

Longford Parish Press



**Coffee Morning
at
St Chad's Church Longford**

**Saturday 14th March
10am – 1200 midday**

Make a posy of spring flowers for Mum

Coffee/cakes/raffle

Proceeds towards upkeep of the church



Donations of cakes would be very welcome. Please either bring to church on Saturday or drop off at Hill Crest, Longford Lane (near the Old Chapel) on Friday. Thank you.



Longford Fete

Save the date!!!

Friday 5th June 2026 6pm at Four Acres Field

Kindly hosted by Bev and Ian White

And we will still need your help!

Hello everyone. Myself (Andrea) and my trusty and tireless accomplices, Dave V, Dave S, Katy P, Bev W and Rich L are organising the village fete again this year and once again, we are calling for help from our friends and neighbours in Longford

Volunteers – we will need people to help sell raffle tickets ahead of the fete, set up the marquees, and help on the evening with running of stalls and events, if you can volunteer please contact Andrea. We'll also be looking for raffle prizes

Attractions will include: Vehicles of Interest ~ Bouncy Castle ~ BBQ ~ Curry shack ~ Bar ~ Raffle ~
~ Teas & Cakes ~ Bottle Stall ~ Plants ~ Bric a Brac ~ Wood Turning

Live Music from the Rock Choir

And the ever-popular **Longford Egg Throwing Competition!**



We're also looking for any ideas for new stalls, games, or attractions – again contact Andrea

And if you don't have time to help, just turn up on the night, have some fun, eat some delicious food (and drink) catch up on the village gossip and help us raise some funds for the upkeep of St Chad's

Thanks very much, Andrea

Longford WI Is 100 Years Old!!

Save the date!
11th July 2026



**Longford Scarecrow Competition
with homemade cakes &
an exhibition of the
WI history.
in the Pump Room.**

More details to follow soon

Cookery Corner *by Longford WI***Chicken & Leek Gratin with Cider****Ingredients**

500g chicken thighs, boneless & skinless

2 leeks

45g butter

150ml cider

2+ pinches paprika, according to taste

1 tsp soy sauce

1tsp Dijon mustard

300g double cream or substitute

360g potatoes

55g grated cheese

Salt and ground pepper

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180C/200C.
2. Wash and cut the potatoes into thin slices.
3. Chop the chicken into cubes.
4. Melt half of the butter in a casserole, fry chicken until browned and place aside in a bowl.
5. Chop the leeks and add to the casserole along with the remaining butter, fry gently until softened.
6. Add the soy sauce, cider, paprika, mustard and cream. Stir, season and cook for 2 minutes or so until the mixture has thickened a little.
7. Return the chicken to the pan and stir while it heats, then pour the mixture into an ovenproof casserole. Lay the sliced potatoes over the top, sprinkle with cheese and a little paprika
8. Bake in the oven for 30 mins.

**Longford Community Fund** *by Ginty Leedham*

As you may remember in the last newsletter it was reported that as the Longford Community Fund didn't really exist as a functioning entity anymore and also Lloyds Bank were going to close this account as it is no longer appropriate to be held in the existing account, it was thought the money should be put to better use.

This money, £1936.40, has now been transferred to the Coke's Educational Charity where it is available to all young residents of Longford, Hollington, Rodsley and Alkinton to apply for a grant when going into further education or apprenticeship, Longford School can also apply annually.

The details for applying to this charity will be published in the autumn newsletter.

Ginty Leedham & Joanne Roworth

Longford Parish Press

This newsletter is published quarterly on the parish council and village websites. If you have something to add to the newsletter please submit it to parishpress63@btinternet.com.



Longford & District Pumpkin Club

We are absolutely delighted (and mildly alarmed) to announce that the **Pumpkin Growing Competition** is back for another year of giant veg, fierce rivalry and suspiciously confident gardeners.

This year's pumpkin categories are: 🎃

- Heaviest** (bring a forklift)
- Girth** (tape measures at the ready)
- Colour** (50 Shades of Orange)
- Height** (how did that even happen?)
- Fettler** (you know who you are)
- Most Rounded** (no flat bottoms allowed)

And because we're nothing if not ambitious, you can also enter:

- Longest Carrot** (no stretching)
- Longest Runner Bean** (no tying two together)
- Single Rose**
- Any Single Flower**
- Small Flower Arrangement**
- Best Single Fruit or Veg** (Home Grown — no supermarket "rescues")
- Tastiest Cake (Flavour to be Decided) – Adult**
- Tastiest Cake (Flavour to be Decided) – Child**

The cost of entry this year is £7 where you'll be presented with pumpkin seeds, seeds will be on sale from mid-March. We'll let you know via the village website/ WhatsApp group when they're available.

Last year you wonderful lot raised an incredible **£1200** for Cancer Research UK — a fantastic achievement and proof that competitive vegetable growing really can change the world.

📣 ****PRESENTATION NIGHT IS SATURDAY 3RD OCTOBER**** 📣

Put it in your diary immediately. Cancel weddings. Reschedule holidays. This is bigger than Christmas.

And now, as tradition demands, we officially begin the season with those ancient and powerful words:

BEGINNUS PUMPKINUS! 🎃

If you would like to register to enter any of the above categories, please complete the form via the village website. The fee is £7 per entry, please pay one of the committee before the event.



W.I. Diary

We've started 2026 with an interesting selection of speakers here at Longford WI.

In January we'd an interesting talk and slideshow from Alan Salt about the history of cheese making in Derbyshire. We happily tucked into the samples of cheese he kindly brought along, accompanied with some crackers & wine.

In February we had a joint meeting with Sutton on the Hill WI, where we had a talk is by a representative from Derbyshire Police Force regarding on-line fraud and how to avoid it. We all left checking our Whatsapp settings!

In March we're having a craft session, and in April Annie Maudling is visiting us to talk about On a wick and a Prayer in Tissington. In May we're looking forward to hearing John Wedgwood's talk entitled 'From the surgery to the screen'.

As always, if you're interested in coming along, you'll be more than welcome. We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at The Pump Room, at 7.30pm.

Scarecrow competition

In addition to our usual business, this year Longford WI are celebrating our 100 year birthday! This is quite an event for a club developed purely for the ladies of Longford. We have a few events being organised, **but we really want the whole village to join us for our big event - a Scarecrow competition! On 11th July** we want all the village to be awash with scarecrows. A competition will be held, categories to be determined, and prizes given that afternoon in The Pump Room, where we will have a small exhibition of the history of Longford WI and a cake stall.

Details as to how to enter will be forthcoming, but please, please put the date in your diary and join in.

Spring Is In The Air by Mick Tunncliffe

Spring is almost here thank goodness, after what must have been one of the wettest winters on record.

I suppose from a bird's point of view it is good news, because it has been less difficult for them to survive the winter, particularly those summer visitors from Southern Europe and Africa that have decided to overwinter in Britain, such as chiffchaff and blackcaps.

It will not be long before the first of the summer migrants arrive here. There have already been a few sightings of sand martins and towards the end of March and into April we will see swallows, house martins, willow warblers and many more

Last year I saw my first swallow on the 27th of March. I always keep a record of when I see my first, and this is the earliest ever. Our summer visitors are arriving earlier than ever due to the warming climate.

One bird I just have to see is the cuckoo. When we first came to live in Longford over 40 years ago you would always hear the cuckoo and see one sitting in the trees at the back of the house, unfortunately it is the similar depressing story of the demise in numbers of many of the bird species due to loss of habitat, global warming and mass shootings of migratory birds in Mediterranean countries such as Cyprus and Malta

On a more cheerful note, our resident hedgehog has survived the winter, which is not surprising as Christine has been putting hedgehog food outside his box every night and in the morning it has all gone.



The Longford Book Group *by Angela Churchill*

We began the year together by brightening up a gloomy January night at The Horseshoes on Long Lane, for our post-Christmas party. Great fun and excellent food followed. Santa came with our special Secret Santa book parcels, brownies mysteriously appeared for our partners, we did some speed-jigsaw making, guessed some missing words, won some chocolate, talked non-stop then went home ready to face the weeks of rain that have followed!

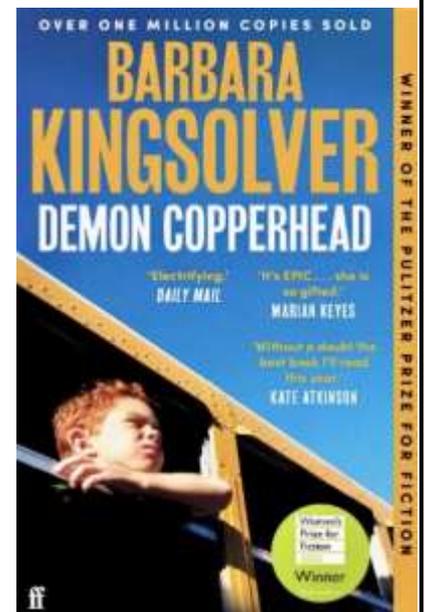
Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver (Faber and Faber)

Book Group Score 8

This was quite a big read to take us over Christmas. The story is a modern take on Charles Dickens' novel, David Copperfield. It is the third book we have read set in the Appalachians, each set in different eras but all of which refer to the poverty in the area.

Overall we thought this was an excellent read and found ourselves glued to the story-line, hoping for the best for Demon, growing up in terrible circumstances and being let down by adults and authorities alike. We had a long chat about how well the various characters were realised, how some characters surprised us and how some remained principled and kind no matter what life threw at them. We discussed the inept support Demon had from professionals, the impact of caring individuals on his life and we wondered how his future would unfold from the point at which the book left him. This story also touches on many social issues including the opioid crisis in the USA and its impact on poor communities. We reflected that David Copperfield was published about 175 years ago, yet the perils of being a child without adult love and care remain harsh and numerous.

Our next book has been described as a "proper good pick me up of a book", so we are looking forward to that!



St Chad's News

Coffee morning

A Coffee Morning will be held in Longford St Chad's church on Saturday 14th March, between 10am – 12noon. All are welcome.

Fete

The fete will be held on Friday 5th June at 6pm. See the fete page for more details.

Services (St Chad's Longford and Christ Church Long Lane)

15th March Mothering Sunday Service 10am - Long Lane
 29th March All Age Holy Communion 11.15am Longford
 5th April Easter service 10.30am Longford
 5th April Easter service 10.30am Long Lane
 12th April Morning Prayer 9.15am Long Lane
 26th April All age Communion 11.15am Longford
 3rd May Holy Communion 10.30am Long Lane
 10th May Morning Prayer 9.15am Longford
 24th May All age Communion 11.15am Longford

Please check Longford village website or noticeboards in case of any changes.

Parochial Church Council

The PCC is currently in need of additional members. If you can spare the time and would like to help with the running of St Chad's church please get in touch with Myra (PCC secretary) or Dave (PCC Treasurer) via the parish press email parishpress63@btinternet.com . Thank you.

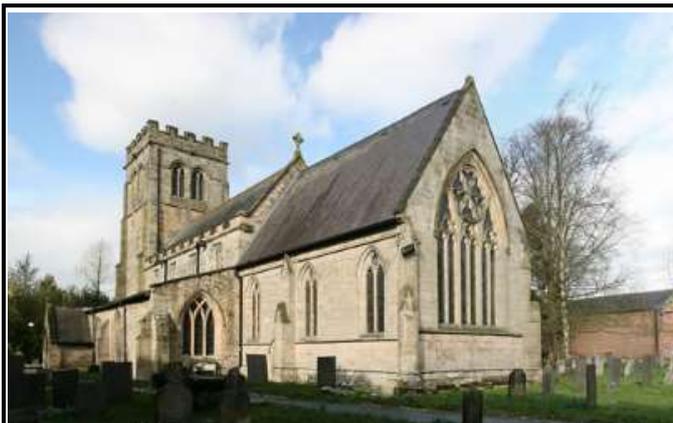
A note from Frances Rymer

I take communion to two housebound people in Long Lane. If you know anybody else who would like this service, please get in touch.

Also we have a small prayer group who meet by Zoom every Thursday from 9.30am - 10.00am. If anybody would like to join us they would be very welcome. Again, get in touch.

And finally...The churchyard has been looking wonderful this year - a great display of snowdrops and now swathes of beautiful daffodils.





St Chad's Church Longford

Services

15th March Mothering Sunday Service 10am - Long Lane

29th March All Age Holy Communion 11.15am Longford

5th April Easter service 10.30am Longford

5th April Easter service 10.30am Long Lane

12th April Morning Prayer 9.15am Long Lane

26th April All age Communion 11.15am Longford

3rd May Holy Communion 10.30am Long Lane

10th May Morning Prayer 9.15am Longford

24th May All age Communion 11.15am Longford

Please see the noticeboard outside Longford School and the village website for updates.

Welcome to new residents

Longford Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to say 'hello' and 'welcome' to all new residents of Longford.

Your Parish Councillors can be contacted as follows:

<i>Robert Wakefield</i>	<i>330144</i>
<i>Ginty Leedham</i>	<i>07929 552795</i>
<i>Kevin Johnson</i>	<i>330410</i>
<i>Lara Mosedale</i>	<i>330363</i>
<i>Alan Hall</i>	<i>216300</i>
<i>Darren Fox</i>	<i>07856 098536</i>

Clerk to the Council – *Sophie Goodwin 07530 310650*

District Councillor – *Geoff Bond, geoff.bond@derbyshiredales.gov.uk*

County Councillor - *Steve Bull 01629 535650*

Parish Council meeting

Wednesday 4th March

Wednesday 1st April

Wednesday 6th May (7.00pm)

Meetings start at 7.30 pm and take place in the Pump Room.

Please note these meetings are open to the public and all are welcome to attend.

Pump Room bookings

If anyone would like to book the Pump Room please call Kathryn Ferris.

A note for your diary:-

The latest date for your contributions to the next Parish Press is **Sunday 17th May 2026**. Please contact parishpress63@btinternet.com

Events for your Diary

14th March Coffee Morning, Longford Church

5th June Village Fete, Four Acres Field

11th July Scarecrow competition

3rd October Pumpkin extravaganza, Wyaston Village Hall

Regular meetings:

WI meetings – second Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm, Pump Room, Main Street.

Parish Council meetings – see above for the list.

Church services – see above for the list.

