



## Church News

### Services

Since the last Bugle we have held our **Village Carol Service**. It was very well attended and we were specially pleased to welcome a number of children. Mulled wine and mince pies helped us to keep warm. Our new organ added to the atmosphere, and the singing of the local Churches Quartet (members from Hough-on-the-Hill, Caythorpe and Fulbeck) made for a truly special occasion. And the Club was open afterwards! At the service we collected toiletries for the Emmaus Trust, a Newark Charity that helps the young homeless. Thank you to everyone who donated. We had a lovely letter from the Trust saying *“Your kindness has made a meaningful difference to the young people we support, many of whom rely on these essential items to maintain dignity and comfort during difficult times. It can also lift spirits and show the young residents that they are not forgotten.”* It is so encouraging to learn that our small donations can make such a difference to young lives.

In January we held our annual **Plough Sunday service at Rectory Farm**. In spite of cold and icy weather a good number came, including children. After the service in the house we went out to bless the cows and ploughs. Clare Leggott introduced us to her cows and calves but the weather meant we couldn't see the pigs.

Our **monthly service** in church at 9.30 on the second Sunday of the month continues, and again we delight in having the organ to accompany our singing. It is a very short service, only about 35 minutes, as the organist has to be up at Caythorpe for 10.30.

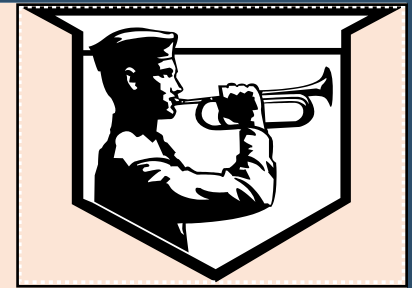
Our only service in the **Holy Week** and Easter season is a service of Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm. The Quartet will be singing with us. At the end of this service we take all the coverings off the altar and remove the cross, as a symbol of Jesus being stripped before being tortured and then crucified.

We'd hoped to have a short service of hymns and readings on Easter Day – but

# The Beckingham & Sutton Bugle

April 2026

Beckingham and Sutton Village News and Information



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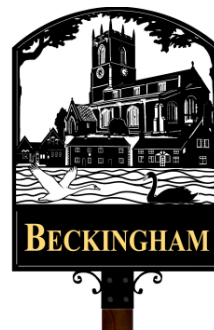
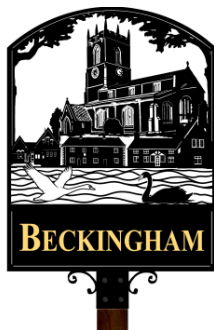
## Playing field update

There has been a lot on the news lately about the UK attaining Net Zero Carbon Emissions by. One way that was part of a news item recently was how many trees that need to be planted by 2050 to achieve this worthy aim. How many trees? Well around 100 million per annum. Don't worry though Beckingham is ahead of the game. That allows us an excuse to report on the sixth anniversary of what happened on the Playing Field on Sutton Road in 2020.

Wind back in time and the Parish Council had decided that it was time to make a little more use of the Playing Field on Sutton Road.

In the past it had been the home of a cricket team and a football team and as the odd archaeological find had indicated home to a body of men and women in the Civil War as Roundheads were camped in the area enforcing a siege on the Royalist Town of Newark. So as times change so do the pastimes of people and the Field had witnessed declining use. So to make it a little more usable as a recreation area it was decided to split it into three areas. A fenced area surrounding the children's play equipment, delineating it as a non-dog area, an open area of cut grass for golfers and the like to practice on and the remaining 2/3s into a Woodland. Advice and contact was made with the Woodland Trust Charity. They suggested that it would be best to plant a variety of saplings that are native and which would be suited to the soil and the surrounding environment. Before any work had started a pathway was cut in the field about a kilometre in length to create a winding path for a dogwalker, a keep fit walker or for anyone to wander round the field. In beginning of March 2020 an assortment of 1750 trees were delivered by lorry along with the same number of stakes and plastic spirals. Unfortunately not to the field but to a resident's house in the village, which meant they all needed to be transported to the Field. There were 20 different species of trees that are now providing the well-established beginnings of a rich tapestry of cover and spectacle. The largest number is 300 of the Common Oak (*Quercus Robur*) down to 25 of the Scots Pine (*Pinus Sylvestris*). For a few years, a small area surrounding each tree has been selectively sprayed with a weed killer to provide an area that will encourage natural watering of each tree. The rest of the field has been left to nature to develop naturally and become a wild woodland rather than a type of National Trust perfectly trimmed garden. The only exception to this is that any Ragwort that grows will be removed, as Ragwort is harmful to horses and its control is mandated in the 1981 Wildlife & Countryside Act. As the canopy of trees continues to develop, the change in the light available to the ground alters and as a result, the undergrowth naturally changes and develops into that that is normal to find in a woodland. As the trees, that have survived grow, the protective spirals are being removed as the saplings no longer require protection and are free to develop. As they grow the winding path that is regularly mown on the same frequency as the verges in the village are. However in order to allow the trees to continue their natural development where necessary the walkway has had the odd change in layout to avoid the necessity of any pruning of a happy tree. The runs in the grass made by foxes are being left to the foxes to maintain.

Lawrence Tatton



We'd hoped to have a short service of hymns and readings on Easter Day – but we have to fit in with the other 12 churches in the group, including competing for organists! Holy Week and Easter Services in the other churches in our group will be shown on the Notice-board. No news yet about a new vicar!

**THE NEW ORGAN.** The organ was installed by November last year, but we decided to delay our Celebration until the weather was warmer. It will be on **FRI-**

**DAY 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL AT 7PM.** Brian West, who found the organ for us, will be playing. Some members of the church of Burgh-on-Bain, who gifted us the organ, will be coming to see it in its new home. Please come and make them welcome! The quartet (who sang at our Carol Service) will sing some items. Half way through there will be wine and hot drinks, nibbles and CAKE. No charge, but donations welcome. If you would like to choose a hymn please let Jean Martin ([jcmartin0448@gmail.com](mailto:jcmartin0448@gmail.com)) **know by 17th April**, and let her know if you would like to say a few words about why you have chosen it (not obligatory). We will choose hymns from those suggested.

## Bishop Stephen and Safeguarding Issues in our own Parish

Villagers will be aware that the Bishop of Lincoln, the Right Rev Stephen Conway, was suspended from ministry in February 2026 following a safeguarding complaint regarding a sexual assault allegation. As a church we are deeply dismayed by this news, and find it very unsettling. We cannot prejudge what will happen, but at present we are very upset and have a sense of betrayal.

In recent years all churches have put in place very strong Safeguarding measures, so that all can find safety in the church community. **The churchwardens and Secretary** of our PCC (Parochial Church Council – which sees to church matters locally) and I myself all have a clearance certificate from the DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) which keeps a record of any criminal convictions. All PCC members have to pass the Basic Awareness and Foundation courses on Safeguarding. Some of us have also to pass courses on Leadership Responsibilities, Domestic Abuse Awareness and Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking. Every church has to have Safeguarding Officers In our church these are Gill Green (07798 717016) and Mark Leggott (07932 620556)

Contact the Diocesan Safeguarding team 01522 504070  
[safeguarding@lincoln.anglican.org](mailto:safeguarding@lincoln.anglican.org).

~ BECKINGHAM VILLAGE HALL SOCIAL CLUB EVENTS ~

**APRIL 2026 - Dates for your Diary**

<p><b>MARCH</b> Sat 07/03 – Craft 'n' Natter At: 10-12 noon No cost See: <a href="mailto:Alison_Court@hotmail.com">Alison_Court@hotmail.com</a> OR mob: 07954 173711</p> <p>Sat 23/03 – Coffee Morning At: 10am – 12 Noon Cost: £2 pp</p> <p>Mon 23/03 – Thistle &amp; Sketch At: 7pm Cost: £16.50</p> <p>Sat 28/03 Quiz Night – with pizza At: 7.30pm Cost: £2 pp</p>	<p><b>APRIL</b> <b>Easter Weekend 02-06/04</b></p> <p>Fri 24/04 – Songs of Praise in Church At: TBC</p> <p>Sat 25/04 – Quiz Night – With pizza At 7:30pm Cost: £2 pp</p>	<p><b>MAY</b> Sat 09/05 – Craft 'n' Natter At: 10-12 noon No cost See: <a href="mailto:Alison_Court@hotmail.com">Alison_Court@hotmail.com</a> OR mob: 07954 173711</p> <p>Sat 09/05 – BINGO At: 7:30 Cost: £2 pp</p> <p>Sat 30/05 – FILM NIGHT – No Charge Showing "MOTHER'S PRIDE"</p>
<p><b>JUNE</b> Sat 06/06 – Craft 'n' Natter At: 10-12 noon No cost See: <a href="mailto:Alison_Court@hotmail.com">Alison_Court@hotmail.com</a> OR mob: 07954 173711</p> <p>13/06 – QUIZ NIGHT – With Pizza At: 8:30pm Cost: £2 pp</p> <p>World Cup starts</p>	<p><b>JULY</b> Sat 04/07 – Craft 'n' Natter At: 10-12 noon No cost See: <a href="mailto:Alison_Court@hotmail.com">Alison_Court@hotmail.com</a> OR mob: 07954 173711</p> <p>18/07 – MURDER MYSTERY NIGHT At: 7:30pm £5 pp Welcome drink included</p>	<p><b>AUGUST</b> Sat 01/08 – Craft 'n' Natter At: 10-12 noon No cost See: <a href="mailto:Alison_Court@hotmail.com">Alison_Court@hotmail.com</a> OR mob: 07954 173711</p>

<p><b>SEPTEMBER</b> Sat 05/09 – Craft 'n' Natter At: 10-12 noon No cost See: <a href="mailto:Alison_Court@hotmail.com">Alison_Court@hotmail.com</a> OR mob: 07954 173711</p> <p>26/09 - Macmillan Coffee Morning At: 10:30 – 12:30 Cost: £5 pp Drink &amp; cake included</p>	<p><b>OCTOBER</b> Sat 03/10 – Craft 'n' Natter At: 10-12 noon No cost See: <a href="mailto:Alison_Court@hotmail.com">Alison_Court@hotmail.com</a> OR mob: 07954 173711</p> <p>Sun 11/10 - Harvest Lunch At: 13:00 Cost: TBC</p> <p>Conkers – TBC</p>	<p><b>NOVEMBER</b> Sat 07/11 – Craft 'n' Natter At: 10-12 noon No cost See: <a href="mailto:Alison_Court@hotmail.com">Alison_Court@hotmail.com</a> OR mob: 07954 173711</p> <p>Sun 08/11 - Remembrance Service At: 10:45 at the Church</p>
<p><b>DECEMBER</b> Sat 05/12 – Craft 'n' Natter At: 10-12 noon No cost See: <a href="mailto:Alison_Court@hotmail.com">Alison_Court@hotmail.com</a> OR mob: 07954 173711</p> <p>Mon 07/12 – Wreath Making At: 6.30pm Cost: £30.00 pp</p>	<p><b>DECEMBER (Cont)</b> Thurs 17/12 – Black Swan Dinner At: 7:00pm for 7:15pm to be seated. Cost: TBC</p> <p>Sat 20/12 – Christmas Church Carols At: 6pm at the Church</p>	<p>Additional social club events to plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cocktail Night</li> <li>• Indoor League</li> </ul>

This calendar of events will be updated throughout the year as additional events are confirmed

I am not sure if you have a History Group in Beckingham but I have seen from my research that such a group existed in the past.

My husband and I visited your lovely village last week as we were in the area (from Yorkshire). My great great grandmother, Ann Howard, was born in Beckingham. Her parents, Robert Howard and Elizabeth (nee Parker) are shown as living on Low Street in the village on the 1841 and 1851 census returns. Robert was born in Arnold, Nottingham in about 1809; Elizabeth was born in Atterby in 1814. They were married in Bishop Norton in 1832. After Robert died in 1858, Elizabeth continued to live in Beckingham until about 1867 when she moved to the Wakefield area to be near to her daughter Ann and other children.

Although we couldn't find a Low Street, and it is not marked on a map, we guessed that the Hillside section leading past the Quaker house and down to the Black Swan may have been given that name colloquially in the past. The Howard family lived near to The Black Swan but, as houses were not numbered or named on the census returns then, I don't know exactly where their dwelling was situated. Robert was a 'higgler' and his wife Elizabeth continued in this occupation after his death. In my imagination, I can picture the family in a small, humble dwelling with a stable attached for the packhorse (pony), near to the then 'main road' between Newark and Leadenham. The couple had 9 children born between 1833 and 1855.

There was some confusion for me initially in my research as there is another Beckingham - near to Gainsborough, Atterby and Bishop Norton - as you will know. The other Beckingham does have a Low Street but none of the other data matches. I would be very interested to know more about my family's time of about 30-35 years in Beckingham. I wonder if the children attended the Village School or the Quaker School?

If a local historian is interested in this information, please pass it on. If not, then thank you for 'listening'.

With kind regards

Patricia Bryden 07718279172 [patriciabryden1@gmail.com](mailto:patriciabryden1@gmail.com)

CLr Phil Wells' initial reply is on pages 6 and 7. Speculation continues on which house was occupied by the Howard Family. Any thoughts from readers please reply direct to Pat Bryden.



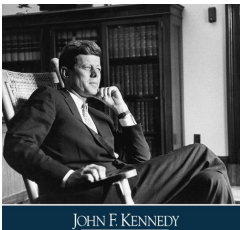
**Use it or loose it**

*Local government Act 1972 Schedule 12 Part III*

*S.9(1) every English parish must have a parish meeting . The parish meeting must assemble annually on a day between 1 March and 1 June in every year*

*The proceedings must not commence earlier than 6pm*

**Please come to the Annual Parish Meeting  
Wednesday May 20th.....**



*"Ask not what your ~~country~~ Parish Council can do for you— ask what you can do for your ~~country~~ Parish Council "*

The Parish Council is looking to fill a vacancy through co-option at the next meeting of the Parish Council on **Wednesday 20<sup>h</sup> May 2026**.

If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, please write to the Parish Clerk at [clerkpc@beckinghamvillage.co.uk](mailto:clerkpc@beckinghamvillage.co.uk) or 189 Belton Lane Grantham NG31 9PL expressing your interest.

This will be an agenda item for the meeting when you will be invited to speak briefly to the Council prior to any voting.

**To all children aged from 2 - 18 years.**

How would you like to choose a name for the wood at the side of the play-ground on Sutton Road, Beckingham?

Why not have a wander through the wood and look at the trees planted there?

You could give it a descriptive name (silver birch): a funny name (trees unite): a magical name (starbranch): a nature name (sunleaf).

Send your suggestion to: [jcmartin0448@gmail.com](mailto:jcmartin0448@gmail.com) by 8th May 2026 - we'll share them and vote for the winner.

The chosen wood name will be put on a board at the entrance to the wood and the winner will receive a gift.

Good luck and look forward to receiving your entrees. (note the pun).

*Wendy Wood*



Thank you to fellow District Councillor, Cllr Hagues and Parish Councillors at Beckingham for the full tour from the river, traveller site, community woodland, memorial garden, dog-walking field, Church and the very popular Community Club.

*Marianne Overton*

All contributions for the next Beckingham Bugle welcome. The deadline for the next September 2026 issue is August 11th 2026

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## Barnby in the Willows – Joint Update from the Parish Council & BASIC

### Solar Farm Proposals: Full January Correspondence Timeline



Dear Residents,

The Parish Council and BASIC (Barnby Against Solar in the Countryside) are working closely together to keep everyone informed about the proposed solar farm north of Barnby village. BASIC expected Starlight Energy to submit a planning application early in the New Year. We can now confirm that this has **not** happened, and recent correspondence shows the project is experiencing **significant delays**.

#### **Key Points raised in the correspondence:**

- Starlight Energy has not submitted a planning application (previously expected January 2026).
- There is **no imminent planning application**.
- No further developments are expected before **summer 2026** at the earliest.
- A further **public consultation** will be held before any application is submitted.

#### **What We've Been Told by Starlight Energy**

The developer advises they are reviewing their approach due to:

- Commercial challenges
- Electricity grid constraints
- Government changes to grid strategy
- Feedback from local residents

They state they have an agreed grid connection, though details are **commercially sensitive** and not disclosed.

#### **What This Means for Residents**

- There is **no fast-moving application**.
- The scheme is experiencing **significant delays and difficulties**.
- Local feedback **may be influencing** the developer's decisions.

Any delay is positive for Barnby, particularly as public resistance to large countryside solar schemes is growing nationally, and evolving policy directions mean that schemes without planning permission may face greater uncertainty in the future.

#### **Our Ongoing Commitment**

- The Parish Council and BASIC are working together.
- Regular updates will be sought from the developer.
- Clarity and transparency will be pressed for.
- Village concerns will continue to be represented.

The Religious Society of friends as they were correctly called were very active in Beckingham in the 17th and 18<sup>th</sup> Centuries. They had their own meeting House believed to have been in Rectory Street and a burial ground whose precise location is still being debated. Evidence of their activity can be found in old criminal court records that show in 1670 seventy four people were arrested at a Beckingham house for illegal assembly. The Rector at the time Rev John Stillingfleet was a strong opponent of “Quakers” and their beliefs which went against those of the established church. This nickname had come about because of the way adherents would tremble and quake when they were being moved by the Holy Spirit. This changed in 1688 with passing of the Toleration Act when they could no longer be persecuted, but attitudes in the establishment continued to remain suspicious of them.

The 10 or so families who were Quakers and lived in Beckingham were well regarded and influential in the village, When members were fined for their misdemeanours, the villagers returned most of the goods and chattels as they did not see them as guilty. The Beckingham meeting closed in 1860, but there remains an active group in Brant Broughton, still using their meeting house which was built in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. Beckingham however has a lasting reminder of the Quaker involvement in the village. Randolph Pattinson another leading Quaker of the time donated some land and established a trust for the benefit of the poor in the village. This trust still exists and manages the bequest known as “The poor field” which is rented out and the proceeds used for the benefit of the village. It is located on the left side of Sleaford Road when leaving the village and currently is being used to graze sheep. There is also another long term reminder of the Quaker connection in the shape of 1 and 2 Hillside Cottages which are Grade II listed and are on the right side of Hillside when heading towards the River. The tradition in the village is to refer to them as Quaker Cottages and also that at one time it was used as a Quaker school. The justification for this seems to be that in 1714 Joseph Massey, aged 17, a member of one the village’s leading Quaker families, was sent to prison for “teaching small children to read and write”. For this heinous crime he was sentenced to 10 weeks imprisonment.

Sadly I have not been able to verify this from any other source. The problem is the inscription over what was the original front door when the building was a single dwelling

As can be seen the date in Roman numerals is 1706, probably when it was built and above the initials R and K underneath the letter I. this letter also represents a J during this period. My research suggests that these initials probably refer to Robert and Katherine Johnson who were again a significant family in the village. However they and members of their family are buried in the churchyard and were allocated a pew in the church by contributing to some renovation work. This would not have happened if they were committed quakers who would abhor the “Steeple house” as they called the Parish Church and also had their own burial ground.



It is of course possible that the Johnsons allowed Joseph Massey to use their house for teaching the children. Robert was obviously a wealthy man and would have been highly respected, hence he did not get charged for aiding and abetting the offence. I prefer to believe this version of events because of the long held village tradition recognising Hillside Cottages as being strongly associated with Quakerism.

And now a little more about the building itself. It was completed in 1706 if you read the roman numerals correctly (unlike the official grade II listing) and originally comprised one dwelling. The plaque indicating the age and initials of the first owners was probably over the original main entrance into a hallway with a door (the outline of which can be seen internally) leading into what is now number one. First listed in 1967 the ashlar stonework and quoins together with the substantial beams exposed internally suggest this was built for a wealthy farmer possibly of yeoman status. Each gable end had an opening (now a window) for accessing the loft area, where seed corn was probably stored for safety from thieves. Each floor including the loft areas has a reed and lime floor and cutting into these exposes the heads of the reeds as perfect as when they were originally mixed with the lime. The main rooms are of a good size with high ceilings, quite suitable for use as a part time school.

In the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century it was converted into 3 separate dwellings and the buildings comprising 3 and 4 were then amazingly 5 further dwellings. There is an inscription on one of the stone quoins “A Goodwin 1819” which may be when these alterations were undertaken. It is thought cottages 3, 4 and 5 were possibly farm outbuildings originally and converting to dwellings after the Beckingham enclosure act of 1770 which changed the face of agriculture in many ways.

For many years the cottages were in single ownership and rented. At one time 5 of the cottages were owned by NKDC. In 1980 they were sold to developers who modernised and created the 4 dwellings and boundaries that exist today Each one has been further modernised in keeping with the times and provide comfortable living space for the 21<sup>st</sup> century despite being 320 years old and

with no foundations!!

If readers have any more information to add to this brief resume of Quaker activity in Beckingham or would like to discuss any aspects and/or visit my cottage please get in touch

Phil Wells: 07930 990 950 or email [pandj.wells@btinternet.com](mailto:pandj.wells@btinternet.com)

For more village news and to stay up to date with the latest Parish Council business visit the Village website at: [www.beckinghamvillage.co.uk](http://www.beckinghamvillage.co.uk)