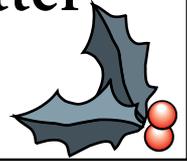
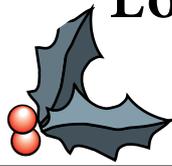


THE SKYLARK

Longstowe Parish Newsletter

January 2014



Longstowe Parish Council News

Travel Plan

Longstowe has been subject to a significant increase in traffic, largely created by the Cambourne development and the continuing accidents on the A14 and A428 which are resulting in drivers seeking an alternative route into and out of Cambridge. The Parish Council completed a comprehensive survey of local residents which has resulted in feedback demonstrating that over 70% of the residents in the parish have unanimous support for a reduction in the speed limit to 30mph on both the A1198 and the main road running through the village. The Parish Council completed the following activities as part of its research.

- A survey of residents in Longstowe
- An assessment of the effectiveness of various traffic calming actions
- A review of the transport delivery plan and the local highways improvement initiative
- The potential costs associated with putting in additional street lighting, traffic warning signs and altering the flashing sign

An application is to be submitted to the Highways Agency by the 9 December 2013. It is currently proposed that additional funding will be sought as a grant to top up the funds that have been kindly pledged by a significant proportion of the residents in Longstowe. Likely cost for scheme £15,000 - £17,000, with the Parish providing in the region of £2500.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Ten traffic signs | £4000 |
| • Amended flashing sign | £500 |
| • Street lighting | £12,000 |
| • Painting speed limit on road x 3 | £300 |
| Total cost | <u>£16,800</u> |

Should anybody have any queries regarding the traffic calming, please direct your queries to:

Barbara Cooper
Beaconsfield
Old North Road
Longstowe
Tel: 01954 718969
07803 903047

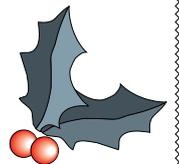


Christingle 2013

To all our friends in Longstowe, who have made us feel so welcome over the past nine years.

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year

from Peter and Caroline White



Village News

Longstowe Cricket Club

After many years service Yvonne and Richard Hemmins have retired from providing teas on match days.

The club would like to say thank you for their loyal contribution.

So, this means we are now looking for anyone who may like to provide teas at cricket home matches in 2014. The season usually runs from late April till September, so if anyone is interested in earning some cash, please contact either John Murden 01954 719611 or Dick Murden 01954 719628 and have a chat about what's involved.

Railway Memorabilia Day

For those people invited to visit our former railway station (Old North Road) on Sunday 29 September, experienced a fine display of the railway's past, courtesy of the hosts Steve and Nichola, which brought back memories of the days when we had access to a great transport system.

Alas, the government of the day decided it had to close 46 years ago, and now there is talk of bringing back an east-west link perhaps today's thinkers realise how important this route was.

Dick Murden

LONGSTOWE - The Church

“This beautiful little church (rebuilt by the munificence of the Rev. James Rushton, the Rector, during last summer, an account of which appeared in the columns of our paper) at this moment stands “second to none” in the county.

A large fine-toned organ has lately been placed in the organ chapel, on the north side of the church, by the same liberal donor. We lately, by the kindness and courtesy of the Rector, had the pleasure of hearing it on a visit we made to view the Christmas decorations, and we must confess we felt altogether unable to give expression to the unbounded pleasure we then experienced.

The Christmas decorations delighted us beyond measure.”

(Ref. the Cambridge press 1864)

LONGSTOWE CHURCH GRAFFITI

Peter White, who spent some considerable time a few months ago restoring the bells of St Mary's Longstowe, recently drew my attention to a piece of graffiti in the tower, rather nicely executed by one William Ellwood; the date under it appears to be Sept 25, 1881.

This prompted us to find out who the Ellwoods were, and it seems they were a Gransden family. Although it is not possible to say with complete certainty which William was responsible for the graffiti, there was a William Elwood living in Gransden in 1881 born in 1847 who was a carpenter - perhaps he was doing work in the church (with a little bit of masonry on the side?).

Delving a little further back, the Parish Registers revealed that there was a previous William born in 1778, who married Ann Simons of Longstowe (b1774) in St Mary's Church in 1798. William is also thought to have been a carpenter.

Further investigation of the registers showed that in 1752, an earlier Ellwood, Timothy, also married a Longstowe girl, Mary White, in St Mary's Church, and the couple subsequently returned to live in Timothy's home parish of Gransden.

Their tragic human story, however, becomes more evident from further research undertaken by their present day descendants, from which it appears that Mary White, born in 1730, married Timothy Ellwood in Longstowe, and gave birth to seventeen children between 1753 and 1771. Fourteen of the children died - at least ten of whom within days or weeks of birth; one survived to be two years old, and another to be four; seven of their names were re-used. Only three of the seventeen survived beyond childhood - Timothy b1759, Mary b1764 and Sarah b1770.

Mary nee White's husband, Timothy, died in 1773 aged forty-two and Mary died in 1780 aged fifty, having spent her twenty-one years of marriage almost continuously pregnant.

So far it has not been possible to establish a clear link between William 'graffiti' and the surviving child, Timothy, above, but it is not ruled out: William 'graffiti's father was a Timothy, and Timothy's father was a William (*ref census*) whose father would have been the right generation to have been the surviving child Timothy. The search continues...

***Refs. Longstowe Parish marriage register
census records
www.bradshaw32.plus.com***

Jane Bowden

The Skylark

Longstowe Dog Show



2nd Prize Winner in Best Condition Dog Class

Thank you to everyone who supported the day - including all the wonderful dogs who gave us such fun with their various antics. We raised £600 net for VIP Companionship for Older People with much thanks to all the helpers, participants 2 and 4 legged variety, and The Hay Man aka David Rolls with his doggy jumps and Freddie Hemmins and his terrier trap.

Maddy Crowther



Do you have a tractor for sale?

I'm interested in an old tractor, ideally an old Fergie or Fordson Super Major, needs to be in running useable condition and road registered.

Simon 719464

Wave Café Church

**Wednesday 8th 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 live music, mince pies, mulled wine and quiz. Please come and bring a friend.

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

Church News

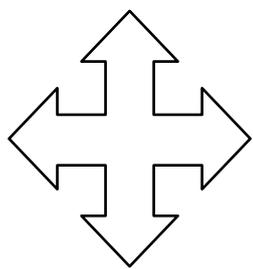
Jottings from The Longstowe Church PCC (Parochial Church Council):

On a spectacular morning in early autumn, we once again, held a Pet Service in the Churchyard and were joined not only by the snail from last year and a collection of dogs or various varieties and sizes, but also a pair of beautiful Alpacas. All told there were well over 40 people enjoying the occasion and the lovely setting. A very good way to start a Sunday!

And really for those of us who are members of the PCC whilst of course our Parish Church is a place of worship, care and renewal, this is a very one dimensional view, as we believe, we are about community - sharing the company of others who are keen to support this all encompassing environment and being part of a village which we all love and are proud to call home. For us whilst the Harvest Supper raised needed funds (some £480) it was as much about the 62 people who came along and enjoyed great food and had some fun and laughter on the night.

So given this is how we see the church working in Longstowe, why not as we come towards Christmas take the opportunity, if you are not a regular worshipper, to come along meet up with people, enjoy beautiful music, thought provoking words and grab a little peace before the hurly burly of Christmas and New Year festivities hit? No excuses necessary to come along - just enjoy.

FUTURE DATES for your diary:



Carols by Candlelight -
Sunday 22nd December
from 3.00pm

Christmas Day -
Holy Communion 9.45am

1st service in 2014 -
12th January, Holy
Communion 8.30am

Revd Alexandra writes

December:

We're entering what's considered to be the season of goodwill and cheer and many of us are clearly focussed on the countdown to Christmas with its traditional expectation of midwinter warmth and pleasure. Yet as we

watch the big stores launch their TV advertising campaigns aimed at selling us the perfect Christmas, we're also confronted with the desperate plight of the Philippines following the devastation of Typhoon Haiyan. Images of beautifully wrapped gifts and over-laden dinner tables are rapidly followed by images of a human fight for survival amid wreckage, hunger and disease. Such is the immensity of this tragedy that it has displaced from our attention the plight of the Syrian people. The United Nations High Commission for Refugees believes that 6 million Syrians, that's over a quarter of the population, have now been displaced from their homes, 2 million of them over the border into neighbouring Jordan, enduring an arid and dangerous exile in desert refugee camps.

When we step back and consider our British obsession with Christmas excess in the face of the extreme suffering and deprivation many parts of the world, let alone the tragedy, poverty and loss which afflict so many thousands of people in this country itself, it's easy to think of Christmas as a kind of collective anaesthetic - a social behaviour which allows us, or some of us, to bury our heads in the sand for a few weeks and ignore the ugly realities of life while we indulge in a short-term fantasy that life is actually not so bad after all. And some might argue that even if that is all Christmas is, is that really such a bad thing?

The Archbishop of Canterbury, in his concern for the exploitation of the poor and vulnerable, has criticised the culture which encourages the excessive spending and material expectation at Christmas which drives so many people into acute financial difficulties. The tragedy of this reckless consumerist drive, as well as the human suffering which follows, is that it has developed in the name of 'celebration' of the birth of Jesus, into a humble Jewish carpenter's family. Jesus, who was always among the poor and disadvantaged, living in a backwater of the Roman empire, who spoke frequently and with passion about good and bad uses of money. And what St Matthew tells us in his Gospel account of Jesus' birth, is that not only was Jesus born in poverty and shame, but that in the first few years of his life he too was a refugee, taken by his frightened parents into a foreign country, Egypt, to escape the murderous paranoia of a despotic king. Jesus began life in circumstances familiar to over a quarter of the current population of Syria

– homeless, helpless, displaced. Jesus began life on the underside of society, disadvantaged in every way. Yet it was this Jesus in whom God was pleased to dwell; it was this Jesus whom God called his 'beloved son'; this Jesus whose life was spent revealing to the whole human population what the love of God means for each and every one of us; this Jesus who embodied not just the human life of this world which we each experience, but that quality of eternal life which gives shape, meaning, purpose and beauty to this life.

Despite the juxtaposition of TV adverts with graphic news reports of human tragedy, a Christian celebration of Christmas is not a million miles away from the devastation of natural disaster, war, poverty, famine, disease and tragedy. A Christian celebration of Christmas finds its meaning in the raw and jagged reality of this world's pain – a pain into which Jesus was born, and in which he continues to be present, offering the possibility of redemption and a life of fulfilment which transcends this present existence. May we all know the peace of Christ this Christmas time.

January:

As the leftover Christmas cake hangs about, and the decorations go back in the loft, the house always looks a bit empty and bare. We've eaten, drunk and partied well, as the Christmas profits of the indigestion tablet makers show! Now we might be regretting those extra mince pies and the splashing out in the sales and feel like we want to put our lives in order. There's no better time for this than a new year! There are as many ways to start something new as there are people and circumstances. Maybe you'd like to take up a new hobby, get fit, spend less time at the office, find a new job, meet new people or spend more time with the people you already love. You might even want to take time to find out



what you really like doing and who you really are.

As we do this we can remember that Jesus is all about new starts – and as many new starts as we need or want. Every day can be another chance to be more loving, help someone else, do something better, realign our priorities, rejoice in the good things in our lives, laugh, enjoy ourselves and remember that we are loved and cared for by God.

Many people are afraid of change because what we know is more comfortable, even if it's not good. We might also feel that any change we make is just a drop in the ocean. But as Mother Theresa said about her work:

We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop.

A short, prayerful service of
Holy Communion

is celebrated
Wednesday
at **midday**
in **Bourn Church**



restarting on 8th January

Anyone from around the Team or beyond is welcome to attend.

If you have particular prayer requests, please contact
Revd Dr Alexandra Clarke (01954 710426)
alexandra.clarke@ely.anglican.org
Wheelchair access provided

Home Visiting

As the weather worsens it may become difficult for you to attend worship but if you would still like to be able to share in the life of your Christian community the Ministry Team would be delighted to visit you in your home. If you would like a cup of tea and chat then we would be pleased to meet with you in your home and we are always happy to offer home communion to anyone who would like it.

If you are able to leave your house but are having difficulty getting to church, and a lift would make that possible please contact either your churchwardens or member of the Ministry Team (numbers can be found on the back of the pew sheet) and we will try to help.

If you know of anyone who would appreciate a visit please let the Ministry Team know.

Can you ring a door bell?

If so you could ring the bells in our church, here in Longstowe! A very satisfying pastime with a small group of very caring people. Ringing is not seen as part of the Service and there is of course no obligation to stay after ringing should you not wish to. Even if you could manage only one or two five minute sessions a month, you would be very welcome and would help spread the load on our small team.

If you are sixteen or over and would like to take part, or even just fancy having "a bit of a go" please contact me for details.

Peter White
01954 719669

Papworth Team Ministry



Team Evening Service

Sunday 19th January 6.00 pm at Caxton

*Jan, Feb and March will have a focus of Prayer
- looking at the future together as a Team*

Praise, Prayer, Teaching

Dear Longstowe

I'm a local girl. I grew up in Hardwick, moved to Caldecote and then onto Longstowe (with a spell in Seattle, USA in the middle there!) and I have spent 3 happy years here now. I have 4 children and live with them on High Street.

As a single Mum I have long struggled with the issue of local tradespeople. Who can I trust, who will do a good job and not rip me off? Who can I allow into my home and feel at ease with their presence as I do feel very vulnerable at times.

I wondered if local residents might forward the Skylark your recommendations for babysitters, local suppliers and general handymen (or women!). There are many adverts locally in the various village magazines and online and it's very hard to know if those people are any good. I know Longstowe is a close-knit community and I have had a few people recommended by word of mouth. I can't be the only one here who struggles to hear about our local resources! I would like to see a page in the Skylark that shows contact details with recommendations attached. It would be helpful to have the word-of-mouth knowledge in a handy leaflet!

In my case I am, in particular, looking for:

A babysitter with a CRB check and their own car (being just me and the children here I won't be able to drop you home) - preferably an adult as I think my 4 children (aged 8, 10, 12 and 14) would be hard work for a teenager (but I'm happy to stand corrected on that, especially if their parent/s are close by!). This would be for the odd night out here and there, cash in hand.

A handyman/woman to help me maintain my home. It has needed a lot of renovation work done on it since I moved in and I have done a lot myself but a little help would be wonderful! Currently I need someone to paint a very high ceiling, gloss wood, do exterior upkeep, brick re-pointing, window cleaning, general garden maintenance and someone qualified to fiddle with the wiring! Most of these are easy jobs and several companies have visited to draw quotes up and then I've never heard anything from them again as the job was too small.

A list of the clubs and regular events running at the Village Hall.

Any other local businesses or people that have proven trustworthy - car mechanics, pest control, wood and coal merchants, etc.

Best regards,

Su (sugood@hotmail.com)

LONGSTOWE VILLAGE HALL HIRE CHARGES

(135 people max.)

all lettings terminate by
midnight

from 1st January 2014

STANDARD HOURLY RATE: £12

WHOLE DAY: £120

NB: Licensable events and all events where alcohol is to be consumed, must be notified to the Booking Clerk.

A contract should be signed and a deposit paid.

For further details, contact:

**Ben Holland: tel. 01954 718385
email: benholland493@btinternet.com**

General Interest

Cambridgeshire County Council needs you to help change the lives of local children and young people.

Foster Carers provide a stable family support network for local children and young people when they are unable to live with their own family. Every child is different so we need different Foster Carers from all different kinds of backgrounds. You might be: married; in a civil partnership; single; living with a partner; from an ethnic background; in a same sex relationship; in work; unemployed; retired.

We offer generous allowances including a start up package, 24 hour support and full training.

For more details, please call the freephone number 0800 052 0078 or email fanda@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

The Care Network Community Navigator Project

Community Navigators are local volunteers helping elderly people who are just beginning to need a bit of advice and support to keep them living independently. They are basically a 'one stop shop' for information and advice. The local volunteer can visit people in their own home, speak to them over the phone, or meet them in a public place. The information and service provided is free and impartial. Their funding is from the County Council.

So if you know of people over 65 years old who might need a bit of support, please do pass on these contact details:

Rob Wallace, Community Navigators
Coordinator, South Cambs

Unit 18, Broadway House,
149-151 St Neots Road, Hardwick, CB23 7QJ

Telephone: 01954 212100
Mobile: 07436 808627

Email: rob.w@care-network.org.uk
Charity No. 1120693

Neighbourhood Watch

Your co-ordinators are:

Deborah Hemmins 719638
Bill Slater 719551
Peter Hemmins 719372

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

Fen Feeds Ltd

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Email: judy@fenfeeds.co.uk
www.fenfeeds.co.uk

Month	Sunday	Title	T.E.W	Boxworth	Elsworth	Knapwell	Bourn	Kingston	Caxton	Longstowe
January	1	Epiphany		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)	8.30 am HC(2)
	2	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)
	12/01/2014						6.00 pm EP			
February	3	Epiphany 2	6.00 pm Caxton	10.30 am MP	10.30 am AAC		8.30 am HC(1)	10.30 am FS	10.30 am FS	
	4	Epiphany 3		10.30 am HC(1)	3.00 pm EP		10.30 am MW	6.00 pm EP		10.30 am HC
	1	Candlemas		08.30 am HC (2)	10.30 am FS + Baptism	3.00 pm EP	10.30 am HC(1)	8.30 am HC(2)	8.30 am HC (2)	
	02/02/2014									
	2	Fourth 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)
	09/02/2014						6.00 pm EP			
	3	Third Sunday before Lent	6.00 pm Caxton	10.30 am MP	10.30 am AAC		8.30 am HC(1)	10.30 am FS	10.30 am FS + Baptism	
	4	Second Sunday before Lent		10.30 am HC (1)	3.00 pm EP		10.30 am MW + Baptism	6.00 pm EP		10.30 am MP
	23/02/2014									

If anyone is interested in taking on the much covered role of editor of The Skylark, then please let me know, the demands of my job are making it increasingly difficult to find the time to give The Skylark the attention it deserves, I'm sure there's someone out there just waiting for this opportunity!

Sally

Please let Sally have any items for the April Skylark by Tuesday 18 March.

Tel: 719464
Email: theskylark@rocketmail.com

Parish Council website: www.scams.gov.uk/LongstowePC

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