

LONGHIRST LEADER

December 2017 / January 2018



*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 2nd December
10am – 12 noon**



**Christmas Gifts : Preserves : Traidcraft
Forever Living (aloe vera products)**

Christmas Raffles

Admission and coffee £3. Children 50p.

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY



Would you like a Village New Year's Eve Party, suitable for all ages, in the Village Hall? This could include a shared supper, various games and a quiz with the table tennis, pool and air hockey being available. If you are interested please contact Chris Lediard (r). Thank you.

TEN YEARS ON

It is ten years since the Village Hall re-opened and we would like to celebrate this very successful community venture. Please put the date of **SATURDAY 3rd FEBRUARY** in your diaries and more details will follow in the New Year. Steve and Lin Liddle are happy to come and provide some musical entertainment; Anne Arter is prepared to help with the making of a buffet supper and we have an excellent DVD of last summer's Open Gardens Weekend. Any other ideas?

Mike Elphick (c)

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT



At the meeting on 2nd November there were no issues raised from the public during the open forum.

Two nominations had been received regarding the **vacancies on the Council**. After being introduced to the PC both Peter Coates from Broomhaugh and Mark Davis from Stable Close were elected.

Our County Councillor, David Towns, had arranged a meeting at County Hall to discuss the issues which had been raised at the last meeting regarding **Longhirst Hall and Micklewood Close**. Members of the Parish Council, residents from Micklewood and representatives from the Planning Department were present. As yet no response has been forthcoming from the discussions.

The PC re-affirmed its commitment regarding support for further **plants/flowers etc. to enhance the Village**. Very large pots would be needed. Any suggestions from Parishioners would be very welcome.

It was agreed by all that the **precept** should be raised to £4,000. There are plans to repair the seat on the Church corner and erect a new notice board on Ulgham Lane. If residents have any other ideas or concerns please contact the Clerk (a) or any Councillor.

The planning application for 3 houses at Longhirst Station is still to be decided. An application to demolish the old wooden stables at the Dairy and replace them with a stone structure has been received. Councillors indicated that they had no objection.

Concerns regarding **traffic speed** within the Parish, but particularly through the Village, were again raised. After discussion the Clerk was asked to inquire about flashing speed signs and the idea of a 20mph zone. Two **new street lights** have been suggested for the outskirts of the Village on the Pegswood Road and Station Road. The Clerk will discuss this with NCC Highways Department.

The Village website needs a co-ordinator, if you are interested in helping please contact the Clerk (a).

The **next meeting** will be on **Thursday 4th January at 7pm** in the Village Hall. All residents are encouraged to attend.

Catherine Farrell

WELCOME



We are pleased to welcome Elizabeth and Jonathan Yeouart to No. 3 Broomhaugh. We hope they will be very happy in their new home and look forward to seeing them at future Village events.

BIRTHDAY

Many congratulations to Sylvia Welbury on the occasion of her 90th birthday. The party hosted by her family in the Village Hall was much enjoyed.



CAROL SINGING

As usual a small group of Carol singers will be out and about in the Village and surrounding area on **Tuesday 19th and Thursday 21st December**, meeting at the Village Hall at 6.30pm. Please come and join us, everyone is very welcome.

Carol Robson (f)

CHRISTMAS FUND RAISING

We like to support local charities with the money we collect from Carol singing, at our Christmas Lunch and at the Family Carol Service.

Jill McManus and Andy Foreman, from the Village, are volunteers with 'Wellbeing Challenge' which works mainly with families from deprived areas in South Tyneside and it has been suggested that we may like to donate to them this year. Jill says:

'Our projects aim to give families the skills and confidence to go on to make positive changes in their own lives.

'Each of our projects works with a group of about ten families over a period of about a year. The project starts with teaching resilience skills to the parents who then work with us to teach these skills to their own children. We take the families on a Residential at an outdoor centre which gives them a chance to put their resilience skills into practice while taking part in challenging physical activities. This is a key part of our work as it enables every family member to be recognised for their positive contributions and it helps build confidence and shared family memories of their experiences. We follow this up by continuing to work with the parents on individual and family challenges which support them in engaging with activities in their own local communities.

'This is an innovative approach to working with families which we are continuing to develop as many of our previous course participants tell us the project has made a big difference to their lives.

Wellbeing Challenge is a small community interest company and most of our funding comes from grants (e.g. from Big Lottery & European Social Fund). We are currently running a Wellbeing Challenge course for unemployed adults and are in the process of applying for grants and fundraising for our next family project'.

Daft as a Brush has also been suggested. If you would like to recommend another local charity that you, or your family, support or have received help from please let us know.

Jill Elphick (e)

TRAIDCRAFT

Once again I am making Traidcraft Christmas cards, wrapping paper, calendars, gifts and foods available for purchase. Buying fairly traded goods is a very practical way in which we can all help those in our world who struggle to make a living. I have catalogues available now and will have a stall at the Christmas Coffee Morning on **Saturday 2nd December** in the Village Hall. If you would like to see a catalogue and/or order any specific items I would be delighted to help you.

Thank you.

Jill Elphick (e)

VILLAGE HALL NEWS



The Longhirst Parish Association is the charity we set up to manage and run the Village Hall back in 2001 and on **14th December** we will hold our 16th Annual General Meeting at 7pm in the Village Hall. The four Village Trustee posts are up for election again and we will have to find at least one new Trustee because although Ian Thompson, Margaret Lediard and Beryl Gibson are prepared to stand for another term, Margot Deas stood down when she moved out of the Village. Nomination papers come with this issue of the Leader and need to be in the hands of the Secretary, Mike Elphick (c), by Wednesday 13th December. Everyone is welcome to the AGM which is your opportunity to have your say about how the Hall is managed. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

It is also 10 years since the refurbishment of the Village Hall was completed and you will see from the article on page 1 that a Celebration Supper is being planned for **Saturday 3rd February**. It should be a really good night so please put it in your diaries!

The Longhirst Parish Association Trustees

STEEPLECHASE 2017

Our Steeplechase on Saturday 9th September raised an amazing £251. We must say a big 'thank you' to all you folks who quite willingly signed your names on our sponsor sheet. Many, many thanks. We do appreciate your generous support. By the way we visited 34 churches/steeple between 10am and 4pm.

Enid Hogg, Carol Robson and Sibell Pigg

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

The Longhirst Macmillan Coffee Morning raised £327 and we thank everyone who supported the event and helped to make it such a success.

Val Thompson

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. 108 Pat Land	Ticket No. 220 Sylvia Welbury	Ticket No. 172 Dorothy Launchbury
November	Ticket No. 26 Dorothy McMillan	Ticket No. 212 Ruth Hallowell	Ticket No. 27 Carol Robson for Maeve

Mike Elphick

CHURCH NOTICE BOARD



Our Christmas services commence with the **Family Advent Toy Service on Sunday 3rd December at 10am 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 all 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 during December and January which are as follows:-

Dec 10th - 9.30am Holy Communion at St Andrew's; 4pm Evensong at the Rectory

Dec 17th - 9.30am Holy Communion at St John's

Dec 17th - 3pm Carol Service and Tea at St Margaret's

Dec 17th - 6pm Carol Service at St Andrew's

Dec 24th - 6pm Family Carol Service at St. John's

Dec 24th - 11.30pm Midnight Service at Andrew's

Dec 25th - 10.15am Christmas Day Service at St. Margaret's

Dec 31st - 10.15am Joint Benefice Service at St. Margaret's

Jan 7th - 9.30am Holy Communion at St John's; 4pm Evensong at the Rectory

Jan 14th - 9.30am Holy Communion at St Andrew's; 4pm Evensong at the Rectory

Jan 21st - 9.30am Holy Communion at St John's; 4pm Evensong at the Rectory

Jan 28th - 9.30am Holy Communion at St Andrew's; 4pm Evensong at the Rectory

We invite you to come along to our **Christmas Coffee Morning on Saturday 2nd December between 10am and noon in the Village Hall** (see page 1) and we would welcome any donations for the stalls. We will meet on **Tuesday 19th and Thursday 21st December** at 6.30pm at the Village Hall to go Carol Singing around the Village (see page 3) and on **Saturday 16th December** at 9.30am to clean and decorate the Church. It would be lovely to see some new faces on these occasions and you can be sure of a very warm welcome.

We would like to thank our friends at St. George's URC in Morpeth who have recently given us their unwanted pew cushions and we trust you are now sitting more comfortably! Our recent fund raising has been both fun and beneficial and we thank you all for the way in which you continue to support us. The Jumble Sale raised £308.

Jill Elphick

VICAR'S LETTER



*"While shepherds watched their flocks by night all seated on the ground
the angel of the Lord came down and glory shone around.
'Fear not,' said he for mighty dread had seized their troubled minds ..."*

... the opening lines of the popular Christmas carol celebrating the visit of the shepherds to the stable at Bethlehem. As with many sacred places in the Holy Land a chapel was built on the spot identified as the place where the shepherds were looking after their flock in the fields around Bethlehem on that first Christmas Eve. I have not visited the chapel myself, I was made aware of it first through BBC Thought for the Day and then the internet of course is a wonderful thing. The chapel contains three paintings recalling the events: one showing the angel telling the shepherds about the birth; the second has them in the familiar nativity scene at the stable and in the third they are returning to the fields. In each case a dog has been added to the scene. No dog is mentioned in the Gospel story but such is artistic licence. In the first painting the dog is depicted in a state of holy terror at the sight of the angel. In the second it has calmed down and is a very attentive witness to the nativity. In the third it is bouncing along, tail wagging and you can almost hear it barking. The artist, it seems, has added the dog as a symbol of fear giving way to faith.

I don't think a Christmas has gone by without some sense of unease setting in as it draws near about what has been left undone and what there is still to do. This is especially so when late cards arrive from people you've not sent one to or a young member of the family expresses a heartfelt Christmas wish with less than two days to go. In my case it is more likely that ideas for the Christmas sermon just aren't surfacing and I have to remind myself that it really is the most wonderful time of the year. But that sense of panic soon disappears when I hear of real troubles and tragedies going on from around the world and from which it seems there is to be no Christmas holiday. Indeed you may recall that last year in Berlin it was at a Christmas market, among people making their own Christmas preparations, that terror struck. That's what makes the words heard by the shepherds in the fields around Bethlehem so precious, *"Fear not ..."*

In the Christmas story too there are good reasons for the central characters to be fearful. A young couple making a long journey far from home with the woman heavily pregnant in a land ruled by a crazy dictator like King Herod. (Herod has his modern equivalents). Moreover Jesus was to be born in a country under military occupation, a risky birth in a dangerous place. Therefore the good news in the Christmas story is about God coming to live among us in our troubles and in the midst of our fears, not arriving when all is safe and all is well. Christians believe that God is with us when the chips are well and truly down as well as in the joys of life.

After their visit to the infant Jesus the shepherds and the dog return to the fields, back to normality with all its difficulties, just as before. However they do so now with renewed joy and hope in their hearts. Their response to the angelic message to visit the manger and contemplate, even for a few short minutes, the child in the straw, made the difference. How many of us, I wonder, need to hear and accept the same divine invitation, *"Fear not, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy ... for unto you is born this day in the city of David a saviour, who is Christ the Lord."*

Have a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Rev'd John Park

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DECEMBER

SATURDAY 2nd	10-12noon CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING in the Village Hall	(e)
Sunday 3 rd	10am Family Advent Toy Service St. John's, Longhirst	(b)
Tuesday 5 th	12noon Mother's Union Christmas Lunch	(g)
Wednesday 6 th	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Saturday 9 th	10am Litter Pickers meet at the Village Hall Please note: No village coffee morning	(r)
Thursday 14 th	7pm Parish Association AGM in the Village Hall	(c)
Saturday 16 th	9.30am Meet to clean and decorate the Church	(e)
Tuesday 19 th	6.30pm Carol Singers meet at the Village Hall	(f)
Wednesday 20 th	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Thursday 21 st	6.30pm Carol Singers meet at the Village Hall	(f)
Sunday 24 th	6.00pm Family Carol Service in St. John's, Longhirst 11.30pm Midnight service at St. Andrew's, Bothal	(b)
Monday 25 th	10.15am Christmas Day Service at St. Margaret's, Pegswood	(b)
Saturday 30 th	Late black bin collection after Christmas	
Sunday 31 st	10.15am Joint Benefice Service at St. Margaret's	(b)
Sunday 31 st	8.00pm New Year's Eve Party in the Village Hall	(c) (r)

JANUARY

Wednesday 3 rd	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Thursday 4 th	7pm Parish Council meeting in the Village Hall	(a)
Friday 5 th	Late blue bin collection after New Year	
Friday 12th	Deadline for items for the February/March Longhirst Leader e-mail to claire@petercoates.plus.com	Editorial Group
Saturday 13 th	10am Litter Pickers meet at the Village Hall 10.15am Village Coffee Morning	(r) (e)
Tuesday 16 th	2pm Mother's Union AGM at St. Margaret's, Pegswood	(g)
Wednesday 17 th	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)

FEBRUARY

Saturday 3 rd	Celebrating 10 Years since the Village Hall re-opened. Come and join the PARTY - more details in the new year	(c) (e)
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REGULAR EVENTS

Everyone is welcome to.....

- Church services as detailed on page 5
- Junior (7 - 14yrs) Activities Club in Village Hall 6.30 - 7.30 every Tuesday during term time
- Badminton in the V. Hall on Tuesdays at 8pm from January [please contact Claire Coates (k)]
- Yoga in the Village Hall on Wednesday at 7.30pm

Mobile Library 10am in Village/4pm in Colliery on 1st/15th/29th December and 12th/26th January

CONTACT DETAILS

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

Parish Council Clerk - Ian Thompson 791851 / e-mail : ianoflonghirst@hotmail.co.uk (a)

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

Assistant Curate - Rev. Lee Cleminson 519398 / e-mail : Revleecleminson@gmail.com (j)

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 - Jean Richardson 504960 / e-mail : jeanandjimr@hotmail.com (g)

Longhirst Parish Association - Gill Featonby 812447 / e-mail : gfeatonby@btinternet.com (h)

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)

Badminton - Claire Coates 791088 / e-mail : pandc@petercoates.plus.com (k)

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

Carol Robson 07773738442 (f)

Longhirst Amblers - Peter Coates 791088 / e-mail: pandc@petercoates.plus.com (l)

Garden 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)

Longhirst Colliery Recreation Hall - Bill Climson 816075 / e-mail: billclimson@gmail.com (m)

Village Website - www.longhirstvillage.co.uk - Alan Block 790282 / ablock@lineone.net (u)

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

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

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**Our sincere thanks to
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If you require a copy in large print please let us know.