

LONGHIRST LEADER

December 2019 / January 2020



*We wish you all a Merry Christmas
and a Very Happy New Year*



LONGHIRST VILLAGE HALL

GRAND CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

In aid of St. John's Church



Saturday 7th December

10am – 12 noon



Christmas Gifts : Preserves : Cards : Candles

Tombola : Christmas Raffles

Admission and Coffee £3 Children 50p

CAROL SINGING

As usual a small group of Carol singers will be out and about in the Village and surrounding area on **Monday 16th** and at Micklewood on **Wednesday 18th December**. We will meet at the Village Hall at 6.30pm. Please come and join us, everyone is very welcome.

Carol Robson (f)

VILLAGE HALL NEWS



The Longhirst Parish Association's postponed AGM will take place on **Thursday 23rd January** starting at 7pm in the Village Hall. It is your opportunity to make your views known, to hold the Trustees to account and to nominate and elect the people you want to serve on the board.

Nomination papers were distributed with the last issue of the Longhirst Leader. If you need another copy please ring Mike Elphick (c).

The Longhirst Parish Association Trustees

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT



At the meeting held on 7th November the Clerk, Helyn Douglas, reported that Pegswood Parish Council had supported Longhirst's submission to upgrade the footpath between the two villages in NCC's forthcoming Local Transport Plan.

Peter Coates reported that the site meeting requested by the Parish Council with NCC Highways and Advance Northumberland (the replacement for Arch and the new landowners of the former UK Coal Potland opencast site) had resulted in a very speedy resolution of the repeated flooding of the Ashington Road. Advance Northumberland arranged for a machine to clear the ditch downstream of the road and the problem was resolved within 48 hours. NCC has agreed to raise the road at the flooding site next year and hopefully this will prevent any further difficulties. NCC has at last removed the "Longhirst Hall Hotel" signs from the B1337 opposite the Hall entrance.

Chris Marr outlined the discussions with the Woodland Trust to have the muddy areas at the entrances to Paddock Wood repaired. It has been agreed to install short, properly stoned lengths of footpath and Richard Tordoff volunteered to assist with the work.

Richard explained that the installation of the defibrillator in the bus shelter outside the Village Hall had been delayed because of the electrician having an operation. It is hoped to have the work completed shortly.

The Colliery Residents Association had requested that repairs to their bus shelter be carried out. The Parish Council welcomed the approach from the Colliery and agreed that the Chairman and Vice Chairman contact the Association and agree to meet their representatives.

A planning application from Bede and Cuthbert has been submitted to build 2 homes on the field on the north side of Dairy Lane. (NCC has previously given outline permission for this site). The Council has always expressed concern about any proposal to increase traffic levels along Dairy Lane and if it is intended to use the Lane for construction traffic then this will be very firmly resisted.

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 2nd January** at 7pm in the Village Hall and all residents are welcome to attend.

Peter Coates

MICKLEWOOD AND LONGHIRST HALL MATTERS

The larger properties around Longhirst Hall have all sold. There has been significant interest in the recently developed apartments and a number have been sold. A wildflower meadow has been created in the Hall grounds close to the old cricket pitch and this has attracted a variety of wildlife.

Three properties have recently sold on Micklewood and four of the rented properties also have new tenants. We welcome the new residents and hope they enjoy living in Longhirst.

A number of children celebrated Halloween and the pumpkins are now out in the woodland feeding the local wildlife.

Janet Quinn

THANK YOU

We would like to thank you all for your get well messages, cards, flowers and prayers that have been such a source of strength to us over the last few roller coaster weeks. We are doing fine, but still have more challenges ahead. It is wonderful to be part of such a caring community and we will continue to need your support and understanding.

Thank you all so much.

Jill and Mike Elpkick

LONGHIRST VILLAGE SHOW



Following our usual meeting to review how the Village Show went this year we have decided to make one or two changes to the classes for next year.

In the **Photograph Section** Class 79 will change from 'A Seasonal Scene' to '**Water**'

Class 80 will change from 'Food' to '**Transport**'

In the **Cookery Section** Class 71, the themed cake, will be changed from 'Hedgehog' to '**Animal**', This should give you plenty of time to start snapping and to practise decorating your chosen cake. Good luck!

Carol Benbow

CHURCH NOTICE BOARD



Our Family **Advent Toy Service** will be held on **Sunday 1st December** at 9.30am in St. John's Longhirst. This is the occasion when we bring toys wrapped as Christmas presents, with a note attached indicating the age and if necessary the gender of the child for whom the gift would be appropriate. These are collected during the service and later distributed by the Cedarwood Centre in North Shields. We offer you a very warm invitation to join us on this occasion and for

all our combined services at St John's Longhirst, St Andrew's Bothal and St Margaret's Pegswood which are as follows:-

Date	Morning	Evening
December 1 st	9.30am Toy Service at Longhirst	4pm Evensong at the Rectory
December 8 th	9.30am Holy Communion at Bothal	4pm Evensong at the Rectory
December 15 th	9.30am Holy Communion at Longhirst	4pm Evensong at the Rectory
December 22 nd	9.30am Holy Communion at Bothal	
December 24 th		6pm Family Carol Service at Longhirst 11.30pm Midnight Service at Bothal
December 25 th	10.15am Christmas Day Service at Pegswood	
December 29 th	10.15am Joint Benefice Service at Pegswood	
January 5 th	9.30am Holy Communion at Longhirst	4pm Evensong at the Rectory
January 12 th	9.30am Holy Communion at Bothal	4pm Evensong at the Rectory
January 19 th	9.30am Holy Communion at Longhirst	4pm Evensong at the Rectory
January 26 th	9.30am Holy Communion at Bothal	4pm Evensong at the Rectory

Other dates for your diary in the run up to Christmas are:-

Saturday 7th December - Christmas Coffee Morning, see page 1

Saturday 14th December - 9.30am clean and decorate the Church

Monday 16th and Wednesday 18th December - Carol singing, see page 1

Sibell Pigg and friends collected £240 in sponsorship from their Steeplechase in September, the Jumble Sale raised £338 and the Beetle Drive £155. Thank you to everyone for your continued help, support and generosity.

We had a very enjoyable Harvest Supper at Longhirst followed by an informative talk from Wansbeck Food Bank who gratefully accepted our donations of food and money. January is a 'lean time' for many people, so Food Bank donations will be particularly welcome then. They can be left in the Church, Village Hall or local supermarkets as described in the article below. Jill Elphick



Wansbeck Valley Food Bank is a charity providing food aid to people in need in our local community. There are many reasons for the need for emergency help, ranging

from the long-term unemployed, people whose benefits have changed and there is a gap in payments, to an increasing number of people who are employed but are struggling to feed their families due to a combination of rising inflation and a reduction in wages/hours.

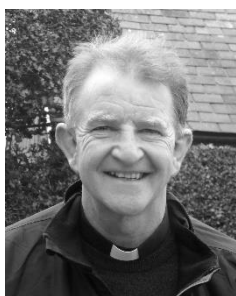
Clearly this can never be more than a vital stop gap service so we ask that clients come to us via a referrer who helps them tackle the longer term issues. There are many care professionals locally who will refer individuals to us, e.g. Health Visitors, Doctors, Social Services and Citizens Advice. Our distribution centres are open in both Morpeth and Ashington 1300-1500 weekdays for clients to collect parcels sufficient for 3 days; we are also able to deliver to outlying villages if it is difficult to come to us.

We are experiencing an unprecedented level of demand for our service and there is no sign that this trend will abate in the near future. In the last 12 months we have provided 19,600 days of food to those in need; this is an increase of 46% on the situation a year ago. As a small local charity we depend almost entirely on the food, cash and volunteers that come from the area we serve. Therefore we are so grateful for all the help and support we get from the community.

If you need to know more about the Food Bank, you can call us on 07841 908477 or visit our website, which is wansbeckvalleyfoodbank.org. If you want to donate some tins or packets of non-perishable food or toiletries, we have collection baskets in the Coop in Pegswood and beside the checkouts in Morrisons (Morpeth) and Asda (Ashington).

Northgate Hospital, Morpeth NE61 3BP Tel: 07841 908477

VICAR'S LETTER



I expect you will have by now been sending and receiving Christmas cards, a few of which might depict a traditional nativity scene with Mary and Joseph adoring the new-born baby Jesus lying in the manger. A few animals surround them. They have some unexpected visitors, the shepherds and wise men. The whole scene is illuminated by the bright star shining down and by choirs of angels flying overhead in celebration of the birth. The very best snapshots focus on the softness of the baby's skin, the warm bodies and benign faces of the animals that seem to be protecting Emmanuel, the Christ Child, and heating the air with their breath to keep him warm. There may be added seasonal words like "Peace", "Love" and "Joy".

This however doesn't tell the whole story but you know how it goes. The whole of Bethlehem was crowded out with travellers who by government decree had to register with the authorities for

taxation purposes. Mary and Joseph got a stall in a stable for the night instead of a room, not an ideal situation for them with Mary's baby due any time. They also got a feeding trough, which turned out to be handy when the child was born and this was where they laid him wrapped in swaddling clothes. That's when the picture was taken, one moment in time, right then after Mary's baby was born and in the manger, and when the star was still overhead, the visitors had all turned up and the angels were still singing in the rafters.

But what about later? What then, when the hole in the heavens had closed up and the only music to be heard was from the bar at the inn? The visitors had already said their goodbyes and the animals were getting hungry and restless and making a racket, which woke the baby up. He was hungry as well and started to cry. As she picked him up Mary started crying too, what with the recent exertions of childbirth on top of a wearying journey and now the creeping chill of the night air. Why hadn't she just married a nice boy from Nazareth? She'd be back snug and safe at home not competing with farm animals for a place to sleep in Bethlehem. Joseph said he was sorry and he meant it. Mary said that she was sorry too as they both hurt all over and it was freezing cold.

But guess what? God is still there, right in the middle of the picture. The scene had changed, life had moved on, but Emmanuel is still there in the middle of it all. He is there not only in the best of times but also in the worst of times, and especially in the worst of times. This is the meaning of Emmanuel, God-With-Us: with us in the midst of life as we live it, however far from home we may be, however much or however little our lives reflect the sentiments on the Christmas cards we send. That is where God is born, just there, in any cradle we have to offer.

May Emmanuel, the Christ Child, be with you and yours, in the best of times and in the worst of times and bring you peace, love and joy this Christmas.

John Park

WELCOME



We are pleased to welcome Lauren Regan and Chris Ford to No 21 Main Street, Jon and Angela to 31 Micklewood and David Parker to 18 Micklewood.

We hope they will all be very happy in their new homes and look forward to seeing them at future events in the Village.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

This enjoyable event raised £220. Our thanks go to Linda Rudd for organising it this year.

THE LONGHIRST HUNDRED CLUB

The winners of the last two 'Hundred Club' draws are:

Month	1 st Prize (£60)	2 nd Prize (£40)	3 rd Prize (£20)
October	Ticket No. 155 Alan Block	Ticket No. 70 Audrey Jordon	Ticket No. 12 Carol Robson
November	Ticket No. 177 Julie Harris	Ticket No. 3 Mike Elphick (for Lauren)	Ticket No. 59 Claire Coates

Mike Elphick

TRADESMAN RECOMMENDATION

We would like to recommend a very good roofer we came across through "Checkatrade" online. His name is Barry Ord (B Ord Roofing & Property Maintenance). The link to his reviews on Checkatrade, which includes one from us, is <https://www.checkatrade.com/BOrdRoofingAndPropertyMaintena/>. He is a nice guy and will do small jobs as well as the big ones. His contact no is 07458 193706.

Andy and Pam Bolton

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DECEMBER

Sunday 1 st	9.30am Family Advent Toy Service St. John's, Longhirst	(b)
Tuesday 3 rd	12noon Mothers' Union Christmas Lunch at Northumberland College	(g)
Wednesday 4 th	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Saturday 7 th	10am-12noon CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING in the Village Hall	(f)
Saturday 14 th	9.30am Meet to clean and decorate the Church	(e)
Monday 16 th	6.30pm Carol Singers meet at the Village Hall	(f)
Wednesday 18 th	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Wednesday 18 th	6.30pm Carol Singers meet at the Village Hall	(f)
Friday 20 th	7.30pm Village Pub Night in the Village Hall	(h)
Tuesday 24 th	6.00pm Family Carol Service in St. John's, Longhirst 11.30pm Midnight Service at St. Andrew's, Bothal	(b)
Wednesday 25 th	10.15am Christmas Day Service at St. Margaret's, Pegswood	(b)
Saturday 28 th	Late black bin collection after Christmas	
Sunday 29 th	10.15am Joint Benefice Service at St. Margaret's, Pegswood	(b)

JANUARY

Thursday 2 nd	7pm Parish Council meeting in the Village Hall - all welcome	(a)
Friday 3 rd	Late blue bin collection after New Year	
Friday 3 rd	Deadline for items for the February/March Longhirst Leader e-mail to clairecoates32@gmail.com	Editorial Group
Wednesday 8 th	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Saturday 11 th	10am Litter Pickers meet at the Village Hall and 10.15am Village Coffee Morning	(r) (e)
Friday 17 th	7.30pm Village Pub Night in the Village Hall	(h)
Tuesday 21 st	2pm Mothers' Union meet at St. Margaret's, Pegswood	(g)
Wednesday 22 nd	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Thursday 23 rd	7pm Postponed AGM of Longhirst Parish Association in the V. Hall	(c)

REGULAR EVENTS - EVERYONE IS WELCOME

- Church services as detailed on page 3
- Junior Activities Club (7 - 14 yrs) Tuesday 6.30 - 7.30pm in Village Hall.
Contact Carol Robson (f) if interested
- Yoga in the Village Hall on Wednesday at 7.30pm

Mobile Library - 10am in the Village and 4.10pm at Longhirst Colliery on 13th Dec and 10th/24th Jan

CONTACT DETAILS

For more information about the various activities and events mentioned in this Newsletter contact:-

Parish Council Clerk - Helyn Douglas 826803 / e-mail : longhirstpc@gmail.com (a)

Vicar - Rev. John Park 510793 / e-mail : johnp2910@gmx.co.uk (b)

Churchwardens - Dorothy McMillan 518375 / e-mail : dorothymcmillan23@yahoo.co.uk (d)

Mike Elphick 790764 / e-mail : mike.elphick1@gmail.com (c)

PCC Secretary - Jill Elphick 790764 / e-mail : jill.elphick1@gmail.com (e)

Mothers' Union - Angela Mason 517872 / e-mail : angela148@hotmail.co.uk (g)

Longhirst Parish Association - Ian Thompson 791851 / e-mail : ianoflonghirst@hotmail.co.uk (t)

Village Hall Bookings - Mike Elphick 790764 / e-mail : mike.elphick1@gmail.com (c)

Luncheon Club - Linda Rudd 790116 / e-mail : barnacrelmr@aol.co.uk (i)

Junior Activities Club - Mike Elphick 790764 / e-mail : mike.elphick1@gmail.com (c)

Carol Robson 07773738442 (f)

Longhirst Village Show Association - Carol Benbow 790194 / e-mail : carol_benbow@hotmail.com (p)

Longhirst Hundred Club - Mike Elphick 790764 / e-mail : mike.elphick1@gmail.com (c)

Parish Voluntary Litter Clearance - Chris Lediard 790268 / chris.lediard@tiscali.co.uk (r)

Village Coffee Mornings - Jill Elphick 790764 / e-mail : jill.elphick1@gmail.com (e)

Village Pub Nights - Allison and Richard Tordoff 790364 / e-mail : rtordoffs@gmail.com (h)

Longhirst Colliery Recreation Hall - Maureen Carrick 458674 / e-mail : maureencarrick@talktalk.net (m)

Red/Grey Squirrel Sightings - MADRS 07570 897979 / enquiries@madredsquirrels.com (s)

Village Website - www.longhirstvillage.co.uk - Chris Marr 790196 / e-mail : chrismarr@btinternet.com (u)

Village Facebook page - https://www.facebook.com/longhirstvillage/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel (v)

Church Website - www.longhirstchurch.btck.co.uk (b)

Longhirst Leader Editorial Group:

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Peter and Claire Coates - The Old Farmhouse, Broomhaugh: 791088, clairecoates32@gmail.com (k)

Carol Robson - Rose Cottage, Ulgham Lane: 07773738442 (f)

Mo Dewar - 7 Stable Close : 791149, dewarms@btinternet.com (w)

Janet Quinn - 38 Micklewood Close : 790630, quinnjanet@sky.com (q)

This issue was kindly sponsored by

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