked in the parish of Langham for 12 months or more, or within 3 miles of the parish boundary.

- For more information, please e-mail in the first instance

Carol Harbach, Clerk to Langham Parish Council:

Email: clerk@langhamparishcouncil.co.uk

Colchester SUGARCRAFT Association
presents a

FULL-DAY

MODEL MAKING WORKSHOP

Saturday 30th May 9.30am – 4.00pm

Tollgate Hall Villa Road,
Stanway, CO3 0RH
(behind Stanway Village Hall)



This event will be run by Christina Georgiou, an internationally renowned expert in sugarcraft
Minimal equipment will be required, a list will be given on application

Please bring your own lunch

Tea and coffee will be provided

The fee is £60

Example model

Email Carol at b15hie@hotmail.co.uk

Numbers are strictly limited, so apply soon.

© Colchester Sugarcraft Association 1995

BOXTED PARISH COUNCIL REPORT – MARCH 2026

A reminder that parish council meetings are open to the public. Please do come along and we have agenda time allocated at the beginning of each meeting for residents to raise issues.

Our March meeting was quiet with no members of the public coming along.

Planning applications were discussed this month and any comments agreed can be found on the Colchester City Planning portal – search for Boxted and you find those affecting the village.

www.colchester.gov.uk/planning-search-results/

Fly tipping should be reported to Colchester.gov.uk/recycling-and-rubbish/fly-tipping/

There is little news on the sites that will be included in Colchester's **New Local Plan**, which might have the land adjacent to the Hill Farm development included. They are still looking at the objections raised and looking at potential new sites that have been proposed – none of which are in Boxted.

We have heard that the **National Grid Pylon project** has is at hearing stage where the Governmental Planning Inspector is examining the case for passing legislation permitting the Pylon project to be implemented. A good

place for updates is the facebook page for 'Essex Suffolk Norfolk Pylons'.

The Annual Parish Meeting (not a council meeting but an opportunity for all residents to talk and raise issues is scheduled for 7pm on Wednesday 13 th May. Please do come along.

The council will be writing to our MP, Sir Bernard Jenkin, to make the point that Boxted residents are unable to access a national gas supply and often must rely on heating oil. The increase in price is and will cause financial difficulty and also, we have heard that companies supplying oil are restricting volume and cancelling orders at the previous low price. We hope that Sir Bernard will add his voice to that of Suffolk MPs calling out this issue.

Our **next council meeting** is Wed 8 th April at 730pm in the Village Hall. Please come along.

Please get in touch with the Council by dropping an email to clerk@boxted-pc.gov.uk , look at

www.boxtedparishcouncil.org.uk and follow the Facebook page 'Boxted Parish Council'.

Notice for those tending graves at St Peter's Boxted graveyard

Reverend Heather and the Parochial Church Council need to remind all of us tending to graves about what is allowed according to the rules which have been in place for many years, but which have been less well applied more recently. These rules follow guidance from the Diocese of Chelmsford which applies to all churches and they ensure that the graveyard has a tranquil, ordered appearance.

Each grave may have one flower vase, usually included in the base if there is a headstone, for cut flowers or cut stems of shrubs. Wreaths at Christmas or for a short period around the anniversary of the death are allowed. It is requested that old flowers or wreaths are removed for composting or disposal at home.

The following are not permitted: (i) kerbs, borders, cages or fences around the grave; (ii) the planting of flowers, shrubs or trees; (iii) vases, pots, planters or tubs; (iv) artificial or plastic flowers; (v) other items such as photos, toys, windmills, wood chimes, stones/statues, extra urns.

It falls to the current team to request that prohibited items are removed. We realise that this may cause concern and are trying to get in touch with families where we have contact details. Please do contact us for further explanation - contact details are on the inside back cover.

Currently there are many artificial flowers and plants and increasing use of kerb edging, some with gravel. Extra items, such as memorials and kerbs, make it harder and more time consuming for mowing. The restriction on kerb edging was introduced many years ago (once stone edging started collapsing). As a Garden of Remembrance, the Church insists on only real cut flowers and for the churchyard to be kept as a natural environment.

Items not allowed under the rules will need to be removed as soon as you are able to do so. The deadline is July when the PCC will regretfully need to clear these.

For further information, the burials and memorials guidelines are on the table inside the church and the Diocese of Chelmsford Churchyard Handbook is available on their website www.chelmsford.anglican.org. Alternatively Emma Fowler is currently Secretary to the PCC and will forward any documents requested by email to emmafowler81@gmail.com.

With thanks from Reverend Heather and the Parochial Church Council.

BOXTED W. I.

Members incorporated into the March craft meeting **International Womens Day** with support for the campaign 'No More Violence Against Women' which was established in 2019 following an estimated 1.6 million UK women suffering abuse, harrassment, sexual exploitation, rape, forced marriage and domestic violence. Sadly this continues today with Y/E March 2025 an estimated 2.2 million* UK women suffering violence. That is just

under 10%* of the adult female population!

Eyes were down for intense concentration of bead work creating key fobs with the acronym NMVAW whilst socialising with refreshments of course

'Keep Britain Tidy' was initiated by a W.I. campaign and launched in 1954. Each year 400,000 volunteers clear litter.

Following the article in the March newsletter for the **Great British Spring Clean**, a group of members took up the challenge to litter pick around the villages on cold windy March days to boost the existing local arrangements in an attempt to make a difference and hope that the lack of litter will be a deterrent...fingers crossed!

April meeting: Tuesday 14th at 19:30 Boxted Village Hall



Right:

*Boxted WI get
stuck in Keeping
Britain Tidy in a
Spring Clean
around the
village.*

Below:

Getting crafty !



BOXTED RUNNERS

On Sunday 8th March Boxted Runners had Club members at Half Marathons in Cambridge, Colchester and Lisbon.

A number of Club members were taking on their first ever Half Marathon. Like everyone else they'd put in hours and hours of training throughout the winter to ensure they were ready for their big day. All the training proved worthwhile and we saw some wonderful finishing times across all three races. Without exception all the Boxted Runners stepped up to the plate and rose to the occasion.

As always they all did themselves and Boxted Runners proud. Finishing a

Half Marathon proves that with hard work and dedication anything is possible and that running is about challenging and pushing yourself. They were all cheered on by the ever enthusiastic Boxted Runners who'd come out to watch and support their Club mates.

Yet another first class day for Boxted Runners. If you'd like to know more about Boxted Runners please contact us on

www.boxtedrunners.co.uk

Ian Bown

COLCHESTER SUGARCRAFT

We are a small friendly club who welcome everyone interested in cake decorating and making flowers and models from sugarpaste. We meet at **Stanway Community Hall** on the last Thursday of every month at 7.30. Visitors £5 includes refreshments.

April 30th A.G.M. Sugarpaste model. Renew membership £40 per year.

Contact Sue Albins Sue28albins@btinternet.com or 01026 251955.



Making the Most of the Journey

As April begins, in the church, we come to the end of our Lenten journey to the foot of the cross on Good Friday, in anticipation of our joyful celebrations of Easter 3 days later.

Our Lenten journey is one of reflection, penitence and understanding a little more of what it means to 'Pick up our crosses, and follow Jesus.' It is a sobering pilgrimage, but if we make the most of the journey, then the celebrations on Easter day are even more special, and full of hope, as we remember all that Jesus has done for us, so that we can know that our sins are forgiven, and we have new and eternal life in him.

But so often in life, we find ourselves searching out the quickest way to get from A to B and lose sight of the fact the journey is all part of how we get to our destination in the first place. In our rush, is there a risk we might miss something important along the way?

By the middle of April, I will be getting ready to head off on my three

months Extended Study Leave, or Sabbatical, for want of a better word, and as part of that Sabbatical, I will be going to Santiago in Portugal, but I intend to make the most of the journey, and go by foot, walking the 488 mile route from France, over the Pyrenees and then across Spain.

This is a trip, that is as much about the journey, as it is about the destination. I hope that by the journey, I will be shaped and changed, as I take the time to slow down, to learn a different pace and just enjoy being in God's wonderful creation and the great outdoors.

As I journey, I am looking forward to the encounters I may have with fellow pilgrims along the way, and I am reminded of the disciples, being joined by Jesus on that first Easter day, as they journeyed by foot to Emmaus.

And so my encouragement this Easter time, is for us all, to slow down from all the rushing, and actually make the most of the journey, lest we miss the most important thing.

May God Bless you this Easter time, and I look forward to sharing my sabbatical experiences, when I return in July.

Rev Heather

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BOXED HISTORY GROUP

The Edwardian Age, which lasted from 1900 to the outbreak of the first world war, is still visible in Colchester today. Old photographs show it as recognisable, with a High Street that, being unsurfaced, was dusty in summer and muddy in winter. It was also covered in manure from the horses that provided the bulk of the transport at the time. There were a few concrete crossing places that were kept clean by council workers so ladies in their long dresses could cross without getting dirty.

When Queen Victoria died large crowds gathered in Colchester to hear the proclamation of the new king Edward. One site was in Head

Street near where the Roman gate had been situated. A second proclamation was made on East Hill just outside East Hill House (opposite Greyfriars). A third reading was given outside the Red Lion Hotel in High Street where there was an obelisk. This has since been removed and placed in a prominent spot in Colchester crematorium. On this occasion, as on other occasions, people were brought into town from the villages by horse and cart.

Motorised transport was beginning to appear but hackney carriages were very popular. This was the high point of horse transport and 120 were licenced in Colchester. By-laws governed their use, for example they were allowed to go at no more than 6 miles per hour and they could not carry corpses. Four people could sit in them. Two-seater carriages were called Handsome Cabs and these were very popular especially with the young. They had rubber-clad wheels that made for a quieter and smoother ride. Other carriages such as the Omnibus had 2 horses and could seat 8 people.. They were known as “growlers” because of the noise they made over cobbled streets. The council put straw down to muffle the sound

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when it was known that people were ill.

North Hill presented problems for carriage drivers. Going up, passengers usually had to get out and walk, while going down the weight of the carriage caused it to race ahead and run into the back of the horse even when the driver was applying the brakes.

Although carriages were widely used, people still rode around on horseback and pub landlords provided bales of hay as fodder to entice customers in. Boys could earn pennies by looking after horses for their owners. In 1904 Colchester got its first electric trams. The town was an early adopter of the new form of transport and had 16 in all. It shortly afterwards added 2 more to go from the town centre to the Recreation Ground. The trams were wildly popular and large numbers of the public went on them just for the novelty. They were double-deckers with the upper deck open to the elements. The driver also had no cover. As with carriages, North Hill presented difficulties. On wet mornings the breaks didn't grip and the tram slid down the hill. The solution was for the driver to press a pedal to pump out sand onto the tracks. It was a prob-

lem belonging to an earlier age but one that today we can readily recognise.

Patrick Denny spoke to the History Group about Edwardian Colchester. The next meeting will be at 7.45 pm on 15 April in the village hall. Subject: £10 Poms and short AGM.

ALAN LADBROOKE

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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Langham Parish Council in association with Clacton Classic Car Club



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COFFEE MORNING

HOSTED BY
LANGHAM LADIES

FRIDAY 24th APRIL 2026
at LANGHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE

10.30-1200

ALL WELCOME

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.

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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.

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!

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:

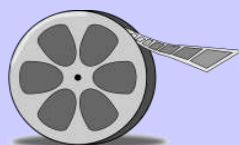
James Puxley 07935 909063

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/](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.



DEDHAM VALE
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01206 272676

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



THE HEARING CARE CENTRE OPEN WEEK

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- * We also visit folk who are housebound for friendly chats**
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- * 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

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
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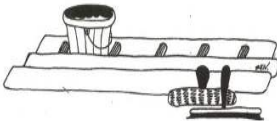
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