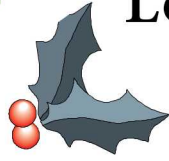




THE SKYLARK

Longstowe Parish Newsletter

January 2017



Village Hall News

Happy New Year

*...to everyone, from the
Village Hall Committee*

2016 has been a busy year for the Village Hall, especially in the area of refurbishment....

You may remember that earlier in 2016, a survey went round the village explaining that, owing to setbacks the committee were experiencing in gaining funding for a New Village Hall, a decision had been reached to scale down its aspirations and look for more realistic funding for a major refurbishment of the present hall. We asked residents to say a bit about what they would like to see from a Refurbished Village Hall.

The results were as follows:

Surveys were delivered to 72 households,
29 of which were completed (40.3%).

Of the 29 households:

- 7 have children living in the village
- 14 have retirees in their household
- 8 respondents have a local business
- 14 said there were commuters in their household
- 25 households said they enjoyed participating in village events



**Come
and Celebrate Christmas**

at St Mary, Longstowe

**Christmas Day
9.15 am Holy Communion**

- 21 said they would support a cafe on a regular basis
- 22 households said they would support a pub in the village
- 8 would support a family friendly area within the hall
- 17 would support a function room
- 8 would support a games facility
- 13 would support the installation of broadband in the village hall
- 12 would support a library in the village
- 16 would support a cinema or film nights in the village hall
- 22 said they would be willing to support the village hall either with time or money

Thank you very much indeed to all who participated in the survey. The results were revealing and useful, and indicate important ways in which the Village Hall is viewed in the community. With your support and enthusiasm these and other ideas can become a reality.

On the strength of this and other important information, including costings for the initial work required to improve the fabric of the building and insulate it, the Committee has been able to put together a proposal for funding, and a grant application has now been submitted.

Church News

We live, we are told, in a 'post-truth society'. So much so that the Oxford English Dictionary has chosen 'post-truth' as its Word of the Year for 2016. Having been in use since at least 1992, 'post-truth' showed a 2000% jump in published usage following the campaign to leave the EU in June, and more after the US presidential election campaign.

It seems these days that some public figures, especially politicians, can make claims which bear no relation to actual facts – commonly called 'lying' – and still be believed. Somehow, many people would rather believe an obvious lie which supports their prejudices than face the risk of having to change their minds.

This is hardly new: in 1710, Jonathan Swift wrote 'Falsehood flies, and the Truth comes limping after it; so that when Men come to be undeceiv'd, it is too late; the Jest is over, and the Tale has had its Effect'

Jesus had a thing or two to say about truth and lies: he said the Devil 'does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks according to his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.' (John 8:44)

And of himself he said 'I am the way, the truth, and the life.'

We are approaching Christmas when we remember Jesus born to be the light of

the world – a light which leaves darkness with nowhere to hide.

Let's enjoy all the trappings – I'm very partial to a mince pie myself – but let's not forget why Jesus was here. Let's refuse to be fed lies by our politicians and media, but instead hold them to a higher standard. Let's refuse to collude with dealers in 'post-truth', but instead insist on looking for truth, even when that means we need to change ourselves, which is always uncomfortable.

Let's remember, in the words of John's Gospel, that in the baby at Bethlehem 'the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.'

New Year Message

As a Christian I am aware 2017 marks the 500th anniversary since Martin Luther posted in public his 95 theses against what he saw had become prevalent abuses accepted or perpetrated by the Catholic Church at the time. He became the person who triggered what historians call the Protestant Reformation. What is clear is he loved the church and wanted it to be a healthy servant of God in the world; there is little or no evidence he envisaged a major schism in the universal church we are still trying to repair today. I believe small local actions (as Luther found) can lead to huge, and even international, consequences.

For example, I am delighted St Peter's Church in Papworth Everard share use of their premises enabling our Roman Catholic sisters and brothers today to have a place to gather for worship and fellowship as well. Whilst a few may prefer to go back to the days when they could use their own building (on Ermine Street North), for all of us it makes sense to have a greater use of the main church building in the village. It makes a loud statement – that the divisions we cause can be resolved.

Some of the first people to look for Jesus as a baby were visitors from another

country who had concluded God was doing something important for Jews and non-Jews alike. They are known as 'the Wise men' or 'Magi'; when they found Jesus their first instinct was to worship him. They were demonstrating a conviction that God was at work through Jesus repairing one of the major schisms of human history – between us and God and between people of different races, cultures and continents.

The world feels uncertain and divided at the start of 2017. I suggest gathering to worship Jesus as God's saviour is an important step in recognising we have a part to play in breaking down some of the local divisions that cause so much pain; and the best place to start is with God.

Please think of joining us at St Peter's in the year ahead. If you live in one of the other villages that make up the Papworth Team Ministry you will be equally welcome! Details of regular times for fellowship and worship are published regularly both in this publication and on our own website: www.papworthteamchurches.org

By the time you read this, I'm sure quite a few New Year's Resolutions will have been made and broken. Not so much the ones like 'lose weight' or 'eat more fruit' which can't really be judged in the short term, but certainly the make-or-break ones like 'stop smoking'.

That's because resolutions require resolve! It's not enough just to have a feeling that something would be a good idea – resolutions must spring from deep within us where our willpower wrestles with the force of habit and our fondness for instant gratification.

Will power must also battle with inertia, and impatience – we must be prepared to change, and we must be in it for the long haul. When two people marry, so popular songs have it, they say 'I do' – well, they don't! They say 'I will' – they engage their willpower and look to the long term, not just the present moment.

A New Year's Resolution that is actually worth making, and actually worth sticking

to, is really more of a New Year's Revolution – a turning away from how we have been to aim at what we intend to be.

The Biblical word for that turning is 'repentance'. It may sound a little strange to think of 'losing weight' as 'repenting of eating so much' but that's basically what it means!

Thinking about 'New Year's Repentance' opens up a whole range of possibilities which might not occur to us. How about resolving to be more humble, get angry less, be less greedy, to spend more time and resources on relationships than on things? These are far harder to measure than weight, or how often we eat our 'five a day' but correspondingly far more long- and far-reaching in their impact on our community and our world.

Jesus called his followers to be the light of the world and the salt of the earth. So how about if we all resolved to be brighter and more salty? More ready to challenge the dark, and more prepared to get stuck in and preserve our world from decay? That really would be a New Year's Revolution!

Nigel di Castiglione
Team Rector

Longstowe Parish Council News

Longstowe Parish Council would like to seek a grant for the purchase of a Defibrillator. If successful, is there anyone living near the centre of the village who would be prepared to have the box fixed to the outside of their house with easy access?

Longstowe Parish Council usually meets on the third Thursday of each month (except August) at 7.15pm in the Village Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend. The Agendas and Minutes are published on the web at <http://www.scamb.gov.uk/content/longstowe>

Dates for your Diary 2017:

- Thursday 19th January
- Thursday 16th February
- Thursday 16th March
- Thursday 20th April (Open Parish Meeting)

Problems with drains?

Anglian Water have informed us that they have very few complaints registered, so it would be a good idea for everyone concerned to ring or e-mail every time there is a problem:

03457 145 145 (24hr emergency helpline) or
anglianwatercustomerservices@anglianwater.co.uk

If everyone could let Bobbie know (LongstowePC.Clerk@hotmail.com) each time they contact Anglian Water, we can then keep a list of who/where/when/why for possible future use.

Message from the Police:

Dark Nights and Burglaries

The chance of burglary increases with these dark nights. However, burglars are less likely to target occupied homes, so make sure your house looks and feels like someone is home at all times.

- Keep your doors and windows locked at all times.
- Remove all keys from locks. Keep them in a safe place out of view.
- Keep valuables out of sight.
- Keep sheds and garages locked.
- Keep side gates locked; bins, ladders and tools locked away.
- Make your boundaries difficult or impossible to climb over.

If your house is empty after dark, leave a light on or set a timer.

Out and about

- Once you've parked up remove all items from display, including small amounts of coins, plastic bags and coats. If you're not able to take the items with you place them in the boot out of view.
- When using a sat nav make sure you remove the tell-tale ring often left on your windscreen. Potential thieves know that some people leave sat navs in the glovebox.
- Always lock the car and be aware of people hanging around watching your movements.
- Even if you're only leaving your car for a few moments, such as to pay for fuel, talk to a friend or pick your child up from school – don't leave your vehicle unlocked.
- A thief only needs a few seconds to jump into your car and steal things or drive away.
- When putting out the rubbish please do not have packaging on display which advertises your new belongings.

It is a good idea to register your property at www.immobilise.com and improve your chances of getting it back if it is lost or stolen. It only takes a couple of minutes and is FREE.

If you see anyone acting suspiciously and have any information regarding these individuals or their vehicles, please call police on 101 or Crime stoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555111.

How safe is your home?

Chief Inspector James Sutherland from Cambridgeshire Police created a quiz around a year ago, which is still running. Once the quiz is completed it tells you how safe your home is.

The 'bad-wolf test' is an online quiz that takes just 2 minutes and tells you how

safe your home is from burglars. You get a score of brick, twigs or straw.

Anyone who gets the straw rating is given an email contact address and encouraged to get in contact with Cambs Police so that they can come out and do a free full home security survey.

Try the quiz yourself to see how safe your home is.

<http://tinyurl.com/bad-wolf-test>

Kickstart

the moped hire people

Aged 16- 19 and finding travelling around difficult?

If transport is a problem maybe moped hire could help get you moving.

The District Council and Forward Gamlingay are trying to work out whether there are young people who would benefit from help towards moped hire. If you are:

- ☐ in work, but struggle to get there
- ☐ have an apprenticeship, are on a training course or
- ☐ in full time education or
- ☐ have the promise of a job, apprenticeship, training, or place on an education course
- ☐ live in Gamlingay or the surrounding area of the Hatleys, Longstowe, Little Gransden, Arrington and Croydon?

Get in touch with Bridget on **07729 836449**
bridget@glockling.com

We plan to work with Kickstart mopeds to improve the travel choices and opportunities for young people in this area.



Forward Gamlingay!

logo designed by the children of Gamlingay



South Cambridgeshire District Council

LONGSTOWE HISTORY SOCIETY

Stained Glass

- whetting the appetite -



an illustrated talk
by
Revd Stephen Day

The “Who, what, when and why?” of church stained glass, with a look at examples all taken from within a twenty mile radius of Longstowe

Tuesday **28th February**, 7.30 for 8pm
Longstowe Village Hall

Admission: **£3** (Members free)
Refreshments included

EVERYONE WELCOME

Cambridgeshire residents offered exclusive energy rates



The council has partnered with iChoosr, the UK's leading expert in collective energy switching, to deliver bespoke and highly competitive energy tariffs. Now is the ideal time for residents, especially those on standard tariffs, to switch.

Residents are encouraged to register on the Cambridgeshire Energy Switch scheme to see if they can secure a good rate as wholesale energy prices are likely to continue to increase in the coming weeks.

Cambridgeshire
Energy Switch



If you haven't signed up yet to the scheme you are able to sign up via the website Cambridgeshire Energy Switch web link below from 6th December 2016

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/cambsenergyswitch

Or visit Cambridgeshire County Council's website and click on the Cambridgeshire Energy Switch logo on the front page.

The timetable for switching is:

Residents sign up from 6th December 2016 to 12th February 2017 on the Cambridgeshire Energy Switch link. You will need your electricity and gas bills to provide some details on your current tariff and usage.

On 14th February 2017, energy companies will put forward their best deals for the collective switch based on how many residents want to switch. You then get the opportunity to switch and sing up to a new better deal.

There is no obligation for people to accept an offer but if you do it's easy and straight forward and the new provider will take care of the whole process.

If you have any issues registering please contact the helpdesk on ICHOOSR help desk on 0800 048 8285 which is open Mon-Friday 08.30am-5.30pm or contact the Energy Investment Unit at Cambridgeshire County Council on 01223 728552.



Fen Feeds Ltd

**Pet & Livestock Feeds,
Bedding, Hay & Straw,
Wild Bird Food**

FREE DELIVERY

Telephone: 01954 269259
Email: judy@fenfeeds.co.uk
www.fenfeeds.co.uk



Neighbourhood Watch

Your co-ordinators are:

Deborah Hemmins 719638

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

TEAM SOUTH

Sunday	Title	Bourn	Kingston	Caxton	Longstowe		Eltisley	Croxton	Toseland
1 01/01/2017			8.30 am HC				10.30 am HC		
2 08/01/2017	Baptism of Christ	10.30 am W4A FST	6.00 pm EP	10.30 am MP	8.30 am HC		4.00 pm W4A	10.30 am MP	
3 15/01/2017	Epiphany 2	8.30 am HC	10.30 am W4A				10.30 am FW		6.00 pm Songs of Praise
4 22/01/2017	Epiphany 3	10.30 am FW		8.30 am HC	10.30 am MP D		6.00 pm FHC	10.30 am HC	
29/01/2017	Epiphany 4	10.30 am CHC @ Longstowe					10.30 am CHC at Eltisley		

Please let Clare have any items for the April
Skylark by Thursday 16 March.
Email: Clare.Rebbekc@cruc.cam.ac.uk

**Christmas & New Year
Bin Collection**

Friday 30th December: Blue

Friday 6th January: Black

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