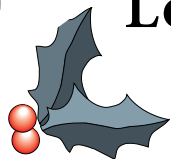




# THE SKYLARK

Longstowe Parish Newsletter

January 2016



## Village News

### **Richard Hemmins**

Richard died suddenly at home on the 6th of October. He had suffered with Parkinson's disease for many years. He lived all his life in Longstowe and he will be sadly missed by family and friends.

I would like to thank everyone that attended his funeral and for the donations that went to Parkinson's UK, the total came to £443.00.

*Yvonne*

**Longstowe Art Group** held an Art and Craft Sale on Sunday 15th November. There were ten very colourful tables, selling jewellery, original art work, cards, soft toys and much more. The refreshments and tombola raised £100 donated to Longstowe Village Hall Funds. Thank you to all those who turned out on a very windy day.

Anyone interested in joining the Art Group please contact Viv on 01954710019 or Lorraine on 01954 715440. We meet on Friday mornings at Longstowe Village Hall between 10 and 12 noon. Or turn up for a cup of coffee and meet the group in action. The first meeting of the New Year is on Friday 15th January.

## **Notice of Meeting**

### **LONGSTOWE VILLAGE HALL**

**to be held in**

**February/March 2016**

**Report on the  
Rebuild Project**

**Date to follow**

## Church News

### **Another year, another Advent Christingle Sunday!**

It was great to see so many children, (and grown-ups too!!) at the Christingle Service on 29th November. Many thanks to Sam and Kobe for reading the lessons so well..You're really a couple of stars. We were lucky to have two vicars to make the service go with a swing. Thank you to all the friends who helped make the Christingles at my house - I always enjoy that part of it with Haribos, supper and wine .....

Our collection raised £140 for The Children's Society. Marvellous!

*Daphne*

### **Letter from Nigel di Castiglione**

Recognising this won't be read by most until into 2016 I can't not tell you what has most struck me in the run-up to Christmas 2015: how God was able to disclose his plans and purposes to ordinary people who, without their willing involvement, would never have become so well-known!

I realise it is fashionable to bemoan the rampant secularisation in our society but for many people there is no pantomime nor new film that can beat a traditional nativity - retelling how Mary and Joseph signed up for a way of life full of hardship; also a group of shepherds, normally regarded as people on the fringe, becoming some of the first people to see and worship the Christ-child and a little time later a bunch of (probably) Persian astrologers who read in the appearance of a new star the unveiling of something special.

### **Christmas Waste & Recycling collections:**

|                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Saturday 2nd January | Blue bin  |
| Friday 8th January   | Black bin |

All the choices were the result of divine revelation requiring a step of faith and no little disruption to their lives; and all of this happened, as far as we know, outside the pattern and confines of the normal religious activities. This tells me God is very active in the world and people's lives, not just what we can see going on in the life of local Christian churches.

I am not suggesting it is ok to give up on going to church; in fact the Bible expressly says the opposite (e.g. Hebrews 10v24-25), that abandonment of churchgoing tends to lead to a drift or slippage in terms of the vibrancy of our trust in God. On the other hand I am saying it is arrogant and misguided to suggest that only people who were in church last week could have had a life-enhancing encounter with God. In a nutshell one of the core things Christianity proclaims is how people come into personal contact with God through faith in Jesus, then begin to discover what He wants and how we can play our part in His plan for this world.

Many people know the Christian hymn beginning with the words 'Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me ...' To be honest I don't like or agree with the sentiment that I am 'a wretch'; but I do know that often it is a sense of conviction of our need of what God can offer which is an early sign that He is on our case!

What many forget or have never been told is this: the hymn's author was a man called John Newton, an infamous slave-trader in the 18th century, who following his conversion to Christianity became a leading advocate and influencer for change leading to the eventual abolition of slavery. He is just one example of what can happen when we start to pay attention to the approaches of God to us: He wants to change the world around us, with us and through us.

For me the Christian faith is the best way for people to start to glimpse new horizons for their lives, to find a new vocation for their gifts and skills, a new momentum to do something that leads towards a still-to-be-dreamed of legacy. When we think of the people mentioned in the nativity narratives of Matthew and Luke we realise their partnership with God changed the course of human history; it was less about their ability and everything to do with their availability.

The old poster that has the recruitment finger and saying "Your country needs you!" retains a ring of truth; but I believe there is a far

bigger truth to celebrate at the start of a new year, in an alternative version that says: "Your God wants you!"

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

The Quinquennial report as you know has been completed, and it talks about the need to improve the temperature/ humidity control in the church in order to preserve the fabric of the building. We are still awaiting the specialist advice but the recent quiz fundraiser reported on elsewhere in this issue, has given a very good start towards funding what are likely to be significant costs.

In the meantime some thoughts – this is a favourite poem and perhaps in its way describes our own church here in Longstowe; and how it is easy to question the relevance of the Church today? But on balance do you believe it is something we would all rather keep than loose? A serious question. Thus:

#### **Philip Larkin – Church Going**

*Once I am sure there's nothing going on  
I step inside, letting the door thud shut.  
Another church: matting seats, and stone,  
And little books; sprawling of flowers, cut  
For Sunday, brownish now; some brass and stuff  
Up at the holy end; the small neat organ;  
And a tense, musty, unignorable silence,  
Brewed God knows how long. Hatless, I take off  
My cycle-clips in awkward reverence.*

*..... This special shell? For, though I have no idea  
What this accoutred frowsty barn is worth,  
It pleases me to stand here;*

*A serious house on serious earth it is,  
In whose blent air all our compulsions meet,.....*

#### ***Finally and on a lighter note:***

"cards, ribbon, turkey, ahh!... and don't forget to invite Aunt Maud!! Busy, busy, busy it is that time of the year again. So as we celebrate this year, let us remember afresh the reason for the season and what Christmas really should mean"

Best wishes to you all for a peaceful Christmas and a very Happy and Healthy New Year from the Longstowe PCC.

### ***Future dates for your diary:***

- Carol Service 20th December 10.30am
- Christmas Day- Holy Communion 9.30am
- 1st service in 2016 – 10 January, Holy Communion 8.30am

### ***Quiz Night***

Longstowe Village Hall was filled to capacity during the evening of Saturday 21st November. Around 80 contestants, eager and curious, assembled to take part in a quiz night with sausage and baked potato supper being served during the evening. Questions were more fun level than very serious competition level, which appears to be the formula for success in our village.

Two local residents had kindly offered to submit rounds, which were received well and added variety to the evening. There was also a donation made of a worthwhile prize which was awarded to the team with the lowest score. This gesture was much appreciated by all.

We enjoyed a hearty supper of locally produced sausages served with baked potato and beans.

Scoring was very capably and efficiently handled by Lynne Gordon, who does such a good job of this essential part of the evening.

There had been many generous donations of raffle prizes which added to the enjoyment of the evening. By the end of the event a sum of £800 had been raised, which will be used toward heating of our church here in Longstowe. This will help keep the damp and the damage it causes to the building under control.

Very sincere thanks to all who contributed in any way, from making donations to helping clear up afterwards and generally being good sports.

*Peter White*

## **Longstowe Parish Council News**

### ***Community Speed Watch***

***Speedwatch*** – the scheme is managed by Cambridgeshire Road safety partnership but run by volunteers. The volunteers use equipment that can monitor the speed of passing traffic and record the details, later adding them to a database. Vehicle checks will be undertaken by the police and letters then sent to the registered keepers advising them of the speed and reminding them of why it is a community concern. Speedwatch is not enforcement, it is education. It is important to know that speedwatch now forms a part of the response to speeding issues. Longstowe Parish is urgently looking for parishioners who would be interested in tackling the ongoing speeding through the village and who are prepared to support this scheme by volunteering some of their time. Before participating in the scheme volunteers need to have attended a 3 hour training event run by the Cambridgeshire road safety partnership. There are multiple events held locally and therefore it is not difficult to access one of the programmes. If you are interested please contact Barbara Cooper [\*\*bcconfidential@caw.ac.uk\*\*](mailto:bcconfidential@caw.ac.uk) The Dene, Old North Road, Bourn. 07803 903047 for further details.

### ***What Is Modern Day Slavery***

Slavery did not end with abolition in the 19th Century. The practice still continues today in one form or another in every country in the world from women forced into prostitution, child and adults forced to work in agriculture, domestic work or factories and sweatshops producing goods for global supply chains. The illegal practice still hampers the contemporary world. There are many different characteristics that distinguish slavery from other human rights violations, however only one needs to be present for slavery to exist. Someone is in slavery if they are:

- Forced to work (through mental or physical threat)
- Owned or controlled by an employer, usually through mental or physical abuse or the threat of abuse
- Dehumanised, treated as a commodity or bought and sold as property
- Physically constrained or has restrictions placed on their freedom of movement

It affects people of all ages, gender and races.

Longstowe parishioners are asked to join the campaign against slavery in the UK and in particular, to consider avoiding using non-

approved car washing firms and joining the campaign to tackle slavery in the UK. For further information <https://www.cambs.police.uk/GetCloser/HumanTrafficking/>

If you are concerned please call the police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

### **Security**

Remember to secure your property when leaving, making sure all doors and windows are locked. You can leave a light on in your property to deter criminals when you're not present as it is now getting darker earlier.

Please remain alert to suspicious vehicles and/or persons in your areas. If possible make a note of vehicle models, colour and registrations and/or descriptions of persons.

If you do see anything suspicious please contact the police on 101. Or if you wish to remain anonymous please call crime stoppers on 0800 555 111.

### **Fraud on the web**

Fraudsters have set up a high specification website template advertising various electrical goods and domestic appliances. These goods are below market value and do not exist. The fraudsters will request your card details via the website; however the purchaser will then receive an email stating the payment failed and they must pay via bank transfer.

The fraudsters entice the purchaser and reassure them it is a legitimate purchase by using the widely recognised Trusted Shop Trustmark. The fraudsters are using the Trustmark fraudulently and have not been certified by Trusted Shops and therefore the purchaser is not covered by the Trusted Shop money-back guarantee.

Protect yourself:

- Check the authenticity of the websites before making any purchases. Conduct a 'whois' search on the website which will identify when the website has been created, be wary of newly formed domains. You can conduct this search using the following website – <https://who.is/>.
- Carry out online research in relation to the website, company name and the business address provided to identify any poor feedback or possible irregularities.
- Check the Trusted Shops Facebook page where warnings about websites using their Trustmark are published. If you are in doubt about the legitimacy of a

Trustmark then you can contact Trusted Shops on 0203 364 5906 or by email [service@trustedshops.co.uk](mailto:service@trustedshops.co.uk). They will confirm whether they have certified that website.

- Payments made via bank transfer are not protected should you not receive the item. Therefore always try to make the payment via PayPal or a credit card where you have some payment cover should you not receive your product.

If the item advertised seems too good to be true, then it probably is.

### **Action Fraud**

There has been a recent series of incidents whereby fraudsters either phone or attend the home address of elderly members of the public, claiming to be police officers.

The fake officer/s will claim that they are investigating a fraud which they believe the elderly person to be a victim of. The fake officer/s will then request the bank cards and personal identification numbers (PIN) of the victim and claim these are needed for investigation purposes. If the first contact was made by a phone call, the fake officer/s will tell the victim that someone will be over to collect the evidence. In one case the victim was instructed to attend their local bank and withdraw all of the money from their account. The suspect was left alone in the victim's house whilst the victim carried out the instructions.

### **Protect Yourself:**

Before letting anyone into your home who claims to be from any law enforcement agency, ask to see their identity card and check it by calling 101.

Ask if they can attend at a pre-arranged time when a family member or friend can also be present.

If you receive a phone call from a police officer, ask for their name and force and tell them you will call them back. Wait a few minutes and then use 101 to call them back through their force's switchboard and verify their identity.

The Police will **never** ask for your PIN or passwords. Do not give this information to anyone.

The Police will **never** request that you withdraw/transfer any money to them.

If you believe that you have been a victim of fraud you can report it online [http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report\\_fraud](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report_fraud) or by telephone 0300 123 2040.



### **Restorative Justice:**

If you have been a victim of crime or would like more information about Restorative Justice in Cambridgeshire please call 0800 781 6818 or email [restorativejustice@cambs.pnn.police.uk](mailto:restorativejustice@cambs.pnn.police.uk).

### **And finally:**

Police officers across Cambridgeshire will be carrying out checks over the next few weeks as part of the force's annual Christmas drink drive campaign. Road policing officers are asking motorists: "Where will you end up tonight?" in a bid to drive home the message that driving while under the influence of alcohol could result in them waking up in a "police cell, hospital bed or body bag".

### **Reminder of our local Bus Service:**

Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) Service: telephone 01480 411 114 by 1pm on the day *before* travel (you can make multiple bookings up to a month in advance), pick up from home or bus stop (concessions accepted).

The new bus service: use it or lose it; if well used, it might be expanded.

### **Anglian Water:**

If you have any issues with the sewer, call their 24-hour helpline on the following number and they will happily send out a technician to deal with the issue. This also allows them to build a history/list of issues with each sewer. Call 03457 145 145

### **Cambridgeshire County Council Budget:**

CCC will have to find £41 million in savings next year alone.

If every household put 1kg less waste in their black bins each week, Cambridgeshire could save £1m in landfill tax. That could mean just recycling a few extra jars or cans a week instead of throwing them away.

Cuts Proposed include axing the mobile Library service, reducing winter gritting from 45% to 30% of the roads network, scaling back all discretionary expenditure (e.g. on post-16 transport) and upping the 'intervention levels' on adult social care and highways repairs. Things are extremely serious in Local Government.

Find out more by going to [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/challenge](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/challenge) and have **YOUR** say.

### **Consultation on advocacy services in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough**

Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council are consulting with anyone with an interest in the future of advocacy services across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

They are seeking feedback on the draft specification for an integrated advocacy service in their areas. Both councils are fully committed to the principles and benefits of independent advocacy and want the new advocacy service to build on the success of current and previous advocacy services. There will be one contract for advocacy services in Cambridgeshire, and one contract for advocacy services in Peterborough.

A three month public consultation opened in November 2015. For more information and to take part visit [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk) and search for 'Consultations' to complete the online survey.

If you do not have internet access and require a paper copy of the consultation, or if you need it in an alternative format such as large print or Easy Read please contact:

Cambridgeshire – Carol Williams, tel: 01223 706130 email: [carol.williams@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:carol.williams@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

Peterborough – Helen Gregg, tel: 01733 863618 email: [helen.gregg@peterborough.gov.uk](mailto:helen.gregg@peterborough.gov.uk)

The consultation closes on Saturday 20th February 2016.

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# **QUIZ NIGHT**

**Longstowe Village Hall**

**Saturday,  
19th March**

**Fundraising for the Village Hall  
... watch out for details ...**

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

A short, prayerful service of  
**Holy Communion**



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

## Team Evening Service

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January 6.00 pm at Caxton

*Praise, Prayer, Teaching*



## 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.

A short, prayerful service of  
**Holy Communion for Ash**  
**Wednesday**

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February**  
at **midday**  
in **Bourn Church**

and

at **7.30 pm**  
in **Eltisley Church**

*Come and prepare for the season of Lent.*

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



## Wave Café Church

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> 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. Please come and bring a friend.

For more information please contact Ruth Terrell on 01954 718575.

| Month   | Sunday     | Title                | T.E.W | Bourn                        | Kingston         | Caxton            | Longstowe        | Elsworth         | Boxworth           | Knapwell      |
|---------|------------|----------------------|-------|------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| January | 1          | Epiphany             |       | 10.30 am<br>HC(1)            | 8.30 am<br>HC(2) | 8.30 am<br>HC (2) |                  | 10.30 am<br>FS   | 08.30 am<br>HC (2) | 3.00 pm<br>EP |
|         | 2          | Baptism of<br>Christ |       | 10.30 am<br>WfA +<br>Baptism |                  | 10.30 am<br>HC    | 8.30 am<br>HC(2) | 3.00 pm<br>HC(2) | 10.30 am<br>FS     |               |
|         | 10/01/2016 |                      |       | 6.00 pm<br>EP                |                  |                   |                  |                  |                    |               |

|          |            |                       |                   |                                |                  |                   |                  |                   |                    |               |
|----------|------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| February | 3          | Epiphany 2            | 6.00 pm<br>Caxton | 8.30 am<br>HC(1)               | 10.30 am<br>FS   | 10.30 am<br>AAS   |                  | 10.30 am<br>AAC   | 10.30 am<br>MP     |               |
|          | 4          | Epiphany 3            |                   | 10.30 am<br>Songs of<br>Praise | 6.00 pm<br>EP    |                   | 10.30 am<br>HC   | 3.00 pm<br>EP     | 10.30 am<br>HC(1)  |               |
|          | 5          | Candlemas             |                   | 6.00 pm<br>EP                  |                  | 10.30 am<br>AAC   |                  | 10.30 am<br>HC    |                    |               |
|          | 1          | Sunday<br>before Lent |                   | 10.30 am<br>HC(1)              | 8.30 am<br>HC(2) | 8.30 am<br>HC (2) |                  | 10.30 am<br>FS    | 08.30 am<br>HC (2) | 3.00 pm<br>EP |
|          | 2          | Lent 1                |                   | 10.30 am<br>WfA                |                  | 10.30 am<br>MP    | 8.30 am<br>HC(2) | 3.00 pm<br>HC (2) | 10.30 am<br>FS     |               |
|          | 14/02/2016 |                       |                   | 6.00 pm<br>EP                  |                  |                   |                  |                   |                    |               |

|            |                  |                   |                     |                |                 |  |                       |                |                    |  |
|------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------|-----------------|--|-----------------------|----------------|--------------------|--|
| 10/02/2016 | Ash<br>Wednesday |                   | 12 noon HC at Bourn |                |                 |  | 7.30 pm HC at Elitsey |                |                    |  |
| 3          | Lent 2           | 6.00 pm<br>Caxton | 8.30 am<br>HC(1)    | 10.30 am<br>FS | 10.30 am<br>AAS |  | 10.30 am<br>AAC       | 10.30 am<br>MP |                    |  |
| 21/02/2016 |                  |                   |                     |                |                 |  |                       |                |                    |  |
| 4          | Lent 3           |                   | 10.30 am            | 6.00 pm        |                 |  | 10.30 am<br>MP        | 3.00 pm        | 10.30 am<br>HC (1) |  |
| 28/02/2016 |                  |                   | 10.30 am<br>MW      | 6.00 pm<br>EP  |                 |  |                       | 3.00 pm<br>EP  |                    |  |

## 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](http://www.cambs.police.uk)

Please let Sally have any items for the April  
 Skylark by Thursday 17 March.  
 Tel: 719464  
 Email: [theskylark@rocketmail.com](mailto:theskylark@rocketmail.com)