



The Swaffham Crier

Volume XL Number 1

January 2016



Editorial

HAPPY NEW YEAR, ALL OUR READERS! .

Now is the time of year we traditionally say thank-you very much to all our:

Correspondents, you've done a brilliant job in 2015 and particular thanks go to Janet Willmott, whose out and about reporting and photography have made such a difference this year. If you'd like to contribute to the *Crier* or have an idea for a new column, just send your copy in or get in touch with the editors.

Distributors: the Crier is delivered free to every household in Swaffham Prior and this is some task in a village where many readers live in out of the way and somewhat inaccessible places—yes there have injuries to life and limb this year! Many thanks all, and if you'd like to help them, get in touch Ruth Stinton.

Advertisers: the Crier receives no grants or financial support (bar some very gratefully received donations, see below). Thank-you advertisers for all your support during 2015, we can't exist without you. If you'd like to advertise do get in touch: Crier pages are the first place anyone looks if they need something doing.

Donators: not only do these make an essential difference over and above our usual income, they are so encouraging to everyone who works so hard every month in this magazine. Thank-you, and keep them coming in!

We'd also like to give a very special —if belated!—thank-you to Audrey Scott for all her efforts on the original Gestetner machine in the early days of the Crier. We were very sorry to hear that she passed away just before Christmas, She would accept no public thanks whatsoever during her lifetime — we hope she will not mind if we say something now!

Congratulations, Julie Nunn, who won the Christmas Pudding contest at the Lion (see our centre spread)! And also to the Lion for an extremely successful and much enjoyed new venture. Pasties next, we're told! Don't miss Village Gardeners 2016 program — we're going to join! See you coffeing....

Caroline Matheson

Cover Picture: Journey over – the camels go home *by John Minton*

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Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Winter Walk Tuesday 29th December

Many thanks to the organisers of the Walk and also those who "set sail" for the morning. Weatherwise the day was very kind and warm for us and we all completed the trek with ease. An added bonus was that we all learned some local knowledge / history en route and the leader ensured that we didn't get lost on the way. Well done.

Village Walker

Dear Editors,

Re CIL funding: money: a letter omitted from the Crier in the autumn

A draft letter to the village regarding nearly £70,000 due to the village from CIL funding was circulated to PC members in July to be discussed and finalised at the August meeting, asking for ideas on how the money should be spent. I objected that the draft was over-formally written to send to a village community, not explaining what was meant by 'match funding' which was written about in an over-complex way, and that the over-official language used would put off some people from replying; that it is wrong to include only internet links to the rules that have to be met spend the money, with the dire warning that **'Failure to follow these criteria will lead to disappointment'**. There remain many, particularly older people, who are not habitual computer users and who would not be able to look this up (unsurprisingly, almost no older people replied).

To help with this, I referred the PC members to the organisation the UK government uses to make its language user-friendly, eg in tax documents and passport and driving licence applications. I pointed out the PC must also have a commitment to Equal Opportunities: everyone has an equal right of access to any public information, so if one person can find the CIL grant rules with a few computer clicks, a non-computer user should be given the same access without having to ask for help. So in fairness, those rules would have to be published. In reply to these points emailed to all Parish Councillors, I received a series of personally insulting and derisory emails, circulated to all other PC members, also criticising a simple explanation of match funding as 'sixty words where two would do' and deriding clear English as applied by our government as 'dumbing down'. Mocking comments were made against those who do not use computers, with an inappropriate joke about how they should be obliged to ask others for help. Then a further derogatory comment about me was made in a circulated email regarding a matter that was nothing to do with me.

The drafters of the letter printed a full set of the draft they preferred and had begun delivering it out to the village, setting a very early deadline in that letter that the PC had not considered nor agreed. This was only halted when I queried this, and then the offensive emails began.

At the August Parish Council meeting when the letter to the village was dis-

cussed, I was shouted down by two councillors who had been involved in the email dialogue and in drafting and distributing the letter, one of whom told me I should raise my hand when I had finished speaking to prevent him interrupting; I had to point out that no, I was not required to do this; another councillor objected to the barracking as inappropriate to a PC meeting. I was interrupted when I asked that the PC should have some plan for how it would judge those replies it received. There was no plan except some thought of a village meeting, but that was not even formalised.

I had also had a conversation with the editor of the Crier a few days before the meeting. She offered to publish in the September Crier the grant rules for spending the money (*see below. Eds*); I proposed this at the meeting; one PC member said he would copy those to her; but they did not appear.

In the minutes I received of the August meeting there was no mention of all the above: the way the draft letter was wrongly printed and delivery begun without agreement; nor to my objections to the letter, particularly that the PC was not acting in accordance with its Equal Opportunities commitment; nor to the objections raised against barracking behaviour; nor to the formal proposal I made that a more user-friendly draft be considered. The only small item that was acknowledged was when I pointed out it was not even fully clear in content who the letter was from. To overcome this it was suggested that all the remaining undelivered sealed but unagreed draft letters would have the envelopes over-printed saying they were from the Parish Council. To save face and not to have to distribute a different letter from the unagreed draft some had already received, with all that was wrong with it, it would be agreed that actually there was nothing wrong with it. (The drafters had avoided needing approval previously by printing it with their own stationery - so a redraft would have involved no additional cost to the PC). This was voted on and agreed by the majority, and which I voted against.

I write this because the PC can make any decision it likes within the law but must be open for its actions to be judged by the villagers it represents, and behave with procedure and propriety. None of the above is in the August minutes, and the Clerk's PC meeting notes in the September Crier includes only the opinion of one councillor at the start of the meeting that 'all reasonable steps had been taken to prepare the letter in an accessible and acceptable fashion'. This is misleading, with a formal request to consider a more user-friendly draft refused, to save face.

Some in our community have been treated as if they have to meet some Parish Council literacy and technology standard - when it takes so little extra effort to be considerate to all - everyone should be treated equally and fairly in offering ideas for the spending of it.

Mark Lewinski, Parish Councillor

We didn't publish the government supplied information on the Web as to what projects would be acceptable for this funding because, despite its length, we were none the wiser! Apologies, we could not publish Mark's original letter, but we did not know that the PC had not received it as well—see Our Reporter. Eds

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

The last PC meeting of the year is often an interesting one, and this was no exception. Having ploughed my way through a parked up High Street I was met by a full public gallery – Andrew Grant of Rose Cottage, Peter Rand of Village Sign fame, Martin Meade, Michael limb, Charlotte Cane, Chair of the School Governor's, and Tom Edwards, school governor and Chair of the Premises Committee. The meeting was closed while there was a debate about parking in Station Road. As this took up 50 minutes there is a separate report on this elsewhere in this *Crier*.



When 'Apologises' came up it was regretted that Mark Lewinski had again failed to attend. It seems he may have only attended one meeting since the May election, and has never attended a Village Hall meeting as the PC representative. One member said he would very much like Mark to contribute but this cannot happen if he never comes. John made the point that it has to be understood that not everyone has, or needs to have, the same opinion and that there is no point in being upset if people do not agree with you.

Allen distributed his ECDC report, which saved him the task of reading it. But he did read out an interesting addition. In 2012/13 East Cambs was in the 257th position out of 320 councils for waste collection. The new bin collection service was then introduced, to much gnashing of local teeth, and the 2014/15 waste collection figures now has East Cambs at 26th out the 320 councils. A remarkable achievement for ECDC. The aim is to increase the percentage from 56% to 60% waste collection. But it seems this extra 4% is really quite difficult to achieve. John made the point that "it is amazing just how ignorant so many people are about recycling." Allen did not explain the significance of achieving 60%.

The mild weather refuses to go away, the grass continues to grow, and another Final Winter Cut is to be ordered – or should it be the First Spring Cut someone quipped.

At last some CIL money has come in, and it will be ring fenced. This is a first tranche and amounts to £6000 and a bit. It should have been paid to us in April, but did not arrive until November for three reasons - as Steve explained. 1) ECDC does not pay it (and other bills?) until 6 months after the date it is due; 2) it was paid directly into the wrong account; 3) the wrong transaction code was used. Steve will now shuffle it about and put it into a ring fenced postal savings account. The subcommittee is still working on the various suggestions for the CIL monies.

Some progress has been made on the defective lampposts in Fairview Grove, and a decision has been taken, but the contractor first needs to receive permission from the CCC legal department. It appears that a "Ben Jakes" is key to this final hurdle, but no one knows who he is. After his struggles Paul now needs to do nothing more about these lampposts, except wait with the rest of the PC.

Item 12 was "Consider action regarding development in Newmarket Road, Burwell". Steve asked what we were supposed to do about it. Because the

development will increase the traffic through Mill Hill some felt we should write and ask, “what are they going to do to mitigate the affect on Swaffham Prior”. But no one knew to whom to write, and Steve is probably right when he muttered, “sounds like us just making a whinge.”

When the meeting reached accounts it was revealed that the PC needs a new chequebook, which ought to have arrived. There was a query whether Paul’s address had been passed to everyone following his taking over from Karen as Clerk. It was suggested that someone should knock on the door of 10 Mill Hill (Karen’s old address) and ask whether there is any mail addressed to the Clerk. Peter Hart was chosen to knock and “ask for our ball back”.

Peter Hart said a traffic calming post had been knocked down in Mill Hill. Steve, our traffic officer, already knew about this. His CCC traffic contact said that they are wondering whether to replace IT for the moment because CCC is fed up with replacing those in Quay. CCC is now exploring the possibility of finding some “springy uppity ones”, which will jump back up again after being run over. That will be a bit of fun for some drivers. As has been reported previously, Quay village would like to get rid of that traffic calming system, CCC traffic people have no objection, but Quay village would need to pay for the removal.

Andrew Camps reported that work is proceeding with clearing the natural rubbish from the cemetery, but he did wish that the cemetery visitors would remove glass bottles, old wreaths, and plastic milk bottles. It was suggested a note be put on the cemetery notice board. Lastly, Peter Rand said he was quite miffed by part of last month’s report in the *Crier*. “Oh”, said Steve, “Don’t take any notice of the *Crier* Report. It’s nearly always wrong”. Ah, but, it was the Clerk’s official report this time. The Clerk and the PC expressed regret and said they will make amends.

The meeting closed with the Chairman wishing every one a Happy Christmas.

Alastair Everitt

Anniversaries

The problem with Anniversaries,
Is;
They happen every year.
And though some are good,
Like birthdays;
Some stir emotions more severe.
Although 'Time', (we are told)
Is, 'The Great Healer',
And may try, but can't erase,
Memories we all treasure,
Of much happier days.

Ophir



Join POP (Proud of Prior)

for another

COMMUNITY LITTER PICK!

**Meet at the bottom of Cage Hill
Under the Village Sign**

Saturday 16th January, 2016

10.00am – 12 noon

Refreshments back at Cage Hill Afterwards

Please bring your own gloves if you wish

All other equipment will be provided

**Come and join friends and
Neighbours on this tidy up**

Look forward to seeing the results!



FRIDAY COFFEE MORNINGS



10.30 – 12.00 Noon



Fridays
8th & 22nd January
5th & 19th February
4th & 18th March

Swaffham Prior Village Hall



£1 per session
*includes coffee, biscuits
and chat*



Sponsored by
Pop-up Tea Shop

From our Reporter: Part Two - Parking in Station Road



As I walked towards the Red Lion for a quick one before the PC meeting I was accosted by someone coming out of their front garden asking “What’s going on? There is parking both sides of the road, and the bus couldn’t get through”. There were indeed an exceptional number of cars in the High Street, but the bus appeared to have escaped by this time. I do have faith in the skills of bus, coach and twelve wheeler drivers who 99.9 times out of 100 extricate themselves out of what appear to be impossible obstacles.

The problem that night was caused by a school event which was being extremely well supported. This excessive parking in the High Street is relevant to the discussion about Station Road parking. As also is an incident that same night which involved Allen Alderson during the main PC meeting. Just before Allen could give his ECDC report the lovely Sandra from *Slimming World* apologised for interrupting the meeting, and asked whether anyone owned a blue 4 x 4 which had parked so close to another car that the owner could not get in. No one said anything, though eventually some asked “What make?” Off trotted Sandra, and came back with the news that it was a Honda. “Ah, that’s mine” confessed Allen, and he sheepishly left the meeting to move his 4 x 4. This is also relevant to the discussion about Station Road.

I was not at the November meeting but noticed from the reports that in the closed meeting it was a general all-comers pitch into the question of Station Road parking. Having heard a Lord’s debate on the question I thought I would open the batting which two proposals which had been made during that debate. The first was to close the road to all through traffic during the school arrival period, as has happened in some towns. This may not be acceptable but we could consider restricting the time of the twelve wheelers as these are usually quoted as being the problem. Sandra supported this and said that at the school where she used to teach they banned all lorries from 8.30 to 9.00. The second Lord’s idea, which is less good, is to use the now famous “Crocodile” system. No one appeared to be interested and this may be the case throughout the country. On paper it sounds a great idea.

Andrew (all Andrews in this report refer to Andrew Grant and not to Andrew Camps) – Andrew made the case have having 40 metres of double yellow lines in Station Road and also fifteen metres of lines in the High Street in front of the School. Living on the corner of High Street/Station Road one can appreciate his viewpoint. He had done his research and noticed in the past minutes that the PC had considered the question in 2006 and expressed an intention to either consider it further or to do something; they got a tiny bit of a wiggling because the PC had done nothing until Andrew raised it again.

He thought restricting lorries for only the school time would not solve the problem because lorries and large farm traffic use it throughout the day, and people

sometimes park there. He thought all parking should be banned, except for the school coach. I mentioned that this may not be helpful for the Red Lion, and he said that parking for the Red Lion can also cause a problem, and there is the need sometimes to go in and find an offending driver. Martin jumped in here and said "Once every three months". Andrew explained the measured amount of space needed for a 12 wheeler to turn the corner easily, and without any wheels ever going over the pavement.

He also considered the current parking to be a great safety hazard for children, and thought the School would not fare well if there was an Ofsted health and safety inspection. Such a threat is enough to make any headmistress shudder, in spite of a recent very good Opsted inspection of the School. At this time came that phrase uttered by those good socially aware people who care, as opposed to the reckless non-caring people - "An accident is waiting to happen".

Martin Meade now jumped into the fray and it was good to hear him again like his time on the PC when his forthrightness often cut across the cackle. Initially he went into an epic description of his battle with the traffic that very night because of the School event. I did not follow it but he appeared to be facing monsters in the dark, having to retreat (reverse), then going forward again, and he could well have been a warrior tackling some fearsome enemy – all in the dark. It was a great relief seeing him sitting there, looking so well, and without any battle scars. Having established the fact that when you have a lot of parked cars in the High Street there is a problem, he said he sympathised with Andrew's concern for the safety of the children. He proceeded to quote the sad event forty years ago when a child was killed in an accident. He needed to be reminded that this had nothing to do with Station Road. It occurred after the completion of the by-pass when lorries no longer needed to travel through the village. It was considered that it would now be safe for children to walk to school by themselves. Two chums set off and, just past Kent House, opposite the swings, they crossed the road and one lad was hit by a car coming from Reach.

Then there was a general chat about the nefarious habits of parents. Some dads arrive early and park for half an hour waiting for the school to open, some parents drop off a child and then just stay there chatting to other parents, etc etc. From what people said parents sound such a rotten irresponsible lot. Swaffham Bulbeck was mentioned with the suggestion that the 20mph flashing sign solved any problem. But it hasn't. In the view of a Bulbeck resident "The standard of parking has always been dreadful ... parking is still a problem". And Bulbeck has a straight road, no 12 wheelers, and not even a bus.

Now to the serious business. Andrew, Tom Edwards of Goodwin Manor in Station Road, and the Headmistress have had a meeting with James Rigney, the CCC Chief Highways Officer. He will be making a proposal (the yellow lines suggestion had already been revealed by Andrew) which Andrew thought should be accepted as Rigney is the "expert". The last CCC expert proposed a roundabout at the top of Cage Hill to resolve the Mill Hill traffic problem. Consideration of Rigney's was item 9 on the Agenda, but no discussion was possible as it had yet to arrive. Andrew was asked to whom the proposal will be sent.

Martin stood up again and said the only reason he was there was to provide a

quotation for widening the Village Hall driveway. This he handed over with a number of variations for the PC to consider. At the last meeting the PC said it would look into the possibility, and Martin had produced his quote in double quick time. Martin supported the use of the Village Hall car park, saying there are 32 parking spaces and allowing one and a half children per car this would provide sufficient space for all the children to be delivered from the Village Hall car park.. Sandra voiced her concern for the safety of the school children crossing the car park with so many cars around. With up to 32 cars coming and going, parking, reversing out of tight parking spaces, (keep out Allen Alderson with his 4 x 4), and children crossing in numbers, sometimes in bad weather conditions – all this appears to be, if I may move onto the side of the angels and use the accepted phrase - “An accident is waiting to happen”. Parents may wish to have a say.

In any discussion like this it is always welcome to have a radical proposition, and Martin did not fail us. He asked why the school entrance could not be changed to the High Street. After a short moment of hush, almost stunned hush, many explained for various reasons why this may not be such a good idea.

The question of parking in Station Road has a wider implication for so many and so much of the village that it is to be hoped the PC will arrange a public meeting, once they have received Rigney’s proposal and once they have been able to discuss it at a PC meeting. If the PC combined a public meeting on Station Road parking together with the Mill Hill traffic question they are guaranteed a goodly crowd – unlikely to be as large as the time when we were threatened with a traveller colony, but still pretty good. As John the Chairman said at some point during the evening “Station Road parking will arouse many opinions and many emotions.” *Alastair Everitt*



COFFEE MORNING

10.30 – 12.00 Noon



Friday
15th January 2015
44 High Street
Swaffham Prior

Cake & Produce Stall

Bring & Buy

Raffle & Free Chat

***All proceeds to St. Mary’s
Church***





**Christingle
2015
St Mary's,
Swaffham
Prior
In aid of the
Children's'
Society**



An Epiphany

They never really went away, you know, the old ones -
Green men, gods of wilderness and woodland;
Swept to the edge by a new dispensation
They beat a retreat to the long barrows,
Holed up in hills and hung on in holly
And mistletoe, mist and Morris bells;
Faded into folklore.

New solstice sun usurped by new Son,
Saturnalia supplanted by sanctity;
Corn King's sacrifice ceded to King of Kings,
They cluster in corners of unconscious mind.

Their advent approaches in old golds of autumn
Floats from dark forests in whisper of falling leaves.
They trick and treat amid turnip lanterns
And dance among the all-hallowed dead.
See them shimmer in sparks of bonfires,
Immanent in resurrection and immolation
Of Guy, our safe and annual sacrificial offering.

From forest, steppe and desert fastness
Three pagan sages converge on a manger
Fraught with frankincense, gold and fatal myrrh.
Nursing good news like a new-born lamb,
They wend their separate ways into a new world,
Swivelling in the saddle to see, over the camels' swaying
haunches,
Back to Bethlehem, where Herod's bloody huntsmen
Observe and propitiate the old ones' propitities.

Mankind marks it; gets mixed messages;
Hedges its bets for two thousand years.
The darkness lurks in the light and
The light has not comprehended it.

Wulsin

Donations!

The Crier is extremely grateful to Harry Sayer for his very kind bequest
to Crier funds this month.

Advent by Candlelight

A concert by Ian de Massini and Cambridge Voices

The churches of St Mary and St Cyriac & St Julitta, Swaffham Prior

Sunday 29 November

Ian de Massini and Cambridge Voices returned to the twin churches on the first Sunday of Advent with a programme less sombre than last year's which commemorated the centenary of the First World War. We were nevertheless celebrating an anniversary: the 500th since the completion of King's College Chapel, de Massini's *alma mater*.

King's College itself was Henry VIth's second stab at founding an impressive mediaeval gothic educational establishment near a river. The other, marginally earlier one, is, of course, on the Thames between Slough and Windsor and for about 535 of the intervening 574 years, until the advent of a particularly radical Marxist admissions tutor in the 1970's, there was a great deal of cross fertilisation, musical, academic and of other kinds, as the founder intended, between the two great colleges.

It was fitting then, that a magnificent and monumental facsimile of the Eton Choirbook presided over events from the arch of the rood screen. *Salva Regina* by Robert Wyllinson, Master of the Choristers at Eton in the late fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries, is its centre piece and crowning glory and that, too, was the place it occupied in the evening's music, its three sections of marvellous early English polyphony punctuated by extracts from sermons preached either by Kingsmen and/or in King's Chapel.

The third of these was the histrionic tour de force of the evening, Neil Clayton producing an unnervingly accurate impression of Alan Bennett at his most lugubrious and flat-vowelled.

All the readings had a King's connection of some kind, either taking the Chapel as subject (Causley, Wordsworth) or authored by King's graduates, ranging from the jaded misanthropy of J G Ballard to the reluctant affirmation of Salman Rushdie, by way of the subversive Zadie Smith and a market-forces anecdote about J M Keynes.

The Instability of Human Greatness, a metaphysical poem by Phineas Fletcher, is, I fear, like much metaphysical poetry, an insuperable challenge to comprehension on a single hearing and without the text in front of you, but paradoxically, that served to emphasise the accessibility of his *Drop, drop, slow tears* when set to music by his great contemporary and collaborator at King's, Orlando Gibbons. The collaboration of Kingsmen was given a further dimension by the re-harmonisation by Ian de Massini.

The evening's music began with the opening of *Videte miraculum* by Thomas Tallis, England's European all-comers motet champion, who in this reviewer's opinion saw off all once and future rivals, forever, with *Spem in Alium*. I could have done with more of Tallis, but I guess it was his sad misfortune in attending neither Eton nor King's that confined him to a guest appearance and the benign gaze of his por-

trait from the south wall of the nave.

Still, I suspect that without Wylkynson, there might have been no Tallis and without Tallis, there could have been no Gibbons and without Gibbons, no Purcell and Sir David Willcocks and Stephen Cleobury, from whom we also heard, would have had much less interesting lives.

The congregation, who were sufficiently numerous to fill St Mary's nave and take the edge off the chill in St Cyriac's, played their part, too, covering all Advent options, past, present and yet-to-come in fully-committed contributions to three great hymns *Come Thou Redeemer of the Earth* (present); *O come O come Emmanuel* (past); *Lo! He comes with clouds descending* (yet-to-come).

This was an exhilarating tour of the English choral tradition of polyphonic music across half a millennium that, apart from anything else, pointed up how much that tradition owes to two foundations and one King. It was home ground for Ian de Massini and Cambridge Voices, who gave an immensely assured, professional performance right through to the final item, *Sing*, set rather surprisingly by Sir David Willcocks, who clearly relished a challenge, to Widor's *Toccata*.

Mince pies and mulled wine back in St Mary's gave us the opportunity for a closer look at the Eton Choirbook and other exhibits, and when, after the event, the sums were done, £280 had been raised for the local charity Emmaus.

Andrew Grant

RAISING THE ROOF

Jesus Lane Friends Meeting Appeal

A series of Saturday Supper Concerts
at Friends Meeting House, 12 Jesus Lane, Cambridge CB5 8BA
for improvements to the Meeting House

Dates for Spring 2016:

Saturday 23rd January, 6.00 – 7.00 pm
Saxophone and Guitar duo, in lighter mood AND
Music for Flute – baroque and romantic

Saturday 5th March, 6.00 – 7.00 pm
Music for Recorder – solo and consort

FREE ENTRY TO CONCERTS WITH RETIRING COLLECTION

followed by a hot supper (7.00 – 8.30 pm) for which we ask a donation in the region of £10 - £25

Please book your supper ticket with Rich Braun/Ione Evans 01223 812115 evans.braun@btinternet.com



Creating a safer
Cambridgeshire

Op Hunter - police visit homes at risk

POLICE are visiting homes at risk of being burgled as part of a crime crackdown in the county.

Officers are seeking properties left unsecured or otherwise vulnerable to burglary as part of Operation Hunter.

The operation has been launched to reduce the number of burglaries in Cambridgeshire, which last year rose during November, December and January.

Burglary prevention activity is taking place across the county with officers patrolling hot spot areas and visiting residents to offer home security surveys.

Residents whose homes are at risk, for example due to open windows or being obviously unoccupied, will be given advice and crime prevention material.

Crime safety officer Carol Aston said: "Detectives are working hard to identify burglars and bring them to justice but the other main strand of our work is around prevention.

"We are seeking out those homes that are most at risk of being burgled, whether it be their location or they have been left unsecure.

"Our main aim is to raise awareness of what can be done to make your home uninviting to burglars."

In the three months from August to October last year, there were 569 dwelling burglaries in the county, compared to 628 during the following three months (November-January), a rise of more than 10 per cent.

Burglary is a top priority for the force because it leaves victims and whole communities feeling vulnerable and can have a massive impact on their lives.

Anyone with information should contact police on 101 or Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111 or online at www.crimestoppers-uk.org. For more information on burglary prevention visit <http://www.cambs-police.co.uk/GetCloser/Burglary.asp>



CHRISTMAS PUDS AT THE LION

The Great British Bake Off arrived at the Red Lion with the theme of Christmas Puddings in December. Organised by Toni and Dave four very well qualified judges for the job had an extremely difficult task placing the superb entries. Tim Hayward, owner of Fitzbillys in Cambridge and renowned food critic, Ian Reinhardt, Catering Manager at Trinity College, Rob Gamble, Kitchen Manager at Homerton, and last but not least the delightful Ian Cummings, 2015s Bake Off finalist, deliberated for what seemed like an age to finally come up with the placings, which were: Lesley Bridgeman for originality, Toni Lucas for the best looking and overall winner Julie Nunn. Congratulations to these three and to everyone who entered, it was a great evening, lots of fun and we all got to sample the puddings after the end.



The judges tasting and conferring over the array of entries



Announcing the winners



Lesley with her prize for originality



Delighted Julie with her overall win in the competition



Toni, winner of the best looking pud



Judge and Bake Off Finalist
Ilan Cummings

Janet Willmott



LOVE FOOD FAIR



Cambridge Central Library

on the 20th Feb 2016

At 10.30 - 3pm



Central Library, Cambridge – 3rd floor.

FREE event

A variety of different groups and organisations providing top tips on food / eating healthy / growing your own – a fun and informative fair with tasty samples to whet your appetite.



Why not stay for lunch or a drink
at the Library Café.



E-mail: Maggie.Brown@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library

News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Group

Wishing you all a Happy and Very Healthy 2016.

A & E Department: As the name says this is for Accident and Emergency cases, there are other options for lesser problems such as the 111 Service, out of hours doctor, and pharmacists. During surgery open hours urgent cases will be fitted in.

Medicine Cabinet: It is useful to keep this stocked particularly over the winter months with painkillers such as paracetamol and ibuprofen, dehydration remedies, indigestion remedies, and soothing items for sore throats and coughs. Your pharmacist can advise and the Practice website has items under Family Health to aid you with this.

Lighting: New LED lighting should make the surgery car park brighter.

Antibiotic Guardian: A campaign led by Public Health England (PHE) details available at <https://antibioticguardian.com> urges members of the public and health-care professionals to take action in helping slow antibiotic resistance and ensure antibiotics work now and in the future. Choose one from a list of pledges about how you can personally prevent infections and make better use of antibiotics and help protect these vital medicines. Raising awareness of antibiotic resistance is closely linked to this year's Stay Well This Winter campaign, which gives advice on how to look after yourself and family during the winter period.

NHS England new patient and public participation policy: On 20th November, the Board of NHS England approved a new patient and public participation policy and statement of arrangements. It also committed to further action to seek out, listen and respond to people's views on the NHS. Details are set out in Item 4 in the list of Board papers for the meeting which is available at

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/2015/11/16/board-meeting-20-nov15/>

Patients' Group: The Patients' Group would be delighted to hear from you – please see the notice board in the waiting room for details, speak to the receptionist or look at the practice's website for further information <http://www.mysurgerywebsite.co.uk/ppg.aspx?p=D81055> and see what your Patients' Group has achieved.

Walks for Health: The next walks with our accredited walk leader Steve Gilson start at 11.00 am from the surgery car park on 8th and 27th January, 5th and 24th February, 11th and 30th March, 8th and 27th April. Anglesey Abbey walks continue on Thursdays at 10am from the reception area.

Next Meeting: Patients' Group will meet on 19 January 2016 6.30pm at the surgery. Come along to learn more about the Patient Group or if you would like to join us.

Bottisham Patients' Group

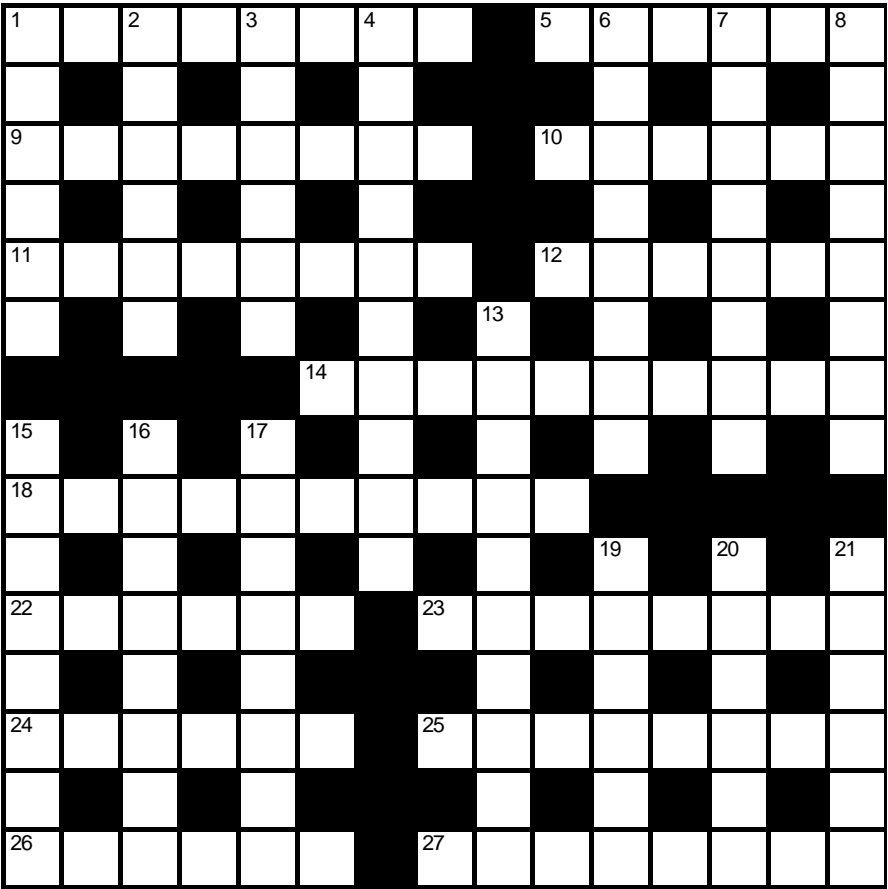
Crossword Number 127

Compiled by

Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

NIBOR

This month's puzzle is a simple cryptic crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 18 January 2016. The first correct solution out of the hat will win a free meal for two at the Red Lion—See the Manager at the pub for full details.



Name:.....
Address:.....
.....Tel:.....

Across

- 1 Lab equipment used in underground trial first (4,4)
- 5 Quiet; don't move (6)
- 9 Cupboard containing heads of early settlers with not much in between (5-3)
- 10 Plane delay causes fatigue (3,3)
- 11 Lead door not right for golden city (8)
- 12 No soldier in republic is not private (6)
- 14 Still sounds like paper (10)
- 18 Stress for teens perhaps (10)
- 22 Convenient house, fully occupied (6)
- 23 Resident is conceptually confused; yell out! (8)
- 24 Carpenter starts job on island; never, ever returning (6)
- 25 Gangster had idea first - in theory (8)
- 26 Tub found around about air intake (6)
- 27 Unemployment for lazy head (8)

Down

- 1 Organ watch (6)
- 2 Push odd youths inside; they're inferior (6)
- 3 The idea is to find man in party (6)
- 4 Appetiser may cause awfully bad rickets (10)
- 6 Kill Egyptian leader off or get fiduciary (8)
- 7 Every explicit danger is over (3,5)
- 8 Photocell is a charming organ (5,3)
- 13 Attack with water vapour may presage an ominous threat (5,5)
- 15 Dishonest scheme to accommodate biblical character (3-2,3)

- 16 Clever people on the border walk like crabs (8)
- 17 True G-man is confused by debate (8)
- 19 Pointless starting up tapes in folder (6)
- 20 Mix a resin to make small sandwich (6)
- 21 Find needle in dusty, lustreless interior (6)

Solution to crossword no. 125



We congratulate Robert Nunn, the winner of November's competition, who should collect his prize certificate from the editors..

RNIB

New Year, New You

Time to make a difference!

Are you keen to make a real difference in 2016? The Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) is in need of volunteers in Cambridgeshire to join our Community Fundraising Team and help to make every day better for the 18,210 people in the area living with sight loss or blindness.

Every day 100 people in the UK are told they may lose their sight. Right now RNIB can only reach one in three of the people who need our help most. Join RNIB's Community Fundraising Team and help us reach them all.

From setting up a fundraising group with friends to arranging and helping at collections, speaking about RNIB to potential supporters to placing sooty boxes in your local area we will have something to suit you. You will receive all the support you need to ensure your volunteering experience is enjoyable and rewarding while helping us to raise vital funds.

To get involved or to find out more please call us on 0345 345 0054, visit www.rnib.org.uk/fundraisingvolunteers or email communityfundraising@rnib.org.uk

FREECYCLE

If you have any offers or wants, please contact me by the 14th of the month by phone (c813362), e-mail (jun.thompson@tiscali.co.uk) or drop a note through the letter box (23 Longmeadow). Please let me know if you would like anything repeating in subsequent issues. Everything is free and nothing is expected in return. Please can you contact the offers after the 1st of the month to make it a little fairer.



Offered

RHS Magazines 'The Garden' Feb 2008 to Dec 2014. Martin C 811703

Table tennis top, 272cm x 304cm overall size but in two halves'. John c811722

Wanted

Wanted any old (or new, lol) computers or laptops or monitors to build a computer for my son. Anything at all even an old laser printer or Atari or even an Amiga and Sinclair spectrum. Also old software of ANY sort. Joseph, 07341971330

Any timber planks/old wooden furniture for upcycling. Andy c813362

Old tools, garage items and anything classic car related. Ray c813117.

Your old light fittings, brown Bakelite switches, iron conduit and switches, bulb holders and holders. Sheets and bits of bakelite. Postcard rack (carousel if possible). George 07895 064727.



**EAST CAMBESHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

From our District
Councillor
Allen Alderson

East Cambs new ward arrangements for 2019

Elections

We have applied to the Local Government Boundary Commission for new warding arrangements that would reduce the number of District Councillors from the present 39 to 28, with a significant saving to our council tax payers.

The Boundary Commission has now produced its draft recommendations. It is proposed to group the Swaffhams Ward parishes with the parishes of Bottisham, Brinkley, Burrough Green, Lode and Westley Waterless. The new ward would be called Bottisham Ward and have two councillors.

The Commission will publish its final recommendations on 5 April 2016.

ECDCs Lancaster Way Business Park Enterprise Zone

I am delighted to confirm that East Cambridgeshire will have its own Enterprise Zone (at Ely) from April 2016.

All Enterprise Zones benefit from -

A business rate discount worth up to £275,000 per business over a five year period

All business rates growth within the zone for a period of at least 25 years will be retained by the local area, to support the Partnerships economic priorities and ensure that Enterprise Zone growth is reinvested locally.

Government help to develop radically simplified planning approaches for the zone. And Government support to ensure that super fast broadband is rolled out throughout the zone.

This is a very significant achievement and rewards the tremendous efforts of our councils economic development team.

East Cambs Council's Public Toilet

We have toilets at Fordham, Burwell and six at Ely. They are all free admission but costs the Council £200,000 per year to maintain.

We recently had a consultation of future options, including charging for admission. The consultation exercise showed a large majority against charging. So we are now considering transferring the toilets at Fordham and Burwell to their respective Parish Councils and giving those councils some transitional financial help. We could rationalise the Ely toilets and revamp the ones that survive.

I should add that no decisions have been taken yet, and any that we do consider would have to be passed by the relevant committee.

Finally, now that the nights have pulled in, cyclists are often using our roads during the hours of darkness. If possible, wear some bright clothing and make sure that your bikes are well lit.

Remember: **BE SEEN, STAY SAFE**



BOTTISHAM PLAYERS *A CLASS ACT TO FOLLOW*

I am the Director of our wonderful Pantomime this year, which is *'Rumpelstiltskin'*, an unusual story for Pantomime (written by Joshua Dixon) which will be performed in the Main Hall of Bottisham Village College on Thursday 28th, Friday 29th and Saturday 30th January 2016. Tickets are £7.50 with concessions at £5.50 and we offer a 10% discount to parties of 10 or more.

Box Office: Tina's of Burwell: 01638 742785;

Bottisham Village Stores: 01223 811281;

Sue Tennant: 07449306832 (answerphone available);

We are always happy for new members to join us, either on stage or backstage, so if you think you might be interested, don't be shy, have a look at our website:

www.bottishamplayers.org.uk

The Story of Rumpelstiltskin

Once there was a Miller who was poor, but who had a beautiful daughter, Marigold. The King and Queen made a Royal Announcement that the Prince was to choose a bride but the Queen was very greedy and wanted her precious son to marry someone rich, not a commoner. The Miller wanted his daughter to marry the Prince and become the new Princess, so he told the King that his daughter could spin straw into gold. But this was a lie!! Marigold could NOT spin straw into gold. The evil Witch knew about this and saw an opportunity to gain riches for herself, so she called upon Rumpelstiltskin, her goblin friend. She cast a magic spell on him, to do the spinning but at what cost to Marigold? The Fairy will try to protect Marigold but who will triumph, the Witch or the Fairy???



There are funny bits, messy bits and scary bits with good versus evil, but, as is the tradition of Pantomime, we guarantee lots of dancing and singing for you join in with and to get your toes tapping. So grab your tickets, come along and share the fun!! I hope you all enjoy the Show.

Sue Tennant

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY BOTANIC GARDENS

Heaven scent: *Daphne* and *Mahonia*

They may sound like Cinderella's less than heavenly sisters, but this shrubby duo are always welcome at this time of year (oh no they're not, oh yes they are!); scented winter-flowerers don't just light the way with their pale flowers, usually, but perfume and pomade the air to lure you outside on even the dullest of days.



Daphne bholua is an upright, evergreen shrub and named after Daphne, who in Greek mythology was changed into a bay laurel (in fact) by the gods so that she could escape the unwanted attentions of Apollo. The flowers are a rich reddish-mauve in bud, open to four white petals set off perfectly by the dense, shiny leathery foliage. The perfume is exceptionally powerful and heady to attract the scant pollinators found at altitude in its native Himalayas. In east Nepal in 1962, Major Tom Spring-Smyth collected a deciduous form of *Daphne bholua*, now called 'Gurkha'. This form has purplish pink-and-white flowers borne on bare branches before the leaf break and its introduction did much to popularise the genus. The variety 'Jacqueline Postil' with

glistening pink petals originated as a seedling from 'Gurkha' and was raised at Hiller's Nursery in 1982, and rapidly became a garden favourite as a reliable flowerer. Both are powerfully scented, the flowers neatly arranged in terminal clusters.

The genus *Mahonia* is named after the Irish-American nurseryman, Bernard McMahon, who served as one of the stewards of the plant collections from the Lewis and Clark expedition, commissioned by President Thomas Jefferson shortly after the Louisiana Purchase in 1803 to explore west of St Louis. McMahon also authored *The American Gardener's Calendar* in 1806 and circulated the first extensive gardener's seed list in the United States before establishing his own plant nursery. It was botanist Thomas Nuttall who complimented McMahon's major contribution to the development of US horticulture by bestowing the genus name



Mahonia on this genus of evergreen shrubs from the west coast, which area also known as Oregon grapes. These statuesque shrubs produce sunbursts of upright, bright yellow racemes of cowbell-shaped, sherbet scented flowers that shoot out from an enveloping ruff of leathery, dark green, prickly leaves. These catherine wheels are pinned to tall bare stems and the whole shrub, when well-pruned, makes a very architectural addition to any mixed scheme. Varieties 'Winter Sun' and 'Lionel Fortescue' are amongst the earliest to flower.

Scented winter-flowers all benefit from a sheltered site so that the perfumes can collect and intensify, as exemplified by the Winter and Woodland Gardens here at the Botanic Garden.



VILLAGE GARDENERS PROGRAMME FOR 2016

Tuesday 19 January	Steve Elstub	'Gardens of Clare College'
Tuesday 16 February	Hilary Thomas	'Designing a Garden for Low Maintenance'
Tuesday 15 March	Veronica Bennett	'Gardens of the National Trust'
Tuesday 19 April	Lois Baker	'Wicken Fen, Past, Present and Future'
Tuesday 17 May	David Hack	'Make your Garden Count'
Tuesday 7 June	Evening visit	'Desert World, Santon Downham'
Sunday 3 July	Coach outing	'Houghton Hall'
Tuesday 19 July	Evening visit	'Clare College Gardens'
Tuesday 18 October	AGM	
Tuesday 15 November	Rob Brett	'28 to 360 acres –The Delights and Possibilities of the RHS Garden Hyde Hall'

Indoor meetings at 8pm in Swaffham Prior Village Hall

Details of Summer visits will be confirmed nearer the time.

Membership £15 per person.

New members and Visitors always welcome £3 per evening.

Chairman/Treasurer: Peter Hart 01638 741681

Joint Secretaries: Margaret Joyce and Mary Hart 01638 744390/741681

Spring Jumble Sale in Lode Saturday 19th March 2-4 at the Fassage Hall

The spring Jumble sale will take place on Saturday 19th March at the Fassage Hall. We do hope you will turn out your cupboards, and sheds and bring us stuff that we can sell. We think we will use it to put towards something for the village say some outdoor equipment, which is very popular in the other villages. It is surprising how much money has been raised from these twice yearly events and the importance of recycling in our very wasteful society, so please come and join us and enjoy buying a good book, a useful bowl, good quality clothes, pictures, you name it, and we will no doubt have it! At the end, anything that is left is sorted and redistributed or recycled. Very little is thrown away. Thank you

Fran Platten



Mothers' Union

Outdoor Artworks

Our vicar Rev'd Sue Giles was our speaker in November.

Her talk was entitled Outdoor Artwork. Several of the examples of work were by the contemporary sculpture Sir Antony Gormley. The

first is possibly his most well known sculpture, it is definitely the largest in Britain, The Angel of the North. The angel is made of steel and measures 20 metres tall with wings 54 metres across. It stands on the top of the site of a former coal mine near Gateshead in Tyne and Wear. It is visible from the A1. It was completed in 1998.



The sculpture for Derry Walls was completed in 1987. It consists of 2 identical figures as seen in the picture. Each sculpture is 2 identical cast iron figures joined back to back, one faces into the walled city and the other outside the city. The sculptures represent Derry's two dominant religious communities turning away from each other but joined as one body. The eyes are hollow so that you can see through.



Another Place completed in 1997.

In the picture you see one of 100 men that stand on Crosby Beach in Lancashire looking out to sea. This was meant to be a temporary installation but the local people campaigned for them to remain. This installation is always changing with the tides and the weather. Some of the iron men are covered at high tide. The action of the waves and the sea is over time changing the shape of the iron men.



Sue then reminded us of a very recent installation. The Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red at the Tower of London last year, created by Paul Cummins and Tom Piper, marked 100 years since the beginning of the 1st World War. 888,246 ceramic poppies were placed around the Tower. Each poppy represented a British military fatality during the war. The scale of the installation was intended to reflect the magnitude of such an important centenary and create a powerful visual commemoration.

Finally Sue showed us pictures of the pompom installation that took place in Swaffham Bulbeck church. It was the vision of Mary Jane House. People for the 5 villages of the Anglesey Benefice were encouraged to use their oddments of wool to make pompoms of any size which were hung from wires in the church. The result was amazing. Photos can be seen on the home page of the Anglesey Benefice website. (The website is being upgraded so apologies for the out of date material).

Our meetings take place on the third Thursday of each month in Lode Chapel at 2.30. At our January meeting Sue Giles will take a service of Holy Communion.

Julie Sayle



An Attitude of Gratitude

As my family embarked on 2015 we had no idea what we would journey through, but we were certain of one thing, we were not alone; we had each other and we had God as a constant presence with us. We have had times of joy, times of sorrow, and everything in-between. Events of last year included accepting the invitation to be the Pastor of RE:NEW; the serious illness of our youngest daughter who was poorly for four full months and spent the whole of April in hospital; my Ordination as a Christian Minister; our family mission leading other families to build homes for homeless Mexican families; moving from the Tees Valley to Cambridgeshire...

We have a family 'Gratitude Jar' in which we put notes of things we're thankful for throughout the year (or reminders of significant times like 'tickets' or 'photographs') - it reminds us to be thankful at all times. I've just had a sneaky peek through some of the notes and was especially moved to see some things my children have put in throughout the year. It appears that the most painful times reminded us of what we had to be most thankful for.

Every New Year's Eve, after our family meal, we open the Gratitude Jar and read the notes out to remind us of how blessed we have been, then we start with an empty jar on January 1st. This is a helpful family tradition that stops us forgetting the things we've been thankful for. I encourage you to start a 'Gratitude Jar' there are lots of creative suggestions online (Google, Pinterest). This year RE:NEW will have one, and I look forward to seeing what it contains at the end of 2016.

We would love you to join us on the journey, as several people have over the past few months, and be part of our thanksgiving. You are welcome to any of our services and activities.

Alan

RE:NEW Services in January 2016.

*We have activities for children and young people at all our morning services.
A crèche is available if required. All are welcome.*

3rd January. 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture
 (Bottisham Primary School) With Holy Communion
 10th January. 10.30am – RE:NEW Café style (at the School)
 10th January. 6.20pm – Traditional service. (Lode Chapel)
 17th January. 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (at the School)
 24th January. 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (at the School)
 24th January. 6.20 pm – Traditional service. (Lode Chapel)
 31st January. 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (at the School)

For more information about any of the activities of RE:NEW please contact:
 Rev. Alan Brand on C.812558. Email: alanbrand77@icloud.com
 or Peter Wells on C.812388. Email: pandawells@cheerful.com
 Or visit our website at www.re-new.me.uk



FRUITFULNESS IN LENT.

‘Lent!’, I hear you say, ‘already?’.
 Yes, Lent will come early in 2016 – it begins in less than six weeks (Feb 10), culminating in a very early Easter.

Every Lent the parish churches in the Anglesey group of villages (Quy, Bottisham, Bulbeck, Prior and Lode) and RE:NEW with Lode Chapel join together to run a series of studies on some aspect of the Christian life. This year we’ll be following a course called ‘Fruitfulness on the Frontline’ - devel-

oping ideas about how Christians can make a positive difference in their communities, schools, workplaces... wherever life takes them. See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SyMMfyy3FDE>

We meet in small groups – about 10 people each- over a six week period, with a choice of days, times and locations, so chances are good that everyone can find a slot that suits them.

Details will, of course be available in the churches, but the reason for this more public announcement is to invite all Christians in our villages – even those who don’t normally worship at our particular churches – to join us for these highly inclusive Lent groups. Interested? Please contact Coral Hatley 01223 811457 coral-hatley@gmail.com for more information or to register your interest.

Mike Procter

Dear Friends,

There has been much discussion in recent months on the place of faith and religion in public life. The report of the Commission for Religion and Public Belief in British Life chaired by Lady Butler-Sloss has just been published with a number of recommendations that need careful consideration. The Diocese of Ely has also been thinking about the role of the church, the future of organised religious worship and the parish system in our locality. We have been asked to think about how the church will be organised and how it will serve the community in the name of Christ over the coming years.



As a benefice we will be thinking and praying about our future over the coming months. How should we shape the worship that is offered in our villages so that it includes as many people as possible? How should we care for and use our buildings so that they play an active part in the life of the community in which they are set? What should the church be doing to care for people both here and more widely? What role should we be playing in the public life of our villages and in the schools and other organisations which serve them?

It would be very helpful to have the thoughts and ideas of others in our villages. You may be a Christian who worships somewhere else, or a member of another faith or someone of no faith, do you see a role and a place for the church in your village? Do you want Christians to be actively involved in public life? Is it important to you to be able to choose a Christian funeral in your local church or to be married there? Do you see Christian schools as a valuable contribution to the inclusive and moral fabric of our communities or not? These are the things we must reflect on as we look to the future of the local church and the future of our national life. What you think is an important part of the discussion. Please send your thoughts and views to:

angleseybenefice@gmail.com or reply to

The Vicarage 86 High Street, Bottisham CB25 9BA

Many thanks.

Sue

BON MOT NUMBER SIXTY ONE

**"I read the papers avidly. It is my one
form of continuous fiction."**

Aneurin Bevan (1897-1960)

Church Services in January

at St Mary's, Swaffham Prior
unless otherwise indicated

Sunday 3 January, Epiphany

11am Holy Communion (CW1T)

Sunday 10 January, Baptism of Christ

9.30am Benefice Service - Holy Communion (CW1),
Swaffham Bulbeck

11am Benefice All Age Service

Sunday 17 January, second Sunday of Epiphany

11am Family Service

Sunday 24 January, third Sunday of Epiphany

9.30am Benefice Service - Holy Communion (CW1)

11am Benefice All Age Service, Bottisham

Sunday 31 January, Presentation of Christ in the Temple

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

6pm Evensong

Would you like a lift to a service in Swaffham Prior or elsewhere in the Benefice? It makes sense to share cars and can be reassuring to go into church with someone else.

Please be in touch and we will do our best to arrange a free lift: 07553 151585

HAPPY NEW YEAR ALL!

Dates for Your Diary January 2016

Fri	8	Coffee Morning, 10.30-12 noon Village Hall
Fri	15	Annual Coffee Morning, 10.30-12 noon, 44 High Street
Sat	16	POP Litter Pick, 10am—12pm, Bottom of Cage Hill
Sun	17	
Mon	18	Crier Copy Deadline WI, 7.30, VH
Tue	19	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2.45-3.15pm Chapel 3.20pm-4.00pm Village Gardeners, 8pm, VH
Wed	20	
Thu	21	Mothers' Union, Lode Chapel, 2.30pm
Fri	22	Coffee Morning, 10.30-12 noon Village Hall
Thu	28	Bottisham Panto, Main Hall, Bottisham
Fri	29	Bottisham Panto, Main Hall, Bottisham
Sat	30	Bottisham Panto, Main Hall, Bottisham

Club	Contact	Tel.	Date	Time	Place
FOSPS	Clare Freeman	741316	2 nd Mon of Term	8pm	Village School
Beavers, Cubs & Scouts	Tim Doe	01223 861083	Weds (term)	Activity dependent	School Hall
Reading Group	Brenda Wilson	743937	1 st Weds of month	8:00pm	Kent House
Village Gardeners	Margaret Joyce	744390	3 rd Tues of month	8:00pm	Village Hall
WI	Pat Cook	742224	3 rd Mon of month	7.30 pm	Village Hall
Youth Club	Alan Badcock	742228	Tues	7-8:30pm	Youth Club Hut Hut Hut
			Thurs	7-10:00pm	