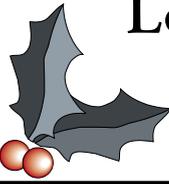


THE SKYLARK

Longstowe Parish Newsletter

January 2012



Longstowe Parish Council News

Christmas Waste and Recycling Collections

- 22/12/2011 Black Bin
31/12/2011 Green & Blue Bins (More than one day late collection)
07/01/2012 Black Bin (More than one day late collection)
13/01/2012 Green & Blue Bins (Day late collection)

Parish Council Clerk: It is with much sadness that I have to report that at the beginning of May 2012 Margaret Sharp will not be renewing her contract as Clerk for Longstowe Parish Council. Margaret would have worked for the Parish Council for three years and her knowledge and expertise will surely be missed by all. I want to wish Margaret all the best and thank her personally for all her hard work and support over the last few years.

Speed Limit Reduction A1198: At various meetings the Council have been reviewing the speed limit reduction on the A1198. The Clerk has reported on the guidance received from CCC, and it has been agreed to progress with the speed limit reduction and instigate an official consultation process. The Clerk has sent the consultation letter to the list of consultees provided and an estimate of costs is in the process of being obtained.

Parish Plan: Following discussing with the Village Hall, the Council have agreed to defer the production of a Parish Plan until changes due through the Localism Agenda are clear.

Police New Telephone Number: You can now contact Cambridgeshire Constabulary on 101 for all non-emergency calls. The 0345 456 456 4 number will remain in use alongside 101 for several months to allow people time to get

used to the new number. The change comes part of a national programme to make 101 the single non-emergency number in England and Wales, giving residents an easy-to-remember number to contact local police wherever they are. The call system is designed to recognise where you are calling from and connect you with the local police service. If you did not want to speak to your local force, or the force area you are in, you will be given the option to be connected to different one. The number change does not affect the way that calls are handled and the force will continue to take non-emergency calls 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Please continue to call 999 when an immediate response is needed because a crime is happening, someone suspected of a crime is nearby, or someone is in danger.

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service (CFRS): To ensure we reach as many people as possible, we want to take our work right into the heart of local communities by using local people, who know their community best, to spread our safety messages. CFRS is launching this exciting new Community Champion Scheme to enhance and complement the role of our staff in creating a safer Cambridgeshire for all. We are looking for volunteer Community Champions who:

- Have good interpersonal skills and are able to communicate with a wide range of people.
- May have experience of working or volunteering with people in the community.
- May have established community links or a broad range of community contacts
- Can give us at least 4 hours commitment every month. Specific days and times are flexible and you will discuss and agree these with our Community Champion Scheme Co-ordinator.

Anyone interested is encouraged to contact: The Community Champion Scheme Co-ordinator

Lynda Bubb, Cambridgeshire ACRE,
32 Main Street, Littleport, Ely CB6 1PJ

Email: Lynda.bubb@cambsacre.org.uk
Direct Line: 01353 865037

You can also find further information online at: www.cambsfire.gov.uk or www.cambsacre.org.uk

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of Longstowe Parish Council to send you all best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a good New Year ahead.

Date of next Council meeting: 19 January 2012

Zoe Burton
Chairperson Longstowe Parish Council

Longstowe Parish Council: Parish Clerk Vacancy (Part-time)

www.scams.gov.uk/LongstowePC

The Council is seeking to appoint an enthusiastic person to fill the post of Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer (RFO). This is a great opportunity for a local person who wishes to work flexible hours from home plus one evening meeting each month (excluding August). Training can be provided and is highly recommended, and further details on the post including duties can be provided by contacting Zoe Burton, Chairperson zoeburton74@googlemail.com If you are interested then please contact the Council by the end of January.

Hours of work are approx. 3 to 4 hours a week. The salary is on an hourly rate and is to be agreed but would be in the region of £8.34 per hour. There will be a three month trial period (before a full contract is given) and at the end of the three months immediate notice can be given by either side. The full contract is for one year in the first instance and then renewable by mutual agreement. *It is difficult to give a set date for responses/interviews as the position needs to be filled as soon as possible to allow hand over before the beginning of May 2012.*

Re-ablement

Being independent following an operation or illness

If you or someone you care for requires social care support following an illness or operation, this would traditionally have been provided by a care assistant providing direct care to the person in need.

Since September 2010 a new service, re-ablement, has been providing support to enable older people who have poor physical or mental health following illness or an operation to live in their own homes.

Re-ablement programmes can last for as little as a few days and generally don't exceed six weeks. The ethos of re-ablement is to encourage people to do things for themselves rather than having things done for them. There is no charge to the individual as long as they are participating in the programme.

Re-ablement is now being offered to a wider client group including new service users with a physical disability and new occupational therapy referrals. Future development of the service will look at assisting older people who already have a care package but due to illness or physical issues may now require a higher level of support.

You can find out more about re-ablement at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/social

Village News

"COFFEE and CRAFTS"

Coffee morning held on 1st November

This is just to say a big thank you to everyone who came to the coffee morning in support of VIP! Companion Services. The morning raised over £400 for this very worthwhile charity.

VIP! provides friendship and companionship to older people for all kinds of activities such as hobbies, walks or shopping excursions, trips to the cinema or garden centre, pub or football match, or simply to share a cup of tea. VIP! aims to help bring more enjoyment and fulfilment to the lives of older people who might otherwise feel lonely or isolated.

For more information about joining VIP!, either as a client, or as a volunteer please call Maddy Crowther on 01954 719555.

Thank you

Jane Bowden

Harvest Supper

The evening of Friday 21st of October was indeed a happy one here in the village. A splendid selection of food was on offer at the village hall, as part of the traditional Harvest Supper. We enjoyed a substantial main course with a huge choice of dishes, followed by a varied selection of tempting looking puddings and desserts. As in previous years, the food was generously donated by volunteers, organisers and others. A really splendid meal was enjoyed by all. The Village Hall looked really welcoming with the brightly coloured gingham tablecloths and some seasonal table decorations.

This happy event gave us a chance to show our new vicar, Revd Dr Alexandra Clarke, just how hospitable and welcoming Longstowe can be. Our new vicar joined in with the happy spirit of the event by kindly signing a donated clock that was subsequently raffled to help raise funds for the church. There was a raffle and also a not-too-serious quiz, which was won by Kath Murden.

The event raised a total in excess of £400 which was donated, in its entirety, to church funds.

A huge thank you to all those who helped, in any way, to make this very popular event such a success.

History Afternoon

On a sunny afternoon, Saturday 15th of October, residents of the village were treated to a rare opportunity to enjoy an afternoon of nostalgia, with opportunities to have a look at a wide selection of items pertaining to the history of our village.

We were able to welcome around 80 visitors to the Village Hall, where they could enjoy so much of our past. Jane Bowden and Dick Murden had been able to exhibit some fascinating documents and photos. The visitors were soon busy looking at photos of long gone buildings and landmarks, census reports and old maps. There were light refreshments available, the consumption of which gave visitors the chance to sit at tables and share their own memories with others

On show were documents relating to Golden Miller, the famous racehorse, together with memorabilia relating to his history with records of his racing achievements.

Many former residents returned to Longstowe

for the event, to enjoy the chance to renew old friendships and join in with the whole happy atmosphere of the afternoon.

Mr Steve Owen deserves recognition for his part in making the event so very interesting. He had very kindly gone to much trouble to bring us a fantastic display of items relating to the history of Old North Road Station. Mr Owen had assembled a magnificent display of railway related items so varied as to include cast iron signs, parts of signalling equipment, photographs, timetables and reprints of related press items.

Village history adds depth to living here and connects one with the richness of the past, and clearly is a very popular subject here. Thank you so very much to those who gave of their time and experiences to make this event possible. Despite not having been arranged as a fund raiser, a figure of £70 was raised, which was donated to Longstowe Village Hall.

Please see below for details of a proposed Longstowe Village History group.

Peter White

LONGSTOWE VILLAGE HISTORY GROUP?

Would you be interested in forming or joining a **LONGSTOWE VILLAGE HISTORY GROUP**? Nothing of a very formal nature, just getting together from time to time to share stories, information and research, and to discover more about our village.

In addition, there is an exciting opportunity now and during the next five years, for archeological research in the locality, which is being promoted by the '**Jigsaw Project**'. This is a community project set up by Cambridgeshire County Council in collaboration with Oxford Archaeology East and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund to investigate, research and help protect the county's archaeology. Its job is to support and enable local people to do local research on the 'ground', investigating and documenting places such as the sites of old houses and buildings, middens (old rubbish tips!), pond sites, ridge and furrow, moats and ditches – anywhere which looks as though it might throw up new information about the history of the neighbourhood (bear in mind that first and foremost, of course, the permission of the landowner to undertake any such research must be sought, and details of all intended investigation supplied). Training will to be provided by the project and

equipment made available – have a look at the list of workshops which they hope to run.

If you think you might be interested in a **LONGSTOWE HISTORY GROUP** or to register an interest in being involved in any way in the Jigsaw Project, please email Jane Bowden at jane@glebehouse.eu. Further information regarding the **Jigsaw Project** can be found at www.jigsawcambs.org.

Longstowe Sports Club AGM

This will be held at The Red House on Thursday 19th January 2012 at 7.30pm.

Anyone is welcome, we are especially looking for new players for the 2012 cricket season.

Refreshments will be provided.

Poppy Appeal

The 2011 collection amounted to £166.99. Thank you from the British Legion.

Local Footpath Walk

It's been some time since I organised a walk around local footpaths, so the next will be a New Year event on Monday 2nd January 2012.

Start time 10.30am at the entrance to the village hall, duration of walk will be about 2 hours.

Your dog may be interested if you have one.

Dick Murden (01954 719628)

Best Wishes to Bourn School Starters!

Just to wish the three children in Longstowe who started at Bourn Primary in September all the very best! As a couple of your mums attended Bourn a few years ago we are sure you will have stories to share with your new friends re your mummy's time at your school! For all those who also started at new schools this last term we wish you all the best too!

*The Burton Family, Gt Yarmouth
(apologies from the editor, this should have gone in the October edition!)*

VHS to DVD copying

Due to recent activity in the White household, I am currently set up to quite easily convert VHS tape recordings to DVD. If you have any home movies on VHS that you would like to have copied in such a way, please contact me and I'll see what I can do to help. I cannot copy commercial recordings, i.e. films.

Peter White (01954 719669)

Karate Kid

Congratulations to Sam Holland who has now passed his purple belt grading!



Sam at his December grading

Church News

When I was little I used to get so excited when December began because it meant that Christmas was on its way, the advent calendar could be started and the Christmas list pinned up in prominent place. Now I'm a parent myself I'm more likely to groan inwardly at all the jobs, events and expense to be crammed in, on top of ordinary life, in the next four weeks. Why do we do it?

Those of us with small children often want them to enjoy the same sparkle and wonder and excitement that we remember from our earliest years, but even when we're not having imaginary conversations with Father Christmas about our child's good/bad behaviour, and answering questions about how the reindeer know which house to go to next, we still seem to feel some sort of anticipation about Christmas; we sense something important is about to happen; we expect Christmas Day to feel different. Why should this be so?

Is it because we are easily manipulated by the advertising and consumer hype that makes Christmas into a secular festival of acquisition, and we're simply looking forward to a mid-winter binge?

Or is it rather that, as humans, we have the capacity to hope? We long for goodness and for a better life; we desire good relationships and peace; we wish for a clear direction in life and guidance. And whether or not we profess to be Christians, the Christmas story offers this sort of hope. The hope of a new beginning, a better world, the righting of wrongs and the triumph of good over evil.

I'm often frustrated by the way that the good news about Jesus' arrival is sidelined by the good news of two-for-the-price-of-one offers on Christmas decorations etc, but what keeps me enthusiastic about Christmas is the sign of hope that is offered to us by that spectacular birth. Jesus was born in squalid conditions, far from home in about as hopeless a situation as you could imagine. The message for us is that there is nowhere that God won't go; nowhere that's too unpleasant or mucky or distasteful for God to make special; no one who is beneath (or above) God's loving gaze. That's the amazingly hopeful good news of Christmas, and it doesn't depend on Santa's reindeer to be delivered!

I wish you a happy and holy Christmas time.

Revd Dr Alexandra Clarke

New year, new light

The beginning of another year – and after recovering from the rush, over-indulgence and fun of Christmas it is that time when we all think of New Year's Resolutions, and just how long we might be able to keep up those promises to ourselves that we will eat less/exercise more/watch less telly/spend more time with family/give up smoking etc etc. It does seem that most of us make resolutions without any expectation that we will be able to keep them, almost like we set ourselves up for failure before we've even begun.

But Jesus can take all our hopes and failures and transform them into something special. January is the month in which the Church celebrates the Feast of the Epiphany, when the 3 wise men arrive to see Jesus and he is revealed to the world outside Israel, bringing light to everyone. With the coming of Jesus light has dawned in the world, scattering the things that keep us in darkness, like failures and disappointments.

Light is very much more important in the winter when everything can seem so dark and plays a large part in our lives. Imagine a house where there were no lights or a world where there was no sun. Many find the short days and long nights of winter hard enough to bear but if there was no light at any time life would be impossible.

Epiphany reminds us of a light more powerful, more important and more special than even the sun. However dark and gloomy life and the world may sometimes appear, God's light will continue to shine, no matter what.

So whether you manage to keep your New Year's Resolutions for the whole of January (or the whole year!) or not, or whether you don't keep them at all, we still have God's light and Jesus is still with us every day of our lives.

Fiona

Papworth Team Ministry



Team Evening Worship

There is no Team Evening Worship in December starting again in January.

Sunday 15th January, 6.00 pm at Caxton
Speaker: Susie Thomson

Sunday 5th February, 6.00 pm at Caxton

Sunday 19th February, 6.00 pm at Caxton

Praise, Prayer, Teaching

Christmas Services

Friday 24th December

3.00 pm Crib Service at Bourn
9.30 pm Holy Communion at Kingston
11.30 pm Holy Communion at Bourn
11.30 pm Holy Communion at Elsworth

Christmas Day

8.30 am Holy Communion at Knapwell
10.30 am Family Service at Bourn
10.30 am Holy Communion at Boxworth
10.30 am All Age Communion at Caxton
10.30 am All Age Communion at Kingston
10.30 am Holy Communion at Longstowe

Home Communion

If you are a regular worshipper and become housebound we still want to share in the life of your Christian community. If you are having difficulty getting to church, but a lift would make that possible please contact the team office on 01954 719718 and we will be able to help. If you cannot get out and would like to receive Holy Communion at home please let the office know and we will arrange for the sacrament to be brought to you on a regular basis. This also applies to those who are seriously ill and bed bound.



Wave Café Church

Wednesday 4th January at the
'Abantu' coffee shop in Bourn,



7.45 for 8pm until 9pm

For those who are interested in exploring Christianity in a relaxed and informal way with DVDs, quizzes and discussions over coffee, tea and cake.

For more information please contact Fiona Windsor on 01954 267535 or Ruth Terrell on 01954 718575.



*Greetings at this
Festive Time*

*Barrie & Lilian Dench wish all
friends, neighbours and villagers
a peaceful Christmas and happiness
with good health in 2012*

Neighbourhood Watch

Your co-ordinators are:

Deborah Hemmins 719638
Bill Slater 719551
Peter Hemmins 719372
Peter White 719669

If you see an incident, please take all the details and jot them down. Numbers, dates, times, descriptions. If matters are so urgent then dial 999 directly. Otherwise telephone 01345 456 4564. Website: www.cambs.police.uk

Please let Sally have any items for the April Skylark by Tuesday 20 March.

Tel: 719464

Email: theskylark@rocketmail.com

Version dated 05/12/2011

TEAM EAST

Month	Sunday	Title	T.E.W	Boxworth	Elsworth	Knapwell	Bourn	Kingston	Caxton	Longstowe	
January	01/10/2012	Christmas 1	10.30 am Holy Communion at Bourn								
	08/10/2012	Baptism of Christ		10.30 am FS	3.00 pm HC(2)		10.30 am WfA		10.30 am HC	8.30 am HC(2)	
February	15/01/2012	Epiphany 2	6.00 pm Caxton	10.30 am MP	10.30 am AAC	8.30 am HC(2)	8.30 am HC(1)	10.30 am FS	10.30 am FS		
	22/01/2012	Epiphany 3		10.30 am HC(1)	3.00 pm EP		10.30 am Morning Worship	6.00 pm EP		10.30 am HC	
	29/01/2012	Epiphany 4		10.30 am Full Team Service at Papworth							
	05/02/2012	Third Sunday before Lent	6.00 pm Caxton	08.30 am HC (2)	10.30 am FS	3.00 pm EP	10.30 am HC(1)	8.30 am HC(2)	8.30 am HC (2)		
	12/02/2012	Second Sunday before Lent		10.30 am FS	3.00 pm HC (2)		10.30 am WfA		10.30 am MP	8.30 am HC(2)	
January	19/02/2012	Sunday before Lent	6.00 pm Caxton	10.30 am MP	10.30 am AAC	8.30 am HC(2)	8.30 am HC(1)	10.30 am FS	10.30 am FS		
	22/02/2012	Ash Wednesday		7.30 pm Holy Communion at tbc							
	26/02/2012	Lent 1		10.30 am HC (1)	3.00 pm EP		10.30 am MWorship	6.00 pm EP		10.30 am MP	