



**COVENHAM
PARISH
COUNCIL
NEWSLETTER**

*Christmas
2024
edition*

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DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

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Lincolnshire County Council: Councillor Alex Martin Hall, Louth North Ward

E-mail: Cllra.hall@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Letter from The Chair

Dear residents of Covenham,

This past year the council has worked hard to make it possible for the CVV to take over the lease of the Parish Rooms, to enable them to, through grants, be able to improve the facilities and make the rooms more useable and welcoming for all of our residents. They have done a great job so far and I look forward to seeing what can be done to improve the building even more in the future. The events are open to all, and I hope that as many of you as possible go along and support them.

On Remembrance Sunday a short commemoration took place at the memorial at St Bart's and was well attended, it was lovely to see people there once again. The council laid their usual wreath and this year we had a second laid by CVV as well as two crosses placed at the memorial by local residents. Afterwards refreshments were supplied in the Parish Rooms by the CVV and I would like to thank them for doing this once again. Also thanks for the work done around the memorial and the lovely flowers planted.

As a council if we see or get reported to us things that need doing in Covenham we do our best to get things put right. It sometimes takes us a long time to do this by keep on reporting to the district council and also getting our local district and county councillors to push items forward, but we do not let things drop. So please if there is something you think needs attention do not hesitate to report this to any one of our Parish Councillors who will be only too glad to hear from you.

There are always councillors at the weekly coffee event run by CVV and also at the Monthly Lunch held in St Mary's Church so feel free to pop in and see them. We can also be reached by phone or email.

It is great to see that at last Cold Harbour Lane is going to get the resurface it so desperately has needed for a long time; this is just one example of council and parishioners working together and keep on plugging away. Do get in touch if we can help in any way.

Now I am going to ask for your help, we are trying to get the steps and footpath reinstated from Grange Lane up to the reservoir. To do this we need a lot of evidence for how long these steps have been open to the public. So, if you have any photos taken in the past of walks up to the reservoir we would like a copy to submit as evidence, or if you can remember using this access in years gone by please write a note for us again to use as proof, detailing when it was etc. Every little bit helps. You can leave anything you can and let us have in the Council Post Box at the Parish rooms or if you want a copy of a photo made, please let me know.

We are still very much against the use of Pylons through our village and will keep monitoring the situation. Earlier this year I had to do a scoping letter and send it to the relevant department in Parliament, I had a lot of help from other residents to make sure I presented all the facts, so I thank them for their help. Now we can only wait to see what else we can do in the future.

Finally as we come to that time of year again I would like on behalf of myself and the rest of the Parish Councillors to wish you all a VERY HAPPY and PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS and hope the NEW YEAR brings much good health and happiness to you all.

With all best wishes,

Regards.

*Gillian Pollard
Chair*



Parish Council News

- *New Parish Councillor.* Mark Waller from Covenham St Mary was unanimously voted in as a co-opted Councillor in the meeting held 1st August 2024. Mark is a Configuration and Asset Analyst for KCom.
There are still three available seats in the Parish Council. If you are interested in community affairs and have time to attend meetings on a bi-monthly basis, please get in touch with any of the councillors or contact the Parish Clerk on parishclerkcpc@gmail.com
- *Restrictive Covenant.* The Council is still waiting for the deed of release from the solicitors representing the Methodist Trustees. This is the final step in removing the restriction on the supply and sale of alcohol in the Parish Rooms. The release settles the agreement between The Parish Council and the Methodist Trustees on a £5,000 consideration if and when the Parish Rooms is sold.
- *Parish Rooms.* The lease agreement between the Parish Council and Covenham Village Volunteers (CVV) was signed and took effect August 2024. CVV has been very busy since, with all the refurbishments. New tables and chairs have been purchased. The blue chairs given by East Lindsey District Council have been given away. There is now central heating, running hot water and Wi-Fi.
The Parish Council has agreed to purchase the outbuilding behind the Parish Rooms from the property owner. It is hoped to be transformed into a Changing Places toilet by CVV.
- *Covenham Reservoir Steps.* The Parish Council will apply to Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) for a Definitive Map Modification Order to make the steps a public right of way (PROW). The application requires a lot of evidence to be submitted to prove that the steps from Grange Lane was used for at least 20 years. Any photos of residents/visitors on this route will help. This is in response to Anglian Water stating they are not legally required to reinstate the south bank reservoir steps for public use and, unfortunately, have no future plans to do so due to the significant investment required for the reinstatement of the steps and future associated maintenance costs.



Covenham Village Volunteers

Covenham Village Volunteers have expanded this year - in both numbers of volunteers and variety of events we have held.

In August we took a 5-year lease on the Parish Rooms at the same time we received a grant from Grass Roots SPFUK which enabled us to start on the renovations and install central heating, redecorate throughout and have running hot water. We have now received a second grant, this will allow new accessible doors and ramps as well as a kitchen upgrade, we are aware there are a few of you in Covenham who currently may struggle to access our newly decorated and now very warm rooms. You won't have long to wait as this work is scheduled for February 2025 all things being equal.

We are on the lookout for local/Covenham Photos please - to borrow, have or copy as we would like to apply for funding for new disabled and family friendly facilities. We would like to make a photographic display of Covenham through the ages. Please get in touch if you have some we can use or borrow.

We have a wreath making workshop 30th November, Craft and Cafe will continue on Thursdays till 12th December.

and the last social event of the year is **Everything Christmas 14th December**.

2025 will bring the following:

Our monthly social events of 2025 will kick off with **Rabbie Burns night** on 25th January.

Indoor Archery will return on a Monday evening. Yoga will also return (Tuesdays) as will Boxer-fit and strength and conditioning (Wednesdays). Please book via email covenhamvv@gmail.com or 07931258178

We start our book club - first book - Fifty Fifty by Steve Cavanaugh - meet to discuss your likes and dislikes of the book over Tea & Biscuits (or bring a bottle) 9th January 7.30pm

If you would like to get involved, or join any events, have any suggestions, please just drop us a text, email or pop a note in our post box at the Parish Rooms.

Alternatively follow us on facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/covenhamvillagevolunteersCVV>

Look forward to seeing you all next year.

Thank you for your support and to all the volunteers because without you guys we could not do what we do!

Nicky Gulley-Brown

Monthly Lunches

I am pleased to say the monthly lunches continue the first Wednesday of the month at St Mary's Church everyone is very welcome to come and join us all we ask is that you let us know for catering purposes by the Sunday before if possible.

These lunches have gone from strength to strength and we regularly have as many as 20 plus seated. It is a very relaxed and happy atmosphere and chance for old friends and new to get together over home made soup and pudding, have a chat and meet up. So please do join us or if you know of anyone who would benefit from coming please encourage them to come along.

Our December lunch will be held on December 4th at which we will have Christmas songs and Carols sung for us by the Phoenix Singers, and have Christmas crackers as well as mince pies to start off our festive season.

We have a break in January as it is so close to all the other festivities but will be back to our usual lunch on February 5th so we will look forward to seeing everyone there.

If you want to book or just find out more about it, please ring:

Anne 01507 363508 or Gillian 07947 421137

Do come and join us,

Best Wishes,
Gillian Pollard

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Eleemosynary Charity

Afternoon Tea

(to be held in St. Mary's Church)

Saturday, 25th January, 2025

2.30p.m.

This event, which will be a buffet style afternoon tea, is **free to all residents of Covenham regardless of age, but it will be necessary to book.** Bookings can be made for non resident family members but they will have to pay for the tea at a cost of £7.95 per head. There will be opportunity to meet and talk with the Trustees if you wish to do so.

Please contact Ernest McCready on 01507 363508 or email aemc.covenham@gmail.com to make a reservation no later than **Wednesday, 16th January** as the caterers require numbers. Please advise at the time of booking of any children under 11.

Also a timely reminder that if you are struggling over the winter months with the costs of heating or need a household item replacing, please contact either Ernest McCready (details above) or Ms Gillian Pollard at 07947421137 email gillianmp.pccov@gmail.com

*Ernest McCready
Charity Trustee*



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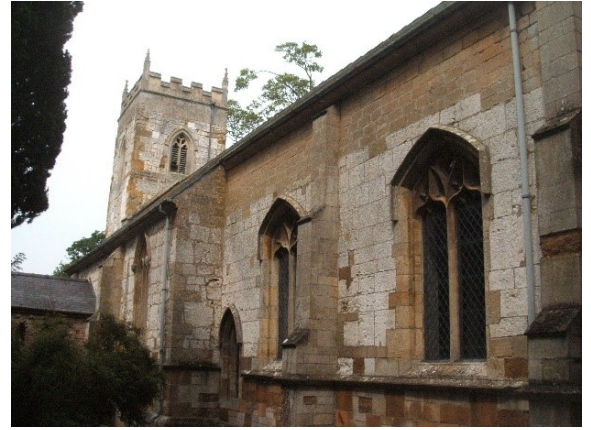
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St. Mary's Church

Sunday Morning Worship 9.30a.m. on the first Sunday of each month. Services at other churches in our group are listed on the village noticeboards.



The work on the masonry and the window glass was completed in June. Unfortunately we have our next Quinquennial inspection in March, 2025 which will no doubt uncover more work needed on the church building.

The church grounds have suffered over the last 12 months due to the gardener's illness but hopefully that is now back on track. The cemetery, on the other hand is in good shape and well maintained initially by David Buckley who earlier this year gave up the grass cutting but continues to deal with our hedging. The grass is now cut by Payne Brothers. It appears confusing but the cemetery is looked after by St. Mary's Church whereas the church grounds are dealt with by the Parish Council. If you have any problems with either your best point of contact is Anne McCready (Churchwarden/Parish Councillor) 01507 363508.

We still host the Phoenix Singers on Tuesday evenings and the Monthly lunch on the first Wednesday of each month.

We are coming to the end of our programme for 2024. The last two events being:-

The Phoenix Singers present 'Christmas with You' Friday, 6th December 7.30p.m.

A concert of Christmas songs and carols for all to enjoy. Tickets £8 adult £5 under 16s this price includes light refreshments. Come along to join us and get into the Christmas spirit.

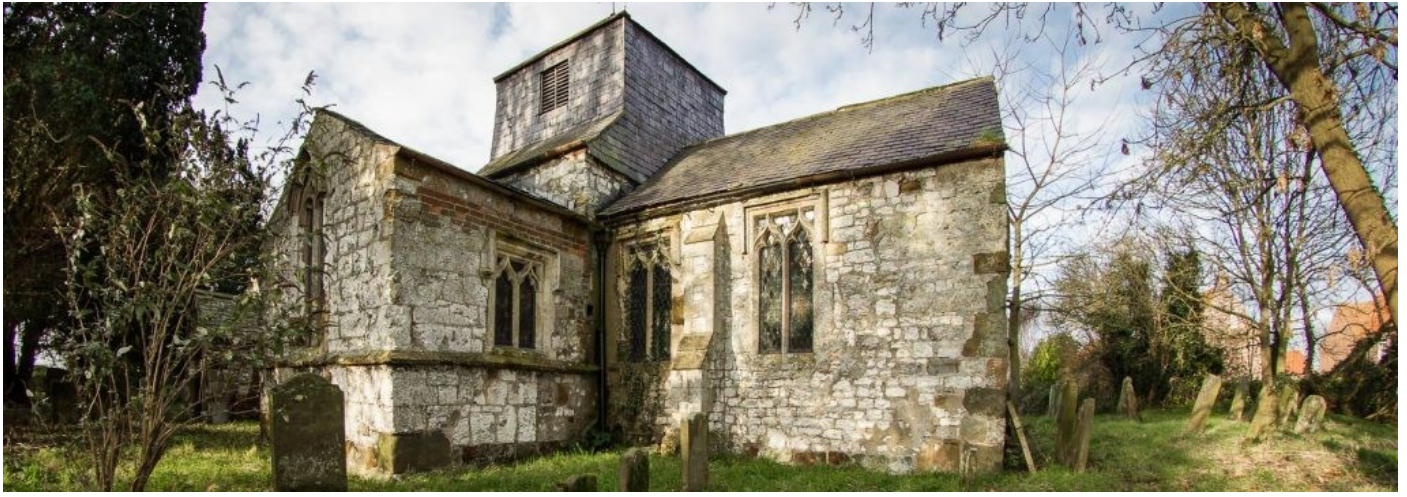
Carol Service Friday, 20th December 7p.m. A traditional service of well known carols, readings and poems led by Jenny Ballantyne. Stay after the service and join us in a glass of wine and seasonal refreshments, all free of charge as a 'Thank You' for your support during the year.

Following the Carol Service we will be taking a break but events will start again in March 2025.

Thanks to all who supported the Charity Bingo night in October. All proceeds went to SENSE in Louth.

Details of all future events will be advertised on the village noticeboards & leaflets nearer the time and also on both the achurchnearyou.com website and Facebook.

*Anne McCready
Church Warden*



The Covenham St Bartholomew Heritage Trust

I am pleased to say that St. Bartholomew's is once again open to the public as the two roof repairs have been completed. The next step is to look at roof replacement and we will keep you updated on progress.

Christmas is an odd time of year for me as I think about it from a historical point of view. It was a pagan ceremony "hijacked" by Christianity as Christ's birthday. The Romans did a similar thing when they rocked up in a new country, they would introduce their gods into the local religions rather than just throw the old gods out, it made the locals more compliant.

I am thinking about this right now as I am in Orkney visiting the Ness of Brodgar as well as other sites. The site is 5000 years old, it covers a huge area and it's full of archaeology. It is a ceremonial site or religious if you prefer and people that built all of this, abandoned it all and moved to Stonehenge. Probably a little more complicated than that but you get the gist.

Yesterday I was privileged to be in Maeshowe (chambered tomb) for a couple of hours with a professional archaeologist and the stunning skills shown in a building still standing after 5000 years (please take note Barrett Homes) without a drop of mortar in sight is to be marvelled at. The thing that really got me to thinking was the Viking graffiti. Vikings (and later the Normans) were also drawn to this site and left their mark in runes. The archaeologists have learnt so much from this vandalism from over a thousand years ago and yet there are signs at every site stating that graffiti is a crime. I was incensed when paint was sprayed over St. Bartholomew's and money was spent removing it and whilst a spray can of red paint will not last the test of time, at what age does graffiti become acceptable?

From everyone involved with St Bart's we wish you all a very Happy Christmas, no matter your beliefs, and a peaceful New Year.

If you would like to be kept informed please drop an email to contact@stbartstrust.org.uk

*All the best,
Ian*

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Covenham St. Bartholomew



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Some Events at a glance

Date	Event	Venue	Time
DECEMBER			
4 th	Monthly Lunch	St Mary's	12:30 pm
6 th	The Phoenix Singers present 'Christmas with You'	St Mary's	7:30 pm
14 th	Everything Christmas	Parish Rooms	7 pm
20 th	Carol Service	St Mary's	7 pm
JANUARY			
9 th	CVV Book Club – first meeting	Parish Rooms	7:30 pm
25 th	Eleemosynary Afternoon Tea <i>(book by 16th January)</i>	St Mary's	2:30 pm
25 th	Rabbi Burns Night	Parish Rooms	7:30 pm
FEBRUARY			
5 th	Monthly Lunches	St Mary's	12:30pm

