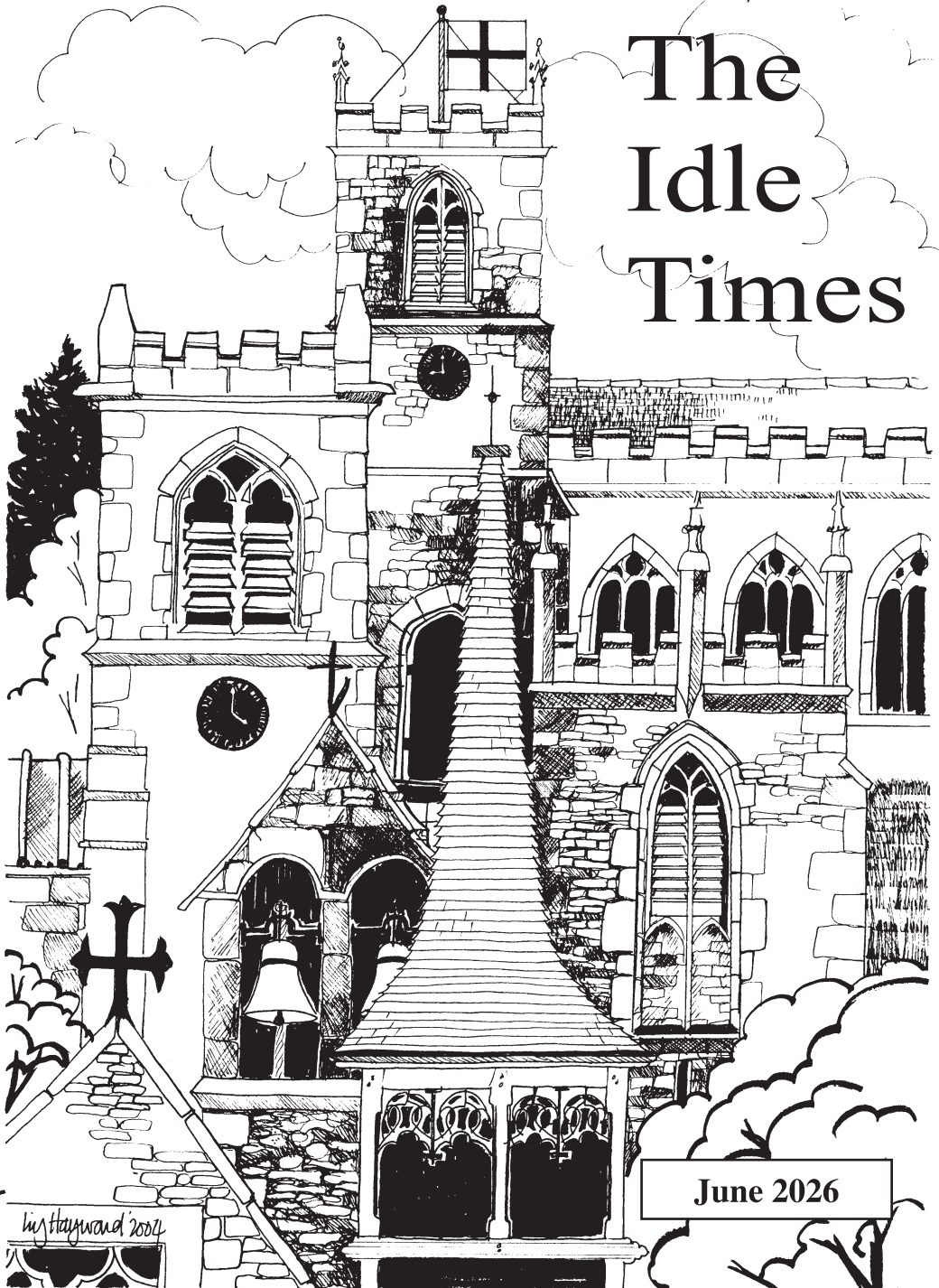


The Idle Times



June 2026

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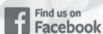
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Church Diary for June

<i>June</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Service</i>	<i>Venue</i>
Sunday 7	9.00am	Holy Communion	Scofton
	9.30am	Family Service	Sutton-cum-Lound
Sunday 14	9.15am	Holy Communion	West Drayton
	9.30am	Songs of Praise	Sutton-cum-Lound
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	Babworth
	6.30pm	Evening Prayer	Eaton & Gamston
Sunday 21	9.30am	Worship for All	Sutton-cum-Lound
	10.45am	Family Service	Elkesley
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Babworth
Sunday 28	9.15am	Holy Communion	Bothamsall
	9.30am	Family Service	Sutton-cum-Lound
	10.30am	Morning Worship	West Drayton

**Idle
Times
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Date**



Please will you send any articles for the July 2026 edition of *The Idle Times* to **Francis Waite**, preferably by email to fagrouting@fiscali.co.uk by 21st June 2026.

The postal address for Francis and Alison Waite is: **6 Main Street, Bothamsall, Retford, DN22 8DT**
Telephone: **01623 861579**



ELKESLEY
MEMORIAL
HALL

Monday:	Brownies	5.00 – 7.00pm
Tuesday:	Post Office	3.30 – 4.45pm (in the car park)
Wednesday:	Village Singers	7.30 – 9.00pm
Thursday:	Post Office	9.00 – 10am
	Line Dancing	6.00 – 7.30pm
Friday:	Chatty Friday	11.30 – 1.30 Bar open, 6.30 – close

The bar is open EVERY Friday @ 6.30pm

'Sammy's Kitchen' (Curry) will be serving on Friday 3rd July

Follow our Facebook Page for the August delights

Handy with a paintbrush and time to spare?



Contact: elkesleymemhall@outlook.com & info on Elkesley Memorial Hall Facebook Page



Elkesley Parish Council meeting 6 May 2026

On Wednesday 6 May, Elkesley Parish Council held their two annual meetings. The Annual Parish Meeting was attended by seven members of the public, and six parish councillors.

The Chair, Cllr Skelton, gave a report on the past year's events; a copy is available on the website.

Cllr Gilson gave a report on behalf of Elkesley Memorial Hall. Activities include Brownies on Mondays, Line Dancing on Thursdays, Chatty Fridays, and Singing on Tuesdays. There is a charity event arranged for September, a disco this month, and the Christmas lights event and New Year's Eve in December. The hall is looking towards a greener future with plans for solar panels etc.

Residents talked about defibrillators and CPR, and the bleed kits which are in the defib cabinets. A further training session will be arranged for later in the year. The parish council were thanked for their work behind the scenes. Another resident took advantage of the chance to clarify information from Cllr Charles Adams in last month's Idle Times parish notes.

Once the Annual Parish Meeting closed, the business of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council commenced with the election of Chair and Vice-Chair. Incumbents John Skelton and Jan O'Brien were unopposed and voted in for a further year.

The council's policies and procedures were reviewed and adopted for 2026-27, and will be viewable online along with draft minutes from both meetings, and clerk's financial report. The clerk also updated the parish council's insurer, with the certificate to be displayed with the other approved policies.

The next monthly meeting will be Tuesday 16 June at 6.30pm.

Annual Parish Meeting of Gamston with West Drayton & Eaton Parish Council

The Annual Parish meeting was held on the 7th May 2026.

Having welcomed everyone the following reports were received and acknowledged :

Parish Council Chairmans Report

Over the past twelve months, I believe the members of the Parish Council have continued to demonstrate a strong commitment to improving the whole Parish through their dedication, determination, and teamwork. While the job of a Parish Councillor is a voluntary roll I must commend all of them for their continued efforts which is clearly reflected in the additional responsibilities a number of councillors have taken on from undertaking training to become Tree Wardens and Flood Wardens, to organising litter-picking groups, reporting on our meetings, and regularly updating information for residents on the Parish website. I value each and every member with whom this Council would not operate so effectively as they bring a better understanding of the village they live in and represent.

The structure we have in place also enables us to respond quickly to issues raised by residents. This has been evident over the past year, with our Clerk ensuring that the appropriate partners are informed promptly and able to act. One such example was in West Drayton, where concerns were raised about a field near the river being altered by the dumping of large amounts of hardcore; this was swiftly addressed once reported.

As I prepared this statement ,I reflected on the year gone and the positive and negative things that have happened but also those who helped support the council therefore I would also like to take this opportunity to thank John Ogle for his help and support during his years of service to the Council. He stepped down last May and was succeeded by Warren Limber as our County Council representative.

Despite a recent visit by Councillor Limber to listen to some of the ongoing issues we have with in the parish, there has been very limited support at times from both District and County Councillors, our Clerk has worked tirelessly to champion the Parish's interests, ensuring that the concerns of residents and councillors alike are pursued and addressed. This has included maintaining pressure to reopen the footpath between Rockley and West Drayton, advocating for road resurfacing, and progressing many other important matters. On behalf of the Parish, the Council, and myself, I would like to express our sincere thanks.

As mentioned earlier, several councillors have also joined residents in serving as Flood Wardens, helping to coordinate responses to flooding across each village in the Parish.

In September, the Parish Council was pleased to secure a grant from the National Lottery, which enabled us to purchase a climbing wall and target training wall. This has been installed at the community playing field at Gamston School and has already brought a great deal of enjoyment to children both during and outside school hours.

In October, we said goodbye to our Lengthsman, Chris Fox, who had been with us for nearly a year but stepped down due to health reasons. Recognising the importance of this role, we acted quickly to find a replacement and were pleased to appoint Alan Price in November. As he settles into the position, Alan can be seen regularly around the Parish, helping to ensure that our villages and the areas connecting them are well maintained. Thank you, Alan.

In November we joined forces with the Royal British Legion in remembering those who in our armed forces have fallen in conflicts around the world by ensuring each village was adorned with Poppies. This year we have agreed to continue to invest in more to make a better tribute in years to come. I would also like to thank Absolute Kio for their continued support as this year they provided a number of “Service Lady” statues to join “Tommy” in our villages.

Finally, in March this year, Councillor Jane Worthington stepped down after six years of dedicated service to the community in Gamston. Her contributions to Council meetings and her reports in the Idle Times will be greatly missed. Thank you, Jane, for your commitment and hard work.

This does mean that we now have a vacancy for a representative for Gamston. If you are interested in continuing the work of Jane and her fellow councillor have done then please contact our Clerk or attend one of our meetings, we would be delighted to hear from you.

This concludes the chairman’s report May 2026

Five Villages Trust Report

The Strategic Committee of the Five Village Trust met on two occasions in 2026 on the 9th June and the business discussed and outcome are as below:

The recruitment of a person to become the 5VT Manager unfortunately did not come to fruition.

In an effort to keep the momentum going Sarah Argent-Cook offered to take on the position on a temporary basis so that the progress made so far would continue. Also it was felt that once everything is up and running it would be easier to support the role.

Development of a new online booking form was undertaken by the Headteacher and enquiries are ongoing with the Southwell and Nottingham Multi Academy Trust regarding a booking enquiries email address.

Five volunteers have come forward from the parish council, the governing body and the village to act as opening & closing team volunteers and the governing body have agreed that an external key safe will be positioned next to the main entrance for the volunteers to access the keys and alarm fobs.

There are plans to increase the marketing of the facilities via the school newsletter, church leaflets, WhatsApp groups, Retford Life, The Idle Times with new photos of school hall and the reviewed lettings policy to be included.

In September of 2025 the Chair of Governors who was leading on the above development had to step away from his role and the new Chair took on the role in November 2025 with the same remit of driving the developments forward.

A limited amount of progress has been made as the headteacher is leaving and the new headteacher commences in September 2026.

Once the new headteacher is in post the committee will meet to move the developments on further.

Gamston C of E Primary School Report - Prepared by: Chris Edwards, Headteacher

Report to the Annual Parish Meeting
Gamston St Peter's CofE Primary School

Date of meeting: 7 May 2026

Prepared on behalf of the school by Chris Edwards (Headteacher)

Introduction

This report summarises key developments at Gamston St Peter's CofE Primary School since the last parish update.

1. Leadership transition

- Mr Chris Edwards, who has served as Headteacher for the last four years, was appointed as School Improvement Director for the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham Multi-Academy Trust.
- Mr Edwards will step down from his role as Headteacher with effect from 31 August 2026. He has shared reflective comments to the school community describing both pride in the school's progress and sadness at leaving a community to which he has been deeply committed.
- Mr Edwards remains fully committed to leading the school throughout the remainder of the academic year, continuing to support pupils, staff and families and to drive the school's current improvement priorities until his departure.
- The governing body, working closely with the Diocese and the Multi-Academy Trust, managed a careful and prayerful recruitment process to ensure continuity and a supportive transition.

2. Headteacher appointment

- Following the recruitment process, governors appointed Miss Kelly Beanland as Headteacher.
- Miss Beanland will take up the post on Tuesday 1 September 2026. She brings extensive primary leadership experience and a clear commitment to the school's Christian vision and values: kindness, resilience and hope.
- Governors reported that Miss Beanland demonstrated a strong vision for the academic, spiritual and personal development of every pupil and for sustaining close links between school, church and community.
- Parents and carers will be offered an opportunity to meet Miss Beanland in due course.

3. Governance and transition arrangements

- Governors put in place structured handover arrangements between Mr Edwards and the incoming Headteacher, including senior-leadership briefings and continuity plans for the school's improvement priorities.
- The governing body confirmed that the existing senior and teaching teams would continue to provide a safe, nurturing and inclusive learning environment during the transition period.

4. SIAMS inspection

- The school underwent its Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS).
- The reported stated that the transformational Christian vision has been collaboratively crafted to reflect the community the school serves. School leaders and governors ensure that the vision permeates throughout school life.
- The full report is available to view on the school website.

5. Health & safety equipment donation

- The school received a donation of LifeVac equipment for use in choking emergencies. The device and user instructions were sited in the school hall.
- The donation was coordinated by Estelle from the Heart-Beats DN22 defibrillator charity; the school extended its thanks for this valuable contribution to pupil and community safety.

6. Buildings, resourcing and environment improvements

- Early Years: A complete refurbishment of the Early Years setting was carried out over the previous summer to improve the learning environment for our youngest pupils. A capital programme was completed to deliver a £65,000 makeover of the Early Years classroom to enhance provision and accessibility for children at the start of their schooling.
- Library: During the October half term the school library was refitted with new furniture and resources to create a warm, welcoming space designed to promote reading for pleasure.

- School hall: The school hall, which serves as a community and school space, was redecorated to improve its appearance and usability for both pupils and community users.
- 7. SEND support and parent group
 - The school established a Special Educational Needs (SEN) Parent Support Group to offer peer support, information and a forum for families navigating children's special educational needs. The group aims to strengthen partnership working between families and the school and to ensure parents of pupils with SEND have a supportive network.

Conclusion

Over the past year the school has managed significant leadership change while continuing to invest in its learning environment, safeguarding equipment and family support. Governors and staff worked to ensure a stable and carefully managed transition to new leadership, maintaining a strong focus on the school's Christian vision — "Be the best you can be" — and on providing high-quality, inclusive provision for all pupils.

With thanks to the parish for its ongoing support and partnership.

After a short discussion the meeting was closed.

.....

ADULT TABLE TENNIS IN BOTHAMSALL

We have been running a Table Tennis group in Bothamsall Parish Hall since November 2017 apart from a few breaks during Covid 19 when the Hall was closed. We would love to find a few new members to join us to keep this friendly group going.

We play social table tennis and we all really enjoy it, get lots and lots of laughs and the exercise is good too! It costs just £2.50 for a 2 hour session. Sessions are held each Wednesday from 7 to 9 p.m. and another session on a Sunday from 12.15 to 2.15 p.m.

Please let Chris Moody know (**01623 860798** – answerphone on when not in or email her at chrisemoody@btinternet.com) if you might be interested in joining our Table Tennis group. We look forward to welcoming new friends to join us. Coaching could be available if you haven't played for a long time. You don't have to live in Bothamsall to join us, as everyone will be made very welcome.

Chris Moody



GAMSTON WITH WEST DRAYTON & EATON

PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Update – May 2026

The Parish Council met on Thursday 7th May at Gamston School.

Here are the main updates from the meeting:

Appointments

All councillors were elected to continue with the roles they held last year.

Defibrillators

Discussions were held regarding the possibilities of altering the housing box on Great North Road to a heated one before purchasing a new Defibrillator so the council will discuss with the resident if this would be possible. It was also agreed that no further action would be taken regarding the purchase/ supply of bleed kits.

Roads and Highways

It was reported that finally the long-awaited speed reduction work at Muttonshire Hill, has been completed although the entrance sign for Gamston has been removed and the anti-skid surface has not been replaced so the clerk will be making enquiries with Highways

Speeding

As part of the council's constant drive to help reduce speeding in all the villages it was agreed the clerk requests the return of the interactive speed signs to be positioned on various roads within the parish.

Eaton Crossing

There has been a slight delay in completing a petition for public support for plans for a pedestrian crossing or alternative safety measures on the A638 at Eaton

Parking

The clerk is still awaiting a response from Highways on the consideration of double yellow lines near the junction of Church Lane and Old London Road.

As always, residents are encouraged to report potholes and other highways issues directly to Nottinghamshire County Council via their website in the first instance.

Flooding

It was agreed to remind those within the Parish who have Riparian responsibilities now would be a good time to carry out any necessary repairs and clearing work on the dykes to ensure water can run freely.

Village Improvements

The lengthsman continues to support general maintenance work, grass cutting and increase his time litter picking across the parish.

Litter Picking

We are still waiting for the district council's cleansing team to attend several areas and will continue to chase this.

Community News

There is currently a vacancy for a parish councillor representing Gamston. If you're interested in getting involved in your community, please contact the Clerk for more information. clerk@gamstonwestdraytoneaton-pc.gov.uk

The parish household survey is now live on the website for you to complete however it was agreed, to help those who are unable to complete the online survey, paper copies will be sent out to all households to ensure everyone has the same opportunity to help shape the council's priorities going forward.

Thursday 4th June 6.30pm at Gamston School

Everyone is very welcome to attend.

You can read the full minutes on the Parish Council website.

www.gamstonwestdraytoneaton-pc.gov.uk



The Church of St Peter Gamston

Patronal Songs of Praise

Sunday 28th June at 4pm

**Join us as we sing along to your favourite hymns
from the past and present.**

**All are welcome and refreshments and cake will
be served afterwards.**



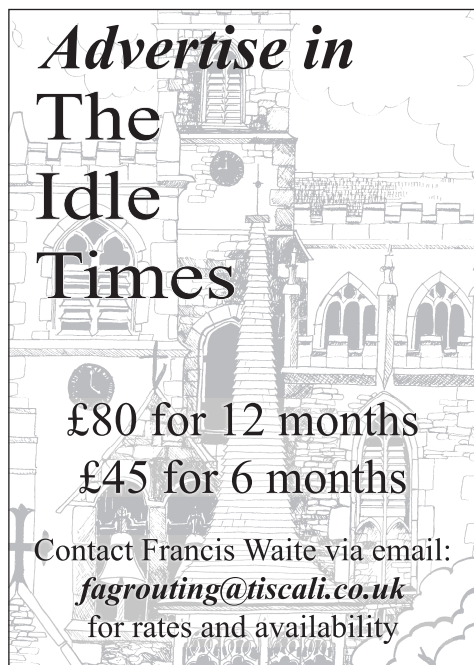
If you want to find out more about St. Peter's and the Churches Conservation Trust Email us at StPetersGamston@outlook.com or visit www.visitchurches.org.uk

Elkesley School News

Elkesley Primary and Nursery School is seeking to appoint a dedicated and community-minded Local Authority Governor to join our supportive and ambitious Governing Body. This is a voluntary role offering a rewarding opportunity to make a real difference to the lives of children in our village. School governors play a vital strategic role in shaping the vision of the school, holding leaders to account and ensuring that resources are used effectively to deliver the very best outcomes for every pupil. We would welcome expressions of interest from individuals with a passion for education and community, who can offer their time, skills and a fresh perspective. No previous experience of governance is required, as full training and support will be provided. If you are interested in contributing to the continued development and success of our school, please contact the school office on **01777 838615** or email office@elkesley.notts.sch.uk for further information.

Across school this half term, pupils are engaging in a rich and varied curriculum that builds both knowledge and confidence across all subjects. From our youngest children, who are developing their language, independence and curiosity through hands-on exploration of the natural world and early number, to our older pupils, learning is characterised by growing independence, deeper thinking and purposeful application of skills. Children are developing strong reading and writing abilities through high-quality texts, using increasingly precise vocabulary and creativity to express ideas, while mathematics focuses on strengthening core understanding alongside problem-solving and reasoning. Across the wider curriculum, pupils are exploring the world around them through science, history and geography, asking questions, making connections and understanding change over time, while also developing creative and technical skills through art, design, computing and physical activity. Throughout all of this, there is a clear emphasis on resilience, collaboration and thoughtful reflection, equipping pupils not only with knowledge, but with the confidence and skills they need to continue to succeed.

We are incredibly proud of all of our Year 6 children for the dedication and commitment they have shown during their Key Stage 2 SATs. They approached each paper with determination and resilience, giving their very best from start to finish. Their positive attitude and hard work have truly shone through – they really are superstars!



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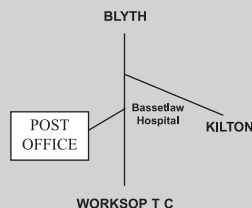
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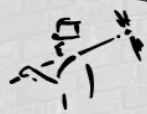
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