

Longford Parish Press



CHRISTMAS 2025
**FOOD BANK
COLLECTION**

MOST NEEDED
CHRISTMAS ITEMS SUCH AS:
MAIN MEAL ITEMS SUCH AS TINNED MEAT, VEG, TINNED VEG, TINNED POTATOES, STUFFING,
GRAVY, APPLE/ CRANBERRY SAUCE, MINCE PIES, CHRISTMAS CAKE, CUSTARD,
CHRISTMAS PUDDING(WITHOUT ALCOHOL), CRACKERS ETC....

THE PUMP ROOM, LONGFORD
THURSDAY DECEMBER 4TH
8.30AM - 1PM

ALL DONATIONS ARE VERY GRATEFULLY RECEIVED





Carol Service
Sunday 14th December 6.30pm
St Chad's Church Longford



Cookery Corner *by Longford WI***Christmas bites - Cranberry, brie & bacon in mini filo cases****Ingredients**

1 sheet filo pastry
 30g unsalted butter
 75g brie
 Half a teaspoon mustard (optional)
 50g cranberry sauce
 35g smoked backed bacon rashers
 You will need a 12 hole mini muffin tin

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 190C/170C fan. Cut the bacon into 1cm strips.
2. Melt the butter and brush it over the filo pastry. Cut the pastry into 5cm squares. Place 3 squares on top of each other, angled a little to create a star.
3. Press each pile of 3 squares into one of the holes in the mini muffin tin to form a pastry case.
4. Cut the brie into 12 small pieces and put one into each pastry case. Add a small amount of mustard, if you choose to include this. Then add some cranberry sauce and finish with a bacon strip.
5. Bake for around 11 minutes. Check the bacon is cooked, the pastry is golden and the cheese is melted.
6. Remove from the oven, cool a little in the tin then remove and serve warm. Delicious!

The quantities of each filling can be varied to suit your taste.

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

You may not be aware but a community fund exists within our village, but over the years the committee has dwindled leaving myself and Joanne Roworth to continue to manage the remaining funds, more so Joanne than myself I have to say.

Circumstances have now arisen that have made us think about the future of this fund, the total value is £1873.53 and Lloyds bank are going to close this account as it is no longer appropriate to be held in the existing account.

An appeal goes out each year when a report is submitted to the annual Parish Council meeting for anyone to come forward to reinvent this fund but as yet no one has responded so we are thinking maybe the fund should be passed on to a more worthy cause within the village ie The Dame Catherine Coke Education Charity. This charity awards grants to local school leavers who are going into further education or an apprenticeship to help fund books, laptops etc.

Please, if you have any thoughts on what you think should be done with the money get in touch. Lloyds will be closing this account very early in the new year so a decision needs to be made promptly.

Ginty Leedham 07929552795 and Joanne Roworth 01335 330057

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



Once again the Annual Judging and Awards Ceremony followed by a Pumpkin Feast took place at Wyaston Village Hall on the evening of Saturday 4th October 2025.

69 Adults and 16 Children attended which is a record, this is over a quarter of the population of Longford. It was great to see a lot of children with their parents, which bodes well for the future of the event.

Pumpkin entries totalled 29 which is about average, with the heaviest weighing 39.24kg, and 35 in total in the flower, vegetable and cake classes.

The winner of the Dave Hales Cup, which is in memory of the lovely Dave Hales who was one of our founder members, was Andrea Leedham.

Our Grand Fettlemeister Andy organised the 'Fettlesome' where all the pumpkin category winners take part and was won by Elinor Lovatt and which created a lot of laughs.

BEST IN SHOW WAS WON BY ANDREA LEEDHAM AND RESERVE BY MARY HALL.

A sumptuous feast was served with about 10 different main courses and 10 puddings cooked by generous local residents and a very enjoyable village evening was had by all.

A big thankyou goes to all who helped to make the evening a great success, with special thanks to our judges Mike Jeffreson and Enid Hawksworth.

To finish the evening we all sang the well-known favourite SWEET CAROLINE, however we named it SWEET PUMPKIN VINE with our own words to a pumpkin theme. Needless to say, it will not be a top 20 hit



**WE RAISED AROUND £1,200 FOR CANCER RESEARCH UK.
WHAT A RESULT, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.**



W.I. Diary

It is nearly the end of the year and Longford Women's Institute would like to wish Longford Village a very merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year. 2026 is a very exciting year for Longford WI as we are 100 years old! We hope to organise a few celebrations, some of which we hope that the village will join in on.

We've had another interesting few months at Longford WI. In September Vicky Scotcher taught us how to make our own ceramic pumpkins. In October, Shelley from the Cameo Project talked to us about the work they do at Foston prison. In November we had our AGM and we're looking forward to our Christmas meal at The Lamplight restaurant in Ashbourne in December.

We meet at 7.30pm on the 2nd Tuesday of the month and we always welcome new faces. In January we are welcoming Alan Salt, a local cheesemaker. Alan is particularly excited to come to one of the oldest cheese making villages. In February we are meeting at Sutton on the Hill Village Hall, where we are having a joint meeting with Sutton on the Hill WI on the 9th to learn about Online Fraud and how not to get caught out. March sees us back in Longford's Pump Room as usual for a hands-on craft meeting.

Finally we are having a collection for Ashbourne Food bank on December 4th in the Pump Room. See the poster for more details.

Come and join in and all the best for 2026.

Winter Bird Visitors *by Mick Tunnicliffe*

It's the time of year when our summer visitors have headed south to various areas of Southern Europe and Africa and warmer climes. Willow Warblers, Chiffchaff, Swallows, House Martins, Swifts, Redstarts and Sand Martins and many more species.

They are replaced by birds that have bred in the Arctic and Northern Europe, such as Fieldfare, Redwing, Waxwing, Pink Footed Goose and Whooper and Bewick Swans.

Whooper and Bewick Swans don't stay the winter in this area but head down to Norfolk and Suffolk where they feed during the day on sugar beet tops and spilled grain in stubble fields, then roost safely at night on reservoirs and other bodies of water.

Sometimes during October and November I have seen skeins (Geese) and herds (Swans) over Longford heading south, honking to keep in touch with one another, a wonderful sight.

Fieldfare and Redwing are common around Longford, you will see them in fields and gardens feeding on the abundant berries at this time of year, however having said that I have not seen many yet this year.

Waxwings are one of those birds that are very difficult to find in most years, I suspect most residents have never seen one. I only see them if there is an alert on my Rare Bird Pager and I would have travel to see them (Twitching), which I have done on a couple of occasions when they were in Allestree and Stretton I recall.

However, two years ago when it was what they call a 'Waxwing Winter' when tens of thousands arrive because of a poor berry crop in their usual winter area. We were walking in the grounds of Alton Towers when we found about six of them, very close, a beautiful bird.

This winter there are very few waxwings around, mainly in the Aberdeen, Scarborough and East Coast areas, however as they eat the berry crop up they move further inland, so you never know they may reach this area.

If there are any close by this winter I will put it on the WhatsApp Group.



Waxwing



Redwing



Fieldfare

What A Wonderful Sight *by Ginty Leedham*

What a great year for house martins. We have had two nests on the front of our houses, Mill View & Holme Lea and one at the back. The video on the village website www.longfordvillage.co.uk/nature is a scene I encountered one morning in August around the nest at the back of our house, amazing. Let's hope they return next year.

There seems to have been an abundance of swallows and bats as well which is really lovely to see, such a privilege to sit in the garden at dusk and see so many bats flying around. Long may it continue.

The Longford Book Group *by Angela Churchill*

We had a trip to Sudbury Stables tearoom for a pre-Christmas coffee and have now set about organising our Christmas party. Once again we've decided to have it in January, for some winter cheer after the Christmas festivities.

The Secrets of Hartwood Hall by Katie Lumsden (Penguin) Book Group Score 7

A fairly light modern take on the Victorian gothic novel. The story follows recently widowed Margaret, forced by circumstance to take up the role of governess at isolated Hartwood Hall. Threats from other servants, the mysterious east wing and a strange figure in the forest, add to Margaret's sense of foreboding.

We felt this was quite a fun book, with enough mystery to keep us reading, even though some events were slightly silly. We talked about how much of the story we had managed to guess in advance. We discussed the measles outbreak in the book and Margaret's final decision.



Getting Away by Kate Sawyer (Bonnier Books Ltd), Book Group Score 6

We were lucky enough to be given a set of 10 copies of this novel by the publisher. A story of 4 or 5 generations of one family, told through their various holidays. Beginning when a day out on the works trip was the annual get-away; ending where members of the family meet by flying halfway across the world for a celebration. We learn of family secrets, personalities and see past harms healing over the generations.

Two of the group enjoyed this very much as an easy, end of summer read. Others found it lacked momentum and interest after the first few chapters. We enjoyed how the book showed holidays changing over the course of the last century, up to the present time. We also liked the chapter on Butlins, and seeing post war Britain through the eyes of a young American. We discussed how it was quite difficult to remember all the characters in the book as the family grew and how some seemed to be included mainly to ensure that a range of types of individual was represented. Some of us found the character development to be minimal as was any description of fallout from major life events, but we also talked about whether this might be due to seeing the family through snapshots in time, over a period of many years.



We are looking forward to meeting to talk about our next book in January 2026!

The Oldest Building in Longford

The oldest building in Longford, Hollington or Rodsley that dates from early in the 12th century.

St. Chad's Church has insurance and needs maintaining, this on its own costs on average £555 a month (average per month over a few years). There is no external funding for St. Chad's at all and we rely completely on the fete, donations, collections etc (ie generosity).

I know that a lot of you already help in various ways with and/or attend the fete. If you would be prepared to help a bit further, and this won't actually cost you anything at all, except for a few minutes to setup the below:

Give as you Live is a website that generates free donations for charity. Please do a search for this in your normal browser where you would on-line shop and sign up (<https://www.giveasyoulive.com>). It is quick and really does only take a minute or so to do so. You can then choose your own preferred charity, hopefully it will be St. Chad's Church, Longford, Derbyshire. Then, when you shop online (as normal), if shopping with one of the over 6,000 stores registered with Give as you Live, we will receive a donation.

Alternatively, here is a link to the St Chad's donation page:

[Donate to St Chad's Church, Longford, Derbyshire | Give as you Live Donate](#)

THANK YOU

St Chad's News

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

Forthcoming church services at Longford and Long Lane, weather permitting!

Sunday 7th December 10.30am Holy Communion Long Lane

Sunday 14th December 9.15am Morning Prayer Long Lane

Sunday 14th December 6.30pm Carol Service Longford

Monday 15th December 4.00pm Carol Service Long Lane

Friday 19th December 2.30pm School Christingle Longford

Friday 19th December 2.30pm School Christingle Long Lane

Sunday 4th January 10.30am Holy Communion Long Lane

Sunday 11th January 9.15am Morning Prayer Longford

Sunday 25th January 11.15am All Age Communion Longford

Sunday 1st February 10.30am Holy Communion Long Lane

Sunday 8th February 9.15am Morning Prayer Long Lane

Sunday 22nd February 11.15am All Age Communion Longford



Vicar vacancy

Our search for a new vicar continues. The post is being re-advertised during late November and early December and we'll let you know of any developments.

Churchyard clear-up

Thanks to everyone who helped with the churchyard clear up in October. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

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.



St Chad's Church Longford

Services

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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 3rd December 2025

2026 meetings dates will be decided at the December meeting and will be listed on the parish council website.

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 22nd February 2026**. Please contact parishpress63@btinternet.com

Events for your Diary

Thursday 4th December Food Bank collection 8.30am – 1.00 pm Pump Room Main Street

Sunday 14th December Carol Service 6.30pm St Chad's Longford

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.

