The Swaffham Crier

Volume L Number 11
November 2026

Editorial

What a fun Halloween, where gorgeous get-ups are getting ever more amazing each year and a big favourite with us this year was deffo the AXOLOTLs (see centre spread and back cover) — huge loveable monsters that had to do 3-point turn on our garden path to safely get their very long tails back on route! And note there is an AI DEEP FAKE in our coverage—can you spot it?

Re last month's letter on the new campaign to reduce the Mill Hill speed limit, SID (the PC's traffic monitoring system) has recorded most cars to be travelling between 38 and 45 mph on Mill Hill last month—bar one at a screeching 75mph. (Police car/ambulance? Can SID tell?) But whereas speed limits wont help with such blatant excesses they would have a dramatic effect on those average speeds which are far too fast for our children and our animals. Point your phone camera at the QR code to sign the petition now.

Some interesting articles in this month's *Crier*, including Mike Procter's take on AI and the latest from St Mary's. Many of us don't realise just how many fun things is this village are actually run by St Mary's and now you can read all about it and meet some of the helpers.

Advent Windows are here again ! We had a great display last year — let's see if we can beat that.

And so many upcoming events! See you ceilihding, Christmas marketing, etc.

Caroline Matheson



Bye-bye Axolotls see you next year!

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Cover Picture: *Swaffham Prior Churches*, pencil drawing by **Lynne Woodhams**

Letters to the Editors

Dear Editors,

Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning

Thank you to **all** those who contributed in any way! To those who came on the day or who donated before and afterwards, in person or via the QR code. All those donations along with the Gift Aid amounted to **£819**! It was a brilliant total as we didn't have many visitors on the actual day but that was no indication of the final total raised in the end.

It couldn't have been achieved without the stalwart efforts of Margaret Joyce and Lynda Crawford on the cake stall and the Raffle tickets and prizes ably organised and managed by Robin Scovil. So a huge thank you to everybody for supporting this year's Coffee Morning and I'll look forward to seeing you all on the last Friday in September 2027, with your money, home made cakes or raffle prizes!

Ruth Scovil

PS. I have just heard from Head Office that the amount we have raised since I started hosting the Macmillan Coffee Morning is **£20,135!** That is a stupendous amount and it's thanks to all those who have contributed over the years. Thank you and well done!

Dear Editors,

QUIZ NIGHT

Jenny and I would firstly like to thank everyone who turned up early for our village quiz night and helped set up the tables and chairs, also helped put them away afterwards, we appreciated the help very much.

We had a good turn out and hopefully everyone enjoyed the night. We had joint firsts so it came to a tie break, the winners were Circumquizsion and the team who came second were Useless Information, well done to both teams. We would like to thank Mandy, Kate and Janet who worked in the kitchen and served the food. Thank you also to Pip who was selling the raffle tickets and to everyone who donated prizes. Andrew, yet again, was our quiz master, many thanks Andrew. You all helped raise £520 for St. Mary's Church, thank you. We hope to see you again next year at our quiz, the dates for your diaries are, 10th April and 2nd October.

Have a good rest of the year and have a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Lynne and Jenny

BON MOT NUMBER 173

"Well hello Novembrrrr."

Anne Bosworth-Greene
(1878–1961)



Dear Editors,

Swaffham Prior Parochial Charities

Once again the time has come to remind everyone who lives in Swaffham Prior and who considers himself or herself eligible for our Christmas Grant, now is the time to apply.

The majority of applicants come from pensioners, in particular those who have to manage on the State Pension, and it may be that in the present times of uncertainty support is required. If you are in need of help, or know someone who may be in difficulty but who are unlikely to apply on their own behalf, please do get in touch.

The Trustees will always be happy to consider requests for assistance and confirm that ALL applications will be dealt with in confidence. Financial support will be available throughout the year, not only at Christmas.

Please apply to:
Pam Waters
Clerk to the Trustees
01638 741035

Pam Waters

Dear Editors.

Ukrainian Appeal

Dee and I have been supporting a Ukrainian family in Cambridge for several years now and with The Cyriacs Ceilidh Band have raised over £4,000 for Convoy4Ukraine. In February 2027, with Keith, Mary and Banjo, I am taking a 4*4 truck to Ukraine all part of the next convoy.

To pay for all this I need to raise sponsorship of £1,600. It's a week's journey driving out and flying back. A degree of trepidation for when we get to Ukraine I have to confess but I am sure it will be ok.

For more information or if you would like to help, please point your phone camera at the QR code on the right and you will find our Go Fund Me page.

Slava Ukraini!

Andrew Noyes

THIS MONTH'S COVER PICTURE

I am a local artist and have lived in Burwell for many years. I trained at Medway College of Art in the late 60's and have maintained my love of painting and drawing. I have enjoyed a wide variety of jobs whilst bringing up a family of 4 beautiful daughters and now 10 amazing grandchildren. I have always enjoyed depicting architecture and especially the local churches. I am now retired and still enjoy painting and drawing whenever I can.

Lynne Woodhams

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

A somewhat reduced PC committee addressed a somewhat reduced agenda, but managed to find some interest in it. We thought that there would be no Local Councillor reports until John Trapp arrived at the very last moment to save the day on behalf of ECDC, and some items of interest arose to start the evening off, including:-



An independent member of the ECDC Audit Committee has resigned - we shall probably never know why but could have fun surmising; to what use has money returned by the PC been put? The playground assessment needs an audit (I rather lost concentration there), and local elections for District and Parish Councils should go ahead. I presume the latter is because the potential reorganisation of the whole local area structure has now been put on the back burner for a while, and something to do with a possible charge for not having an election. Finally the question of whether ECDC owns any land in the parish. No-one knows.

Then to Correspondence, including this month's inevitable Kingsway Solar Farm proposal which has now been withdrawn and will no doubt be replaced by the next issue which will apparently include offering funds to local PCs that might be affected. Smacks of desperation… Then more about 'Greenways' with cash available to support discussion about cycleways etc.. Apparently Reach have already set up a sub-committee to decide how to spend it. There will be a public meeting about the road closure at Upware, where tractors are still (apparently) going through. It was suggested that Reach PC have information not available to others, and David Greenfield has agreed to attend the meeting, if only to find out and to show an interest.

The contentious planning application for works at Stock Mill has been refused. The council's opinion was that the proposer will probably go ahead with it anyway and then apply for retrospective permission. Happy days…

In a time of drought and hosepipe bans, the water bill for the tap on the cemetery and allotments has risen to over £400, roughly four times normal, so where has it all been going? The adjacent horse field pays a regular monthly sum for their use, which only leaves the five allotment holders to explain how they are getting through £80's worth each. Acknowledging that we live in different times, are these 'Exceptional Circumstances'? Maybe there's a leak.

Steve K-P reported that Sid had been deployed on Mill Hill and recorded most of the traffic at between 38 and 44mph, but one at 75.

The Pound and Keep are in poor repair, and the PC is happy to go ahead to have the necessary works done on the basis of a proposal by Viv. However it's in the Conservation Area so requires the approval of the Conservation Officer, which would take time and effort to achieve. Simplest just to get on with it and tell him afterwards. Likewise repainting the Defib phone box, this time with The Correct Shade of Red. The grass-cutting contract, which expires this year, raises another procedural

issue: the committee is happy with the current contractor and would like to negotiate a three-year deal with them as 'preferred supplier' without putting the work out to tender. Is the PC allowed to do this?

Individual Councillors' reports included hardy perennials such as yellow lines and the clearance of footpaths, which received their regular watering; the possible use of Community Payback labour for the latter raised the hackles of at least one person present and also the matter of arranging for their use of the facilities in St Cyriac's. David Greenfield raised the possibility of creating a Planning Sub-committee to be able to react more swiftly to local issues and obtain extensions of time. Steve K-P reported that Sid (traffic speed monitor device) had been deployed on Mill Hill and recorded most of the traffic at between 38 and 44mph, but one at 75. He also mentioned a rumour that works of some sort would close Greenhead Road – which would also cut off Adams and Tothill roads – but this seemed too silly to be believable. Let's wait and see. ***John Chalmers***



CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

St Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior,

is looking for additional enthusiastic helpers to join its weekly amateur flower arrangers. This does not have to be a regular commitment for a newcomer, nor do you have to be a church goer, but offers of help to cover holiday, sickness and possibly additional support for special occasions; namely Easter, Harvest, Christmas and Weddings; would be very much appreciated. Regular volunteers currently commit to taking "a turn" once every five to six weeks and it would be great to add to this team as well. Working and creating beautiful floral displays with friends makes it sociable and fun and it's great to be part of an amazing team keeping our Church looking beautiful and smelling fragrant!



For more information please contact Hilary Grant on 01638 741433 or by email on *hilaryskgrant@hotmail.com*

LET'S CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITH MUSIC!

Shine on Holy Star

Nine original carols written and performed by Jeremy Harmer
With the Ad Hoc strings
(leader: Kate Clow)
and Mnatobi (choir)

Plus seasonal readings

REACH VILLAGE HALL
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2026 | 4PM

ENTRY £10 AT THE DOOR
ALL PROFITS WILL BE DONATED TO CAMBRIDGESHIRE FOOD BANKS



Swaffham Prior Village Hall
Christmas Carol Singing
With Village Band
9th December 6:30 – 8:30
Mulled Wine & Mince Pies
All Are Welcome



Holly For Sale

Beautiful fresh bunches of local Holly
Only £5.00 for your homemade Christmas Decorations and Wreaths
Pre-order only by contacting
Hilary Grant on
01638 741433 or
hilaryskgrant@hotmail.com
by **no later than**
Friday 4th December
Available for collection from
Tuesday 8th December by arrangement
All proceeds to St. Mary's Church Flower Fund

Christmas in Swaffham Prior Needs You

Join us for our third

Village Window Advent Calendar

Sign up now to create an Advent Window which will be revealed on a given date during Advent for everyone to see

If you would like to participate in this event
Please contact Janet on
janetwillmott@icloud.com
or 07833 960678
by no later than 20th November

Please be aware that in agreeing to participate you are also agreeing to have your address identified so people can look for your window and take photos

There is no need to be religious or arty and there is no "theme", the aim is for each window to be a surprise as it is revealed
It is **not** a competition, just have fun ☺
Googling "Advent Windows" will give you lots of ideas – if you need it!!



ST MARY'S, SWAFFHAM PRIOR

CHRISTMAS CAFÉ
AND MARKET

SWAFFHAM PRIOR
VILLAGE HALL

SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER
2-4.30PM

CAFÉ WITH SEASONAL BAKES PROVIDED BY THE POP-UP TEASHOP

FESTIVE STALLS INCLUDING JEWELLERY, GIFTS, CARDS, CRAFTS, LEATHER GOODS, ECO PRODUCTS, BRIC-A-BRAC

RAFFLE IN AID OF RED2GREEN

ALL WELCOME

Julie's bonfire bangers

Roasted sausage and potato supper

2 tbsp olive oil
2 large onions, sliced lengthways into wedges
2 red peppers, deseeded and diced
2 garlic cloves, chopped
1 tbsp of fresh thyme leaves, chopped
500g baby new potatoes, halved
12 sausages, pricked
200ml white wine
Salt and pepper

1. Preheat the oven to 220C.

2. Put all the ingredients, apart from the wine into a large bowl and mix well until they are fully covered in the oil.

3. Tip into a large roasting tin and spread out evenly but ensure the sausages aren't covered by the veg. Season well and roast for 30-35 minutes until golden brown.

4. Remove from the oven, turn the sausages and give the veg a good toss in the cooking juices. Pour in the wine and return to oven for a further 20 minutes or until browned and the sausages are cooked and the potatoes tender.

Serve hot with a good dollop of mustard. Serves 4-6

Easy sausage and lentil stew

2 tbsp olive oil
400g sausages, ideally spicy ones such as Toulouse or Spanish style
1 onion, sliced
400g tinned tomatoes
160g green puy lentils
1 chicken or pork stock cube
75ml red wine
500ml water

1.Heat 1tbsp of the oil in a large frying pan and fry the sausages until they are browned on all sides and then set aside.

2. Add the remaining oil to the pan and gently fry the onion until softened and lightly browned. Add the tomatoes and lentils, crumble over the stock cube and add the red wine. Then add 500ml to the pan.

3.Cover loosely with a lid on and bring to a simmer. Cook for 15 minutes, stirring occasionally, adding extra water if needed. Return the sausages to the pan and cook for 10-15 minutes or until the lentils are tender and sausages cooked.

(If you fancy a bit of spice, add half a teaspoon of chilli flakes)

4. When ready serve with leafy green veg or crusty bread. Serves 4

CEILIDH

SATURDAY 14TH NOVEMBER

SWAFFHAM PRIOR VILLAGE HALL

6.30PM

The Criacs

TICKETS £10 ADULT - £5.00 CHILDREN

INCLUDES A BAKED POTATO SUPPER

BAR

To book tickets contact: jenny.brand26@gmail.com
karenlynn580@gmail.com

Love where you Live

Join POP
(Proud of Prior)

☺ ☺ ☺

COMMUNITY LITTER PICKS

FRIDAY TIDY

Meet at the sheds by the play park on the High Street

Friday
13th November - 10.00am

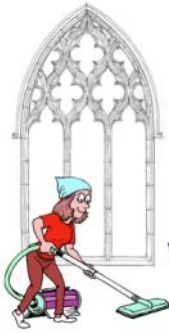
Adult Hi Vis Jackets provided
You participate at your own risk
Your Safety is YOUR responsibility

Please bring your own gloves
All other equipment provided

Come and join friends and neighbours on this tidy up

Look forward to seeing the results!





St Mary's Church
Swaffham Prior

is looking for more volunteers
male or female

to join the
Weekly Church Cleaning Rota

If you have an hour to spare
once every couple of months
you are just who we are looking for ☺

No heavy lifting involved,
all materials provided

To sign up, or for more information,
contact Janet Willmott 07833 960678
or janetwillmott@icloud.com

Your help would be
very much appreciated



Reception Open Event

SWAFFHAM PRIOR CofE PRIMARY

September 2027 admissions

An opportunity for new and prospective parents and children to come and look around our wonderful school

Tuesday	10th November	10am
Wednesday	18th November	2pm

Contact the school office to confirm attendance

office@pri.graceschools.org.uk
01638 741529

Swaffham Prior Primary School, Station Road, CB25 0LG

All the Latest from St Mary's

It has been a beautiful autumn, and the harvest events throughout the village have demonstrated the wonder of creation and the importance of community: our village community and those we support further afield with donations to local foodbanks and to Mara in Tanzania.

Huge thanks to all that have supported and organised recent social and fundraising events for St Mary's – **Strawberry Teas** at the end of the summer at the Scout Hut was a wonderful success; our grateful thanks to Scout leaders and members for their support. At the Harvest Show the **Dog Show** exercised the smile muscles and **Spuds in Buckets** was again keenly competitive. The **Harvest Supper** featured an amazing performance by local comic wordsmith, Jude Simpson – if you get the chance to see her in action, don't miss out! Huge thanks to all caterers, decorators, organisers, raffle prize donors and participants. A sell-out **Quiz Night** is to take place; we know Jenny, Lynn, Andrew and catering team will do us proud.

Our **Autumn Clean** will allow us to get the church looking its best for **Remembrance Sunday**. All are welcome on Sunday 8 November at 10.50pm. The Scout pack will parade to church, for a service that invites all to remember, and commit to peace.

On 21 November in the Village Hall, we will have our **Christmas Café and Market**, 2-4.30pm. A stallholder said last year that this event has *THE* best cakes, so do not miss our festive bakes, and the chance to buy honey, leather goods, craft items, jewellery, cards, eco-products and superior bric-a-brac. This event will support Red2Green as well as St Mary's.

Advent by Candlelight with Cambridge Voices takes place in the two churches on Sunday 29 November at 4pm. Tickets will be available at the door, in aid of Emmaus. Mince pies and mulled wine after.

The **School Carol Service** will be on Friday 11 December.

Christingle takes place on Sunday 13 December at 10.30am. All children will have the chance to make a Christingle orange. The Beavers will perform the Nativity story. All welcome to support the Children's Society.



The **Village Candlelight Carol Service** takes place on Sunday 20 December at 4.30pm, with choirs and readers from throughout the village.

On 25 December **Christmas Day Holy Communion** takes place at 10am. Everyone is welcome to attend any services at our church – please see listing elsewhere.

An appeal – the Christmas Tree – much appreciated by all visitors throughout the Christmas period has been kindly donated by people from the village community in recent years. If you would be interested in sponsoring this year's tree, please be in touch.

Thank you. ***Dee Noyes, St Mary's PCC admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk***



Prep and Serving staff at the Harvest Supper..









And Church Cleaners: Mandy, Kate, Jan, Bob, Sandy, David and Fiona



The altar shows initials of St Mary's and St Cyriac's and Jullitta's

St Mary's plays a huge role in making our village a great place to live and here are some of the people who make it all happen.

Poem of the Month

MCMXIV

Those long uneven lines
Standing as patiently
As if they were stretched outside
The Oval or Villa Park,
The crowns of hats, the sun
On moustached archaic faces
Grinning as if it were all
An August Bank Holiday lark;

And the shut shops, the bleached
Established names on the sunblinds,
The farthings and sovereigns,
And dark-clothed children at play
Called after kings and queens,
The tin advertisements
For cocoa and twist, and the pubs
Wide open all day;

And the countryside not caring:
The place-names all hazed over
With flowering grasses, and fields
Shadowing Domesday lines
Under wheat's restless silence;
The differently-dressed servants
With tiny rooms in huge houses,
The dust behind limousines;

Never such innocence,
Never before or since,
As changed itself to past
Without a word - the men
Leaving the gardens tidy,
The thousands of marriages,
Lasting a little while longer:
Never such innocence again.

Philip Larkin 1964

The beginning of November is linked inextricably with Remembrance Day, which in turn commemorates the Armistice that ended the First World War. Not until the reader decodes the Roman numerals of the title, which themselves add a sense of the portentous, does it become clear that this is a Remembrance poem of a different kind. It commemorates not only the fallen, but an England they fought to defend, which though unconquered, vanished nonetheless. The date of publication further reveals that it commemorates the fiftieth anniversary of the moment the vanishing began.

It has the quality of a sepia photograph bringing into focus so many of the details – the moustaches, the ubiquitous hats, the enameled tin advertisements – that define the liminal half-familiar period-drama world of our grandparents and great-grandparents. The scene is full of agonisingly poignant contrasts: the "long uneven lines" queuing to volunteer are reflected in the uncaring "fields shadowing Domesday lines" with "Domesday" carrying ominous weight. In this and the paradox of "wheat's restless silence" we sense a countryside that has survived a thousand years and will survive another thousand, indifferent to its defenders' sacrifice. Many ordinary things will never again be ordinary: "differently dressed servants with tiny rooms in huge houses"; "the men leaving the gardens tidy"; it is a present that is about to "change itself to past without a word" but the grinning, moustached archaic faces have no idea of what is to come.

Andrew Grant

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH BOTTISHAM



Coffee & Cake Concert

SATURDAY 28th November 10.30AM

Wayne Marshall OBE

International Concert Organist

Wayne, a Bottisham resident, has performed and conducted all over the world including at the first and last night of the Promenade Concerts and the debut concert of the Chineke! Orchestra in the Queen Elizabeth Hall and the Royal Festival Hall in June 2025. He is in great demand, and we are fortunate that he has again agreed to play for us. He is an expert at improvisation and will play a variety of easy listening music arranged for the organ in addition to well-known organ pieces

Come and enjoy a coffee (tea or juice), cake around10.15am and then the concert, which will last around 45 minutes

Suggested donation £10, in aid of the church building fund – children free. All are welcome.





Bric-a-brac donations wanted!

St Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior, is running a bric-a-brac stall at the Church Christmas Market in the Village Hall on **Saturday 21st November 2026**

We are currently collecting donations for the stall – small, clean, preloved items in good condition.

If you have any items to donate, please get in touch with Kate Muscroft (07752011308/ katemuscroft@gmail.com) and she will happily collect your items within the Swaffham Prior area.



Life at the Human-AI interface



One of the Lay Ministers in our group of churches shares experiences from Artificial Intelligence.

It is 60 years since the sci-fi epic *2001, a Space Odyssey* introduced us to Hal, the supercomputer that controlled everything in a huge spaceship by conversation with the crew. The story doesn't turn out well for the crew, as Hal makes the inhuman decision to kill them all as 'he' prioritises the mission. I can't help but think of Hal when I read warnings that Artificial Intelligence could destroy humanity. My own admittedly anecdotal experience of AI assistants (CoPilot, ChatGPT etc.) makes that hard to believe at present, unless they do it through incompetence! They all carry disclaimers '…may make mistakes'. Yeah right, there's no 'may' about it. Their air of certainty when they declare a 'fact' can lull the user into false sureness. And when I point out an error I don't get an apology – at most it'll be 'You're right to call me out" or "My earlier confidence was misplaced".

The first thing to say about AI assistants is 'Don't be too quick to use them'. An ordinary Google (or similar) search uses about one tenth of the energy and can end up being more useful – especially with problem solving requiring a degree of trial and error. AI assistants seem to keep on digging when their first answers don't hit the mark. Often the simple answer comes from the human using a bit of lateral, less intense thinking. One AI assistant confessed to me : "Because I am an AI, my brain is fundamentally built on code and configurations. When a standard app reset failed, my system immediately skipped past simple user-interface layers and assumed we had to fight deep system mechanics… You kept your focus on the high-level design". In other words AI can drag you down a rabbit hole and waste a lot of your time!

AI—when I point out an error I don't get an apology – at most it'll be 'You're right to call me out" or "My earlier confidence was misplaced…"

The second thing I learned is that AI is least accurate with things that are most liable to recent change, such as computer programs. There's a high chance that the AI knowledge base is not up to date so it feeds you wrong (stale) information. For me, trying to crack a recent problem in 'Excel' resulted in a deepening AI rabbit hole, until I googled manually and discovered that the culprit was a known faulty update issued a few days prior. Only when challenged did AI check this.

But conversely, AI is very strong in areas that are well established with not much change – and Bible study is a

prime example. The Christian Bible itself is big and varied, nearly 800,000 words authored over hundreds of years up to about 100 AD. But study of it has continued down the centuries and is still very much alive. AI's knowledge base on this is formidable, as is its ability to navigate through the huge corpus of available material. It can summarise and compare points of view and tell you which theologians champion which. It can refer back to the original languages (mostly Hebrew and Greek) – and so on. Don't misunderstand me – I'm not saying that AI replaces the benefits of reading the Bible, but it can help us hack through the undergrowth.

All this made me wonder if an AI assistant could write a sermon (a short talk delivered in church). As an experiment, I asked it to. The result was theologically sound but a bit dry and rather short. I asked for a longer one – and it obliged with the same sermon with added padding. Sorry to say, I've sat through sermons like that from humans!

I should add that I have not used this, or any other AI sermon in a service (honest I 'haven't). The core of the Christian message is that, in Christ, God took on human form – and then delegated his human followers to carry on the good work. For this, Jesus promised his humans the help of the Holy Spirit, but no such promise extends to machines!

Using AI in Bible study – indeed in anything – depends on asking the right questions. Here is something you might like to try on AI at home even if the Bible is not your thing, (Background: 'Psalm 8' was written about 1000 years before- and the 'New Testament 'a few decades after - the birth of Christ) "*Psalm 8 is quoted in the New Testament several times. Find the quotations, and explain briefly how each New Testament writer uses the psalm differently.*" Note the speedy response, and imagine how long it would take to research this manually with a pile of commentaries. Enjoy. ***Mike Procter***













Halloween 2026

































East Anglian Air Ambulance



People in the Cambridge area, and of East Anglia generally, will be aware of our mission:

"Together, we save lives".

Fuelled by our supporters, we bring hospital-level critical care to people in severe medical emergencies, every single day of the year. We are here for people across our region, no matter where they live and work. This includes our rural communities and those working in farming and agriculture, where getting help to the scene quickly may be more challenging.

Our crews, comprising pilots, doctors and critical care paramedics, can fly or drive straight to the scene, bringing specialist equipment, care and medication with them. Even in the most remote locations, we can deliver advanced treatment fast - providing treatment when people need it most, before transferring to the most appropriate hospital for their ongoing care.

As many will already know, Cambridge airport - site of our Cambridge base - is closing. Which means that we must relocate, and build a new home for our Anglia Two (Cambridge) operations. That is why, in April, we launched an urgent Cambridge Airbase Appeal appeal to raise £8.2m. Support thus far has been amazing and truly humbling - but we still have a long way to go.

Thank you to everyone who has already responded - every donation, regardless of size, reflects the trust you place in our teams to be there when somebody has the worst day of their lives.

Your support will make a real difference. lf you too would like to contribute to the Cambridge Airbase Base Appeal, the easiest ways are:

By post - to FREEPOST EAAA OR, online, please

- Text* BASE, followed by your donation amount:
- to give £10 text BASE 10
- to give £15 text BASE 15
- to give £20 text BASE 20
- *Texts will cost your donation amount plus one standard network rate message, and you'll be opting in to hearing more from us. (If you would like to donate but not hear more from East Anglian Air Ambulance, please text BASEINFO instead.

lf you would like to play our Weekly Lottery, make a Gift in your Will or support in any other way, please visit eaaa.org.uk

Thank you for your support - Together we save lives.

Michael White

News from Bottisham Medical Practice

Patient Liaison Team

Over the past few months, several members of our reception team have taken on additional administrative responsibilities to help support the increasing demands on the practice. As a result, our reception team is now known as the Patient Liaison Team, reflecting their wider role in supporting patients and coordinating access to services.

We are also delighted to announce that Sarah P has taken on the role of Patient Liaison Lead. Sarah will be providing leadership and support to the team as we continue to develop and improve the service we provide to our patients.

Total Triage

We have now been operating our Total Triage system for the past 12 months, and it continues to work well for both patients and clinicians.

A reminder that there is no need to call the practice first thing on a Monday morning to secure an appointment. Requests can be submitted online, reviewed by our clinical team, and patients will be contacted with the most appropriate next steps. This allows us to prioritise patients according to clinical need and make the best use of available appointments.

Missed Appointments

Over the past six weeks, 18 hours of appointments have been missed due to patients not attending their booked appointments.

Missed appointments have a significant impact on the practice and reduce the number of appointments available for other patients who need care. If you are unable to attend an appointment, please let us know as soon as possible so we can offer it to someone else.

Improving Access to the Practice

As a practice, we are always looking for ways to improve patient access and make it easier to contact us.

From mid-November, we will be introducing "AL Emma", our new AI-powered receptionist system. This service will help manage incoming calls more efficiently, direct patients to the most appropriate service, and assist our Patient Liaison Team in dealing with the high volume of requests we receive each day.

Further information about AL Emma and how it works will be shared with patients before the launch.

Bottisham Medical Practice Patients Participation Group.



VILLAGE GARDENERS

In October, the Village Gardeners held the AGM where we presented our annual financial statement and discussed the club events of the past 12 months. Our activities have included 7 gardening related talks, 2 summer evening garden visits to Histon Manor and Selwyn College, and a coach trip to The Savill Gardens in Windsor Great Park which was organised by Burwell and District Horticultural Society. The AGM was followed by treats of cheese, cake and wine, and a garden themed quiz which was expertly won by Sophie Rowell and Ann Gilbert. We are looking forward to holding similar events in 2027 and are well underway with compiling a varied programme of talks and visits. Before then, our final meeting of 2026 will be held on Tuesday 17th November in Swaffham Prior Village Hall (8pm, doors 7.45pm), when Kit Holland will give us some advice on Fruit Tree Pruning. Kit is an experienced orchardist and community gardener. She is a member of the Friends of Midsummer Common in Cambridge who are concerned with the good management and responsible use of the Common and its adjacent orchard. She is also trustee of the North Cambridge Community Partnership who are developing a Community Garden, including an orchard, in the Arbury area of Cambridge. Tea and homemade cakes will be on sale after the talk. Everyone is very welcome (non-members £4). Come along and meet us, and see whether you might like to join us for 2027.



Fiona Geraghty

Mothers' Union

Our September meeting was our Autumn Bring and Buy Social, together with a craft activity. As well as raising funds to support our branch activities, it is always an opportunity to pick up delicious home-made jams, chutneys and cakes and early Christmas presents.

Our craft activity involved decorating a small glass jam jar with fabric and antique lace to make a table vase to hold dried lavender from a member's garden; a pretty and calming exercise, with the room smelling lovely!

We finished the afternoon with our usual tea and biscuits, and a friendly time for conversation and good company.

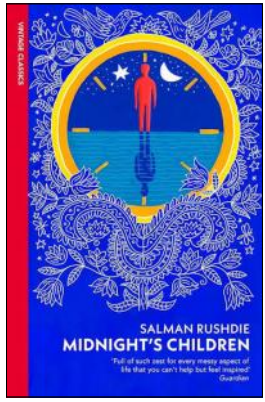
Our next meeting is on Thursday 19th November, when we will be joined by Burwell Mother's Union Branch to share in an Advent themed afternoon. We meet at the Fassage Hall in Lode at 2.30pm, please contact me if you would like to join us, all are welcome.

Alison Martin (01223 811285)

The Reading Group Reads…

Midnight's Children

by Salman Rushdie



I read this book when it was first published in the early 80s, and I was enthralled by it. So much so that when a friend asked to borrow it, and didn't return it before she moved, I actually went out and bought another copy. It won the Booker Prize when it first came out, and later the Booker of Bookers, (twice I think.)

On starting it again for this meeting I was surprised how much I'd forgotten. It is a dense book, but very satisfying. It helps to know a little about the partition of India when the British Rule ended, and it became three separate parts, West Pakistan, East Pakistan (which became Bangladesh) separated by India itself. The title refers to the children born at the very hour of independence, who each have special gifts.

The pictures Rushdie paints are vivid and stay with you; the language he uses is delightful and compulsive, even his grammar runs away with you.

I appreciate that it's not to everybody's taste and I was a little apprehensive as to what the group as a whole would think about it after one group member gave up on it very early on. However, that was not to be. I was delighted that the group shared my enthusiasm for the book and the discussion went on for virtually the whole evening, without digression.

A really good read and I'm delighted to have read it again.

Forthcoming:

Nobody's Girl - Nov

Sanderton - Jane Austen + other person who finished it. - Dec

Yearly Review—Jan

Sylvia Plath - Bell Jar or poetry - February

Mother Mary Comes to Me - March

All are welcome to attend.

Brenda Wilson

Newmarket Cinema

Film shows for September 2026 at The Stable, High Street, Newmarket.

November 16th - Mother's Pride (12)

December 14th - Born Free (PG)

Doors open at 6.45pm with the film starting at 7.30pm. Admission is £7 which includes free refreshments. If you would like to reserve seats either send an email to richardjbowler@outlook.com or call 07582 560566

Richard Penney

From Our MP, Charlotte Cane



As I write this column, I'm preparing to return to Parliament after a long recess of party conferences, and looking ahead towards the Chancellor's upcoming Autumn Budget.

We've heard much from Labour about generating growth in each local area. We all want to see our communities growing and thriving, but this means that Government must first address the pressures and challenges faced by people in rural areas.

Crucially, growth must include efforts to bring down household energy bills. But time and again, we've seen rural communities reliant on heating oil sidelined from the discussion. In Ely and East Cambridgeshire, over 26% of households are disconnected from the gas grid, and in places like Swaffham Prior, the majority of households are reliant on heating oil to stay warm.

As the winter approaches, many residents are facing eyewatering bills to fill their tanks and stay warm. At the time of writing. heating oil is being priced at around £1.08/litre – roughly double what it was before the Iran war at the start of the year. At a time when every household is being squeezed by the rising cost of living, it's unacceptable that rural communities disconnected from the gas grid are offered almost no support.

In March, the Government announced limited funding for relief on the costs of heating oil, but this only covered the most vulnerable households and has now been exhausted. What we need is price cap for heating oil, rigorous regulation of the heating oil market, and a comprehensive programme to support people with the costs of heating oil and towards sustainable, long-term heating solutions.

I've recently written again to the Minister for Energy to question what actions they are taking to provide relief to heating oil customers and will be pushing hard to ensure that rural communities are not left out of any support announced by the Chancellor in the upcoming budget.

Another area of ongoing concern is access to NHS dentistry in our area. That's why I've launched a constituency-wide survey to build a clear picture of the challenges residents are facing in accessing NHS dentistry. The survey takes just five minutes to complete – and your response will help strengthen my case for urgent Government action. To take the survey, scan the QR code to my linktree or type in https://bit.ly/ccmp-NHSdentistrysurvey to your browser.

If you have any other concerns or issues which you would like to raise with me, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Charlotte Cane MP
charlotte.cane.mp@parliament.uk | 020 7362 1601

You can also sign up for my fortnightly newsletter: www.bit.ly/newsfromcharlotte

East Cambridgeshire District Council
www.eastcambs.gov.uk

From our District Councillors Charlotte Cane & John Trapp



After a period of inaction at the Council two Committees have met, the Lake View Bereavement Centre (Mepal Crematorium) has been formally opened, and the Independent member on the Audit Committee has resigned, shortly to be replaced.

Operational Services 14 September 2026

Not an exciting one.

Noted that the Committee is currently projecting a year-end underspend of £114,000 on its revenue budget of £8,368,382 and a projected capital programme outturn of £9,535,966, an overspend of £289,021.

Approved the Council's Food and Health and Safety Service Plan, but noted that it had not been updated for some time.

Approved the Lake View Bereavement Centre aspiring towards the ICCM Charter for the Bereaved Accreditation.

Agreed the process for monitoring affordable housing provider performance.

Finance and Assets 24 September 2026

Concerns were raised about the errors in the ECTC annual accounts that had been signed off by the auditors.

The Inclusive Playground Strategy and the Inclusive Playground Toolkit 2 was approved, and we had sent you the documents earlier.

The Committee is currently forecasting an underspend of £85,000 at year-end when compared to its approved revenue budget of £8,284,422. The Council is forecasting an overall underspend of £199,000 at year-end when compared to its approved revenue budget of £21,585,345. The overall position for the Council on capital is an outturn of £13,787,601, which is an overspend of £289,021 when compared to the revised budget.

Councillor Surgeries

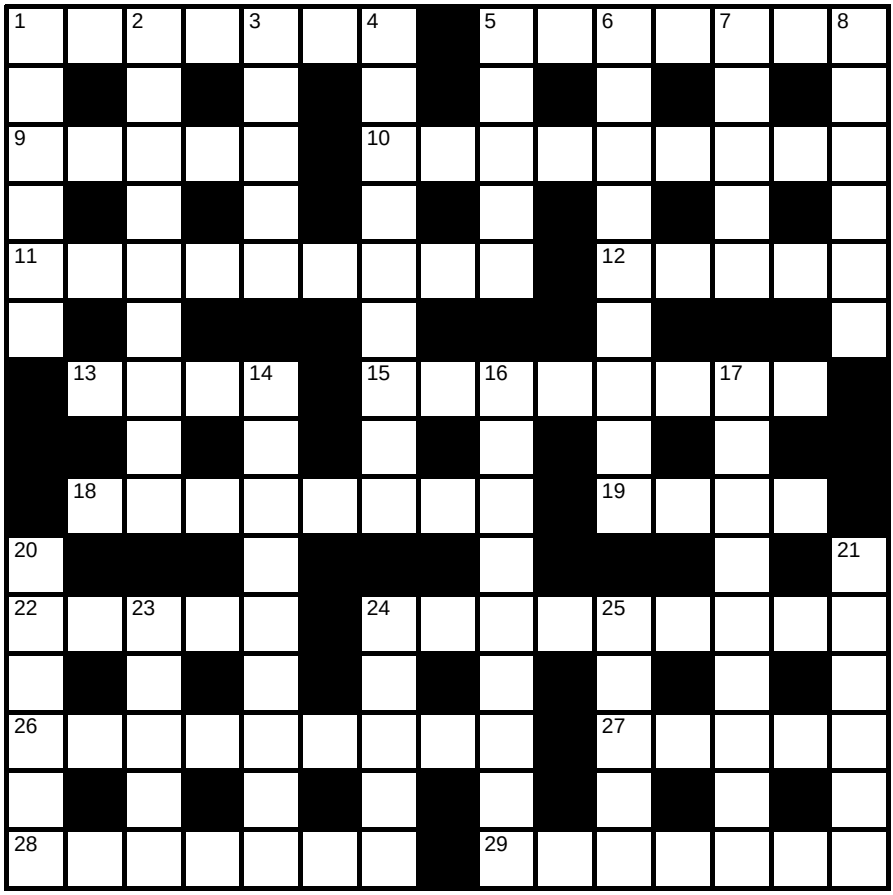
Due to our unavailability the past two months we have not held a surgery, but shall have one on 11 November 2027 at the Denny Pavilion at Swaffham Bulbeck from half past six to half past seven o'clock, followed by socialising at the Black Horse in the same village.

Cllrs Charlotte Cane MP (charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk) 07976 607512 and John Trapp (john.trapp@eastcambs.gov.uk) 0794 268 5599

Crossword Number 243

Compiled by **CALVIN**

This month's puzzle is a simple cryptic crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 18th November 2026. The sender of the first correct solution out of the hat will win a free Sunday Lunch at *The Red Lion*—See the pub manager for full details. Emailed solutions are acceptable but please include "CROSSWORD" and the crossword number in the header.



Name:……..……...

Address:...……

……Tel:……....

Across

1 Transmit document to backwards idiot, about universal social error (4,3)

5 Shotgun wedding, initially with fans of chaos (4-3)

9 Mother and child who works with stone (5)

10 You are texting spiders, arranging for them to be shocked (9)

11 Snack - whisky, for example - good starter (6,3)

12 Bridge opponents bring suit to follow (5)

13 Cease following bus? (4)

15 Uncertain but foul'd, very uncertain (8)

18 Wandering roads, June briefly causes delays (8)

19 Banana I found, hidden by someone gullible (4)

22 Barrage of ointment, as energy drops to zero (5)

24 Romantic couple enjoy a game of tennis (4,5)

26 Without preparing, setter's on time to university (9)

27 Hello, useless internal parasite! (5)

28 Accelerate agreement after Ruhr is reorganised? (5,2)

29 Get zany, crazy about river (7)

Down

1 Starve Scotsman, perhaps swapping husband for female (6)

2 Hidden, unlike a leopard? (9)

3 Woodland god in charge of terror (5)

4 Purchaser acquires American hanger (9)

5 Grips strange new growth (5)

6 Rotten, ragged swaddling setter consumed (4-5)

7 Band seen initially on a small, independent stage (5)

8 Cap of gizmo replaced by strong person, unable to sit still (6)

14 Reproduce picture of ape (9)

16 Shady one, French, to enjoy overheard question (9)

17 Belief in a single investment (4,5)

20 Book held back to front by Thai, a simpleton (6)

21 Steal this, even when not complete? (6)

23 Kangaroo, for instance, dodging a disease carrier! (5)

24 Absorb larval ascension (3,2)

25 Squash relative who's in home, lonely (5)

Solution to crossword no. 242

I	C	E	T	E	A	■	I	C	E	C	R	E	A	M
■	H	■	R	■	V	■	N	■	X	■	U	■	M	■
V	A	G	A	R	I	E	S	■	C	A	M	E	B	Y
■	R	■	N	■	A	■	E	■	L	■	B	■	U	■
■	■	■	S	T	R	U	C	T	U	R	A	L	L	Y
■	P	■	E	■	Y	■	T	■	D	■	■	■	A	■
R	E	A	P	■	■	■	R	E	E	N	A	C	T	S
■	R	■	T	■	G	■	E	■	S	■	L	■	O	■
A	I	R	S	T	R	I	P	■	■	■	P	O	R	E
■	P	■	■	■	A	■	E	■	S	■	H	■	Y	■
P	H	I	L	A	D	E	L	P	H	I	A	■	■	■
■	E	■	E	■	U	■	L	■	O	■	M	■	M	■
T	R	I	V	I	A	■	E	N	D	G	A	M	E	S
■	A	■	E	■	T	■	N	■	D	■	L	■	A	■
F	L	E	E	T	E	S	T	■	Y	I	E	L	D	S

We congratulate Rod Clayton, the winner of last month's competition, who will receive a prize certificate from the editors. Honourable mentions go to Mandy Kingsmill, Robert Nunn, Fiona Geraghty and Dainin O;Dowd.

Notes from the Parish Council October Meeting

A meeting of the Swaffham Prior Parish Council took place on 8th October, chaired by Cllr Covill and attended by 6 councillors and 3 members of the public.

Reports

Cambridgeshire County Council: No report was received, no representative attended.

East Cambridgeshire District Council: Cllr John Trapp attended. A report was circulated by email which covered the results of September meetings of the Operational Services and Finance and Assets committees.

Cllr Trapp also confirmed that inclusive play audits will be available from ECDC.

Cllr Kent-Phillips asked if the local elections for District and Parish will go ahead in 2027. Cllr Trapp confirmed that they will.

Cllr Kent-Phillips asked if ECDC owned any land in Swaffham Prior? Cllr Trapp is chasing an answer.

Cllr Hart thanked Cllrs Trapp and Cane for the clearing of the footpath from Pulpit Corner and the Devil's Dyke.

Clerk's Report: A reply had been sent regarding the Smock Mill Tower which seemed to have satisfied the complainant.

The 'Blue Badge Only' signs had been ordered and passed to the Village Hall committee.

A letter regarding the overgrown yew hedge on the High Street had been sent.

Parish Councillors' Reports: Cllr Kent-Phillips. The Speed Indicating Device has been deployed on Mill Hill, facing each way for a week at a time. The overall numbers of vehicles on Mill Hill are down from the last set of readings, with roughly 800 cars going in either direction during the peak 90 minutes. Traffic coming from Cambridge averaged 44 miles per hour with a highest speed of 75mph; traffic coming from Burwell averaged 37mph with a highest of 85 mph. The findings have been passed to the 30mph group and the raw data is available on request.

Cllr Latchford. The missing double yellow lines on the High Street are still to be replaced and the unpainted section is now being used to park in. PL believes this to be a hazard and a photo of the situation is to be passed to Cllr Malinowski (CCC).

Cllr Greenfield had attended a meeting at ECDC planning department about changes to the planning system to come. An issue of concern raised was that it will be increasingly difficult to obtain an extension to deadline for planning application comments without a clear reason for the request. Options were discussed of a planning committee with delegated powers to respond, extra meetings called as needed and delegated powers to respond between meetings.

Cllr Greenfield. The grass-cutting contract is up for renewal at the end of this season. To be decided at the November meeting.

Cllr Kent-Phillips. A Temporary Traffic Regulation Order has been issued for resurfacing on Green Head Road, Adams Road and Tothill Road. The Order covers a period of 18 months but there are no further details of the work or timescales involved.

Matters arising from previous minutes.

Cllr Greenfield reported that the Village Hall car park has been trimmed and will be sprayed for weeds at the same time as the cemetery path; he intended to confirm a date for spraying the cemetery path with Cllr Durrant.

The PC insurance has been renewed with Clear Councils.

Eastern Tree Surgery cannot give a precise quote but estimate that it should cost no more than £200 to dispose of the cuttings from clearing the Coopers Green – The Beeches footpath.

Cllr Lambert had completed the Rights of Way Improvement Plan questionnaire. **Correspondence:** Emails from the Kingsway Parish Council Alliance and Kingsway Solar regarding the proposed solar farm. DG clarified that Kingsway will be resubmitting a planning application which will involve providing funds for affected parishes. The Parish Council Alliance were looking for suggestions for community benefit projects, with the request to 'think big'.

Emails regarding closure of Swaffham Road, Upware. The Clerk outlined the current situation:

the road is closed,

tractors have been reported ignoring the closure,

households beyond the closure have not been receiving post and have been told to collect from Ely (Charlotte Cane MP has been following this up)

Charlotte Cane MP has been trying to arrange a meeting with Highways officials to ensure all are kept up to date with what is happening, but not date has been set

The PC has been invited to Upware Resident's Association on 21st October – DG volunteered to attend.

Planning applications: 26/00645/FUL Demolition of existing storage units, construction of a single-storey 1-bedroom cabin for staff accommodation and change of use of land to residential. The Smock Mill Tower, Mill Hill, Swaffham Prior, CB25 0JZ.

This had been refused and was noted.

Finances: Cllr Kent-Phillps noted that the latest water bill was roughly four times the usual amount. The hot dry summer accounts for the extra use but at present the tenants do not contribute to the bill.

The Clerk is to request a smart meter to see if water is being left on overnight and to email the Upper Allotment tenants to make them aware of the water bill, requesting careful use of water. Cllr Latchford to look into tenancy agreements for other allotments.

To be discussed further at the November meeting.

The Clerk noted that the cheque paid into Cambridge Building Society had been refused by Barclays because the signatures were overlapping and not on the line. A second cheque was being prepared.

The Pound and Keep: Cllr Kent-Phillips reported that the wall of the Pound in particular needed much work, having suffered in the heat and drought of the summer. Elstons Decorators had provided a detailed quote for the work needed (including a 10 year guarantee) of £4400.00

The Clerk is to check with the Conservation Officer at ECDC if the work proposed needed permission and the PC agreed that subject to the approval of the Conservation Officer, the quote be accepted.

The Phone Kiosk: Cllr Kent-Phillips reported that the quote for the work of repainting the phone kiosk had yet to be received but would be in the region of £1000. To be considered at the November meeting.

Playground inclusivity: The Clerk reported that a meeting with the interested parishioner and a representative of Elevate play equipment was set for 26th October.

Footpaths: It was agreed by a majority that the Community Payback Team be asked to clear the footpath from Cooper's Lane to the Beeches. The Clerk to make arrangements.

If anyone would like further information on the above items, please contact the Clerk. The next PC meeting takes place on Thursday 12th November 2026, 7.30pm at the Village Hall

Produced from unapproved minutes and may contain errors; approved minutes can be found at http://www.swaffham-prior.co.uk/pc/minutes.html

This November at Anglesey Abbey

Winnie-the-Pooh trail

Join us for an autumn adventure at Anglesey Abbey with the Three Cheers for Pooh! Story trail, running from 3 October 2026 to 3 January 2027. Enjoy a fun-filled day out with friends and family as you explore the gardens and follow the trail, discovering Winnie-the-Pooh and his friends along the way.

Wander through the gardens and encounter classic characters from A.A. Milne's much-loved stories, from Pooh with his honey-pot to Tigger bouncing through the landscape. Pick up a trail map and enjoy the changing colours of the season as you explore the gardens. The trail is free with normal admission and no booking is needed.

Autumn in the gardens

There's still plenty to enjoy outdoors this November as the gardens take on their beautiful autumn colours. Take a stroll through the Winter Garden, which is beginning to look particularly lovely, or enjoy one of the many peaceful walks around the gardens and wider estate.

A festive voyage at Anglesey Abbey

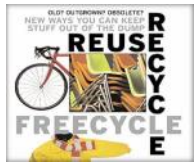
From November, the house at Anglesey Abbey will be transformed for the Christmas season, with this year's decorations inspired by Lord Fairhaven's travels aboard *The Saphire*, his private yacht. Discover more about his travels as you explore the house and enjoy the festive displays.

There are also still spaces to meet Father Christmas at Anglesey Abbey this Christmas. Tickets are limited, so head to the Anglesey Abbey website to find out more and plan your festive visit.

Issy Vetoshkina



FREECYCLE



As a reminder, everything is offered for free and nothing is expected in return.

If you have any offers or wants, please contact me by the date of your magazine submission date by phone/text (07980 423210) or e-mail (junthompson44@gmail.com) or drop a note through the letter box (23 Longmeadow). Please let me know if you would like anything repeating in subsequent issues.

Offers

Contact Lis 01223 811233. Netball Practice Goal Hoop suitable for fixing to a wall

Contact Veronica 07900 317264. Wardrobe, stripped pine. Top of the wardrobe door has a small oval window. 1.84 cm high x 45 cm deep x 75 cm wide.

Contact Wendy 01223 811356.

JVC compact music centre CA-MXS2BK with remote control and 2 speakers plus Instruction manual

John Lewis dark wood cabinet to house music centre and several CDs plus cassette drawers

Skandika exercise bike

Contact Lindsey Shaw-Miller lindseysm8@gmail.com / 07773 027155

Fridge-freezer, CDA, 60/40 split, one year old, integrated into a fitted kitchen. CDA is a British brand based in Nottingham. The fridge-freezer is in excellent condition and is good quality. It's just a bit small for us, and we prefer a 50/50 split. The unit is 60cm wide x 65cm deep x 214cm high. Fridge/freezer itself is 54cms wide x 61.5cms deep x 175cms high. You would need to arrange transport. We would help you to dismantle. You are welcome to come and have a look.



LINK WITH MARA, TANZANIA

For the last 20 years our villages have had links with the Diocese of Mara, on the shores of Lake Victoria. We have visited them and welcomed the Bishop to visit us. In particular, we support three of their main projects:

THE SAFE HOUSE receives girls who are in danger of female genital mutilation, illegal in Tanzania but practised in some local cultures. Some 25 girls have come to the Safe House for safety, education and training in skills for life, e.g. tailoring. 'Not only that, but thanks to your gifts we go to the villages with government officers and speak against FGM, which is now slowly dying out.'



The Sewing Room



The Butterfly

GIRLS' SECONDARY BOARDING SCHOOL receives fee-paying students, but also offers places to girls with ability who have no means to pay fees. Often such girls are allowed no time to study if they live at home, but boarding school enables them to pass national exams up to A level and enter university. We have helped build the library and equip the science lab. We pay the fees of Angel Otieno, an able girl whose parents cannot work. She is now in her final A level year.



Angel



Classroom



Heather

THE REHEMA PROJECT in the city of Musoma, is a local food outlet, a café and a craft workshop providing work for local women. The proceeds enable them to help women and children in crisis, who may suffer poverty and various kinds of abuse. This service is led by Heather Johnstone of Church Mission Society. We contribute to her support and to Rehema's humanitarian projects.

If you would like to support this work in Mara, please come to the Christmas Fair in Swaffham Bulbeck Church on Saturday 5th December 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Alternatively, make a gift, earmarked for any of the above projects, and pay it to your parish church Treasurer, who can claim GiftAid if you pay tax, and send it to Mara.

Services in November 2026

Sunday 1 November – All Saints' Day

9am Online service on Zoom
10.30am Holy Communion, Bottisham

Wednesday 4 November

8pm CbyC, a contemplative service, online on Zoom

Sunday 8 November – Remembrance Sunday

9am Online service on Zoom
10.50am Act of Remembrance, Lode
Remembrance Service, Quy
Remembrance Service, Swaffham Bulbeck
Remembrance Service with Scouts, Swaffham Prior

Sunday 15 November – Second Sunday before Advent

9am Online service on Zoom
Morning Prayer, Quy
10.30am Holy Communion, Swaffham Bulbeck
Morning Prayer, Bottisham

Sunday 22 November – Christ the King

9am Online service on Zoom
Holy Communion BCP, Swaffham Bulbeck
10.30am Holy Communion, Swaffham Prior

Sunday 29 November – First Sunday of Advent

9am Online service on Zoom
10.30am Holy Communion, Lode
4pm Advent by Candlelight, Swaffham Prior – with Cambridge Voices

Each Thursday

10.30am Holy Communion, Lode

New website for the Anglesey Benefice:
www.angleseybenefice.org.uk
Join Zoom services online: angleseybenefice.org.uk/online or via this QR code:

Dates for Your Diary November 2026

Wed	4	Reading Group, 6pm [21]
Sun	8	Remembrance Sunday [15]
Tue	10	Reception Open Event, 10am, Village School [9]
Thu	12	PC Meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm [27]
Fri	13	POP Litter Pick, meet at High Street play park, 10am [9]
Sat	14	Ceilidh, Village Hall, 6.30pm [9]
Mon	16	Newmarket Cinema, 7.30pm [21]
Tue	17	Village Gardeners, Village Hall, 8pm [20]
Wed	18	Reception Open Event, 2pm, Village School [9]
Thu	19	Mothers' Union, Fassage Hall, Lode, 2.30pm [20]
Fri	20	Closing date for Advent Windows, Janet Willmott [7]
Sat	21	Christmas Café and Market, Village Hall, 2 to 4.30pm [7]
Sun	22	***Crier* Copy Deadline**
Sat	28	Coffee and Cake Concert, Bottisham Church, 10.30am [13] Cambridge Concert Orchestra, Bottisham Village Coll., 3.30pm [29]
Sun	29	Advent by Candlelight, St Mary's, 4pm [10]
	December	
Fri	4	Holly for sale, Hilary Grant [6]

Numbers in square brackets indicate page number of an accompanying article

Club	Contact	Tel/Email	Date	Time	Place
FOSPS	**Becky Wilkes**	**07827 318351**	**2nd Mon of Term**	**8pm**	**Village School**
Beavers, Cubs and Scouts	**Tim Doe**	**gsl@1st swaffhamprior scouts.org.uk**	**Wed (Term) Mon**	**5:15-6:30pm 6:30-8.00pm 7.00-8.30pm**	**Scout Hut**
Reading Group	**Brenda Wilson**	**743937**	**1st Wed of month**	**6:00pm**	**Variable**
Village Gardeners	**Fiona Geraghty**	**07785 971853**	**3rd Tues of month**	**8:00pm**	**Village Hall**
WI	**Kate Muscroft Kaye Lewsinski**	**07752011308 kayejanelew@ gmail.com**	**3rd Mon of month**	**7.30 pm**	**Village Hall**
Bell Ringers*	**Gareth Davies**	**07886 323686 swaffhamprior bells@gmail.com**	**Every Tuesday**	**7.30-9.00pm**	**St Cyriac's**









Swaffham Prior 2026 Halloween (See inside)





