



The Swaffham Crier

Volume XLVI Number 1

January 2022



Editorial

HAPPY NEW YEAR, READERS, and we have plenty of new things to go with it. First of all, our newly revamped Yellow Pages. Rumours of these as appearing in the December issue did indeed emanate from this very editorial, but a gremlin got in the works! Not to worry, here they are now, and many thanks to Heidi, our new Advertising Manager for all her skill and hard work.

Next on the new list is our new Crossword Setter, Calvin, who has joined our setters team, Nibor, Ounce and Bywell with a splash of fiendish but fair crypticness in this issue and your chance to compete for the new crossword prize from the Red Lion (free meal AND drinks) .

Down on the Fen, the Wicken Fen team have been adding their own newness on White Fen (much favoured cycling and dog walking territory) with a whole new wood — see pages 3 and 19. Closer to home, readers will be delighted to hear that Scouts are back and have moved into the newly refurbished Youth Club Hut. Like many organisations, the scout group was badly affected by the pandemic, but now they've taken on a number of new beavers, cubs and scouts, as well as new leaders and are planning a great many events for next year including camps, and hikes around Swaffham Prior and Reach —see their advert and contact details on page 5.

Lastly, this is the time of year when we thank all those involved in the production of the Crier including: our correspondents, with especial thanks to Peter Rand for his photographic record of the Heating Scheme progress and Celia Tyler for her delightful contributions from the village photo album; our distributors, who venture out in all weathers to deliver your free Crier; and of course our loyal advertisers, who have continued to support us despite the inroads of Covid. Plus a special very big thank you to our outgoing advertising manager, whose has not only kept our finances in the black for many years, but with the assistance of Pat, has overcome seemingly insuperable problems to keep our advertising afloat throughout this last year. Pat and Peter will be staying on at the helm of the Crier Treasury, and its all thanks to them that there's anything in it for them to look after!

Happy New Year, All!

Caroline Matheson

Cover Picture: Owl linocut by **Elinor Jepson**

Regulars	
Wicken Fen	3, 19
Our Reporter	4
Roadwork News	6, 17
Julie's Recipes	7
Heating Scheme News	8-11
EA Air Ambulance	12
Bottisham Patients	13
John Norris Remembers	14
Bon Mot	15
WI	16
Mothers' Union	16
Cllrs Trapp & Cane	18
CROSSWORD	20
PC Notes	22
Freecycle	24
Renew	26
Church Services	27
News, Views & Reviews	
Letter from Mara	2
Scouts are back!	5
Covid treatment trial	25

Our Partnership with **THE DIOCESE OF MARA** **TANZANIA**

Here is the latest up-date:

In September last year the Bishop asked us if we could help the village of Mto put a roof on their newly-built church. They've done all the work themselves, making the bricks and cutting the roof beams. The one thing they have to buy is corrugated iron for the roof, and they asked for our help. This request was passed round our villages, and you raised £3,250, which we sent in November. Here is the result:



Bishop George has written to thank you:

16 December 2021

Warm, loving greetings in Christ to you all. May I take this opportunity to pass on to you our deep gratitude for the great generosity you have shown us in Mara Diocese. As you can see from the pictures below, your generous help has borne fruit. Here is the roof, in place at last!

On behalf of the whole Diocese and especially of the Christians of Mto village, we thank you most sincerely. We trust that God's work will prosper among us and that this church will grow and bear witness to Christ - and to your partnership with us. We hold you in our prayers.

+George Okoth

News from Wicken Fen Nature Reserve

A New Year closer to nature

Blow away the cobwebs and enjoy the great outdoors this January by heading out into the nature reserve for a restorative walk. As well as the much-loved boardwalk for a short stroll behind the Visitor Centre, there are routes towards Upware, Burwell Fen, White Fen and beyond. If you want to discover somewhere new to stretch your legs or find a peaceful spot in nature, just call into the Visitor Centre for a chat with our friendly team.

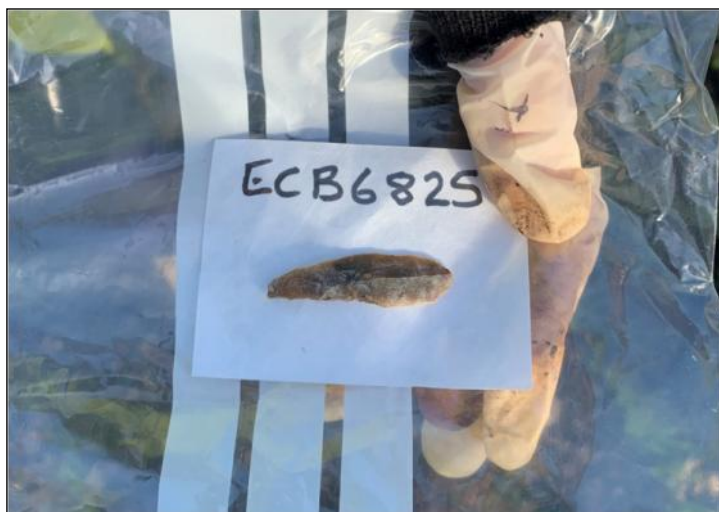
'Footprints' Community Engagement Project: thank you

We finished the year with a flurry of activities including community archaeology and tree planting. The weather was cold and windy for both weekends, but this didn't dent the enthusiasm of participants from our local communities. A big thank you to everyone who came out to support the activities – everyone seemed to have a great time despite the wintry weather.

You can see an example of one of the finds from the archaeology field walking at Rand Drove below; a Mesolithic microlith, probably used as a point or barb on an arrowhead - and dating to between c. 9000 and 7000 BC / c. 11000 and 9000 years ago. We'll be able to report more on what was found after the finds have been washed and analysed over the next few weeks.

We'll be able to see the trees flourish at White Fen over the coming years as the planting is close to the National Cycle Network route 11 which is regularly used by walkers and cyclists. If you haven't been to this part of the reserve, it's well worth a visit. We'll be doing some follow up maintenance work to keep the young trees healthy next year – more information will follow on this in due course.

For the latest information please visit our website and keep an eye on our social media feeds www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen



From our Reporter

Jackie Weaver, that man-busting lady of Handforth Parish Council fame, who was applauded nationally as well as internationally with even the *Washington Post* giving her some prominence, has recently said that **“I hope I have boosted awareness of the importance of parish council work. We are the lowest tier of government and often overlooked.”** This is so true of our own Parish Council and we are also so fortunate in having such an excellent clerk whose reports keep everyone so well informed. You need to go online for the full report as her space in the *Crier* is restricted to a maximum of three pages into which she does include the most important general information.



This last year the PC has been as hard working and diligent as ever dealing with a whole range of issues. For me, one of the lasting and most pleasing aspects of their efforts was the moving of the new traffic length restriction notice from the bottom of Cage Hill to the bottom of Rogers Road. The small Cage Hill Green is a perfect picture. There is Peter Rand's gloriously restored village sign; the lovely delicate tree planted by Alan Gould; the low key tasteful Land Girl Memorial installed by Martin Mead; and the wooden bench which is a Memorial to M.S.B.Groad 1916-1942 on which weary travellers are often seated. And then that ghastly two-legged monster was put there. Incidentally the bench urgently requires some LTC which the healthy reserve funds of the PC may be able to look after? And does anyone know the story of M.S.B.Groad?

The traffic length restriction sign is so much better in its new position and stands in far more suitable company. Next to it is that venerable tall telephone pole supported by a wire which is covered in the most strident lemon yellow plastic. Behind it is the tall lamp post stretching into the sky to which is affixed the bus stop sign. And on the ground is one of the many original black village water taps - such is a reminder of the past. To complete the colourful picture is the bright green Rogers Road sign.

Though one may still deplore the sign, its present location is far more suitable and interesting. The only question is whether the red of the bus stop sign should be repainted to add the final bit of colour. Perhaps our budding Arts Group have an opinion?

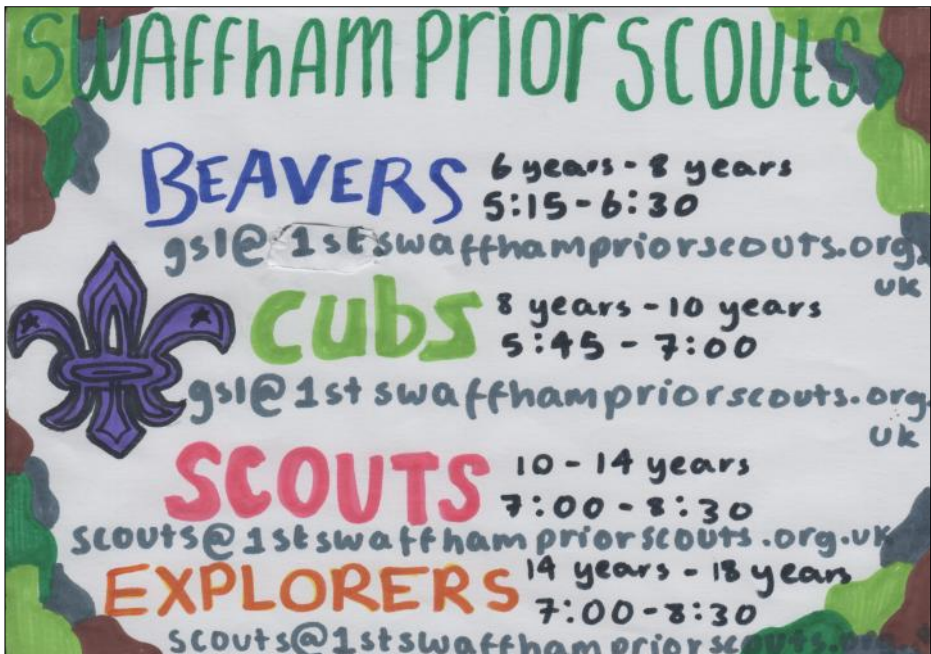
The December Meeting Agenda had a most intriguing item. This concerned the Planning Applications for Priory Cottage, 52 High Street where once lived the famous poet Edwin Muir; 20 Cage Hill; and the Red Lion. BUT, **“because of the confidential and sensitive nature of the information to be considered”... “The public and the press [are to] leave the meeting during the consideration of these applications.”** What is going on? If you wish to know read Jude's report in this *Crier*.

Charlotte Cane wrote an informative piece on ECDC, ECTC and CLT in the December *Crier* which raises some interesting questions which need to be mulled over by everyone. One must be grateful for the Cane/Trapp contributions as they do

keep us informed about ECDC and its work. Unlike our friend Josh. This is not a question of politics because our last CCC representative David Brown was a Conservative. and was excellent in keeping us informed. Josh just does not do his job.

At end of the year let's look at some of the variety of research undertaken during 2021. They continually reveal what life is about. For instance it has been discovered that the majority of people in the cinema do not like sitting next to someone eating from a large box of pop corn. More astonishing is that a review "found that four out of five women believed that they were not properly listened to by doctors and other health professionals." I thought men were the wimps. But life is changing so fast and we are being encouraged to waken up to it. For instance the House of Lords has barred some members from parliament's bars, libraries etc because they refused to attend workshops to combat bullying and sexual harassment. The "Valuing Everyone" workshops became mandatory this year because so many peers were not attending. Among other things they are told "not to compliment female staff on their outfits". Progress?

Alastair Everitt



ROAD WORK NEWS

One blessing of our heating scheme is that those in the High Street and Lower End have had the pleasure of the three jovial and sociable Southern Irishmen' They are Liam O'Connor, Michael Nestor and Noel McNally. They all come from two villages only a few miles apart from each other - Arvagh and Drumlish in County Longford.

So if you ever feel low in spirit just go along for a chat unless they are having to get out pick and shovel to carefully hack around a pipe crossing the road. Their boss is the jolly Helen New who laughingly says she keeps them under control by "giving them the occasional sausage roll."

Other sections of the village have Albanians and other Eastern European Gentlemen. They have all been a pleasure to work with.



Junction of Tothill Road with Greenhead Road gets tarmac topping

Julie's healthy new year recipes

Turmeric, ginger & coconut fish curry

Heat the oil in a large pan, then fry the onions until translucent . Stir in the ginger

1 tbsp olive oil	400g boneless and skinless cod,
2 onions, finely chopped	cut into chunks
Thumb sized piece of ginger	300g frozen peas
½ tbsp turmeric	300g sugar snap peas
1 tbsp garam masala	1 red chilli, finely sliced
½ tsp cayenne	1 lime cut into wedges to serve
325ml coconut milk	

and spices and cook for another 2 minutes. Pour in the coconut milk and 100ml of water, stir, then simmer for 10 mins.

Add the cod, frozen peas and sugar snap peas, simmer until the cod is flaky, serve with rice, top with sliced chilli and some lime wedges.

Serves 4

Easy Teriyaki chicken

2 tbsp toasted sesame oil
6 skinless and boneless chicken thighs, sliced
2 large garlic cloves, crushed
1 thumb sized piece of ginger grated
50g runny honey
30ml light soy sauce
1 tbsp rice wine vinegar
1 tbsp sesame seeds, to serve
4 spring onions, shredded to serve

Heat the oil in a pan, add the chicken and fry for 7 mins until golden. Add the garlic and ginger and fry for 2 mins, stir in the honey, soy sauce, vinegar and 100ml water. Bring to the boil and cook for 2-5 mins until the chicken is sticky and coated in a thick sauce.

Scatter over the spring onions and sesame seeds, then serve the chicken with sticky rice and steamed Bok choy.

Serves 4

Heating Scheme News — from Our Reporter...

What a year it has been for our pioneering Heating Scheme. At the start of the year on 9th January appeared an article in the *Times* with the Headline “Villagers warm to absolute zero.” This was posted on the Village Notice Board and it was left there. Throughout the year there has been coverage in the *Cambridge News*, *Look East*, *Cambridge Journal*, the *Times*, and *Newmarket Journal*.

It was all capped on 2nd December by a *Daily Mail* article with the headline “Village heat pump scheme that’s cost £250,000 per house.” This was written by Ross Clark, the free lance journalist and novelist living in Reach. The article was posted on the Village Notice Board for all to read. Within days it had been removed. Who would do such a dastardly act. Another copy was posted later. During the Christmas period it was removed again. Who is it in the village who wishes to stop people reading a considered opinion on the subject. Is this part of that questionable Cancel Culture? Is this censorship? It is not very good behaviour. Some may think it is contemptuous. As Bertie Wooster would say – “It is not cricket, sir.” Maybe another will be put up to see what happens.

But it must have made the CCC team jump and they must have worked very hard. Dated 14th December MYTH BUSTER version 2 was completed and delivered in the following week to every house in the village. What a great title that is – a title one wished to have thought of first. I was not aware that there had been a Myth Buster version 1, or are they referring to the *Daily Mail* article?

So let’s have a look at some of these myth busters. For quite some time a member of the PC had been asking how many houses were just on electricity, No answer was given in spite of constant prodding. However it was revealed in a *Times* article on 12th November that only 70% relied on oil. This was reported in the *Crier* so no longer could it be evaded. And Myth Buster 2 (hereinafter MB2) reports this and reduces the percentage to 75%. This leaves just 210 houses on oil. Deduct from these the number of houses too far away to be counted including the dozen or so in Heath Road the wrong side of the works. So possible the number is down to 170 or so.

Ross Clark takes a broad view and looks at other failed “good ideas”. He admits that “pioneering schemes always cost more before prices tend to fall but this is nowhere even close to being affordable.” He states that even if all 300 houses sign up it would still cost £40,000 per property. MB2 says that if “most” people sign it would be less than £30,000. **Again CCC is poor on details.** What does “most” mean? What number have they in mind?



With this one can do the sums, and not before. And, as we have seen above the possible number is down to 170, not 300. MB2 puts the total cost at £12million and locally some tend to believe the figure £13million. Which is likely to be more accurate? You can work out the cost for let's say 200 signing and this would be £60,000 perhaps, 150 signings would be £80,000 etc.



In MB2 fibre Broadband has slipped back in after months

of silence. This has nothing to do with the heating system and is just a red herring. But what they still omit is the amount of carbon emissions saved. At one time CCC boasted a large amount without saying how they had calculated this. Since then nothing, even though these savings were the main reason and justification for the system. **Why have they dropped it like a hot potato?** They MUST, REALLY MUST, calculate the carbon emissions savings for 100, 150 and 200 houses, and tell us how the figures have been calculated. We need to know why so much money is being spent.

Enough of this from me though I do suggest that everyone takes a trip along Heath Road to view the works. Just go a little further and you will see the site extending about a quarter of a mile into the distance with an army of large diggers silhouetted against the sky. It is awesome. I had no idea the site was so extensive. How fortunate CCC owned the land.

Finally do read the *Daily Mail* and also MB2. Equally important is Jude's PC report **in which Steve reveals some really important information not previously available.**

Alastair Everitt

...and from the Horse's Mouth

After the international Climate Change Summit hosted in Glasgow this year (COP26) the [Government is really pushing forward on its commitment to cut carbon emissions and](#) has pledged to phase out fossil fuel heating in homes from 2026 (please see links provided below).

That won't be an easy task, however residents of [Swaffham Prior have the chance to be at the front of the queue thanks to the village's heat project.](#)

The installation of the heat network is progressing well and we have now crossed the B1102 to join the energy centre with the core of the village. The new energy centre frame is erected and we have drilled the first 12 boreholes. We are also working alongside Cambridge Housing Society and Sanctuary Housing who are keen to encourage their tenants to sign up and also improve the thermal efficiencies of the

homes.

This month we have heard that we have been successful in achieving a grant of over £350,000 to assist 20 homes on low incomes and low EPC ratings to improve their thermal efficiency and join the heating scheme. If you think you could be eligible, please contact us. We will send out more information on this shortly.

From 4th January, works on the heat network will start again on Green Head Road, Rogers Road, Lower End and Cage Hill. Towards the end of January, following the completion of Cage Hill, work will start on Mill Hill for approximately 8 weeks from Heath Road and finishing at Fairview Grove. The main installation works will be on the eastern side of the road; when that is complete, we will undertake smaller sections of work on the western side. There will be a two-way traffic light management system on Mill Hill and we do not anticipate the same traffic disruption as before (as this will be two way rather than the 4 way system that was there before). We will be actively monitoring the traffic management system and will make adjustments if necessary.



[In January we are expecting the hybrid ground source and air source heat pump to arrive \(pending any Covid disruptions\) at Goodwin Farm. The Energy Centre will then start taking shape. Here is what the Energy Centre will look like, image courtesy of Bouygues E&S Solutions.](#)

Finally, here are links to two government consultations that you may find interesting as they are particularly relevant to the school and your village.

[Phasing out the installation of fossil fuel heating systems in businesses and public buildings off the gas grid - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Phasing out the installation of fossil fuel heating in homes off the gas grid - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Join the growing number signing up to the scheme and contact us on heatingswaffhamprior@cambridgeshire.gov.uk for a **no obligation** engineer survey.





Borehole work takes its toll due to the very wet conditions (photo taken during holiday period)

Tarmac delivery Tothill Road - Greenhead Road junction



Grass Verge takes a battering at the top of Cage Hill

East Anglian Air Ambulance



A major part of my work with and for EAAA is the siting of red collection boxes, their collection when full and their replacement. In response to messages from the office, and calls from publicans and retailers, I cover an increasingly wide area to do this and never cease to be impressed by the generosity I find stuffed into these boxes. Once again, and no apologies, a HUGE New Year thank you one and all for supporting such a worthwhile cause. Keep filling the boxes – please !

During the first three months plus of providing 24/7 cover by air and road – 30/6 to 18/10 (2021) – crews were tasked 307 times between 7pm and 7am, averaging nearly three missions a night. During this period, 87 of the taskings were by helicopter and 220 by rapid response vehicle – justification, were any to be needed, for ‘closing the nighttime gap’. These extra missions, across all four counties and beyond, have been to a range of emergencies including accidental injuries, cardiac arrests, road traffic collisions, medical emergencies and assaults. After many years in the planning, it is gratifying to know that EAAA is providing the same level of service, no matter what time of day or night, over the whole area.

Soon, our helicopters will be looking a bit different! Babcock, our aviation partner, will be upgrading both aircraft by fitting new D3 five blade rotor heads. Anglia One’s helicopter, G-RESU, is planned (as of early December) to be the first Airbus H145 in the UK to fly with this upgrade, followed by Anglia Two’s G-HEMC. The new five blade rotor head will:

Significantly reduce vibration in the cabin, ensuring a much smoother flight and better experience for both crews and patients.

Allow the clinicians to perform more vital procedures in flight, thereby ensuring patients receive advanced treatment even quicker.

Enable the aircraft to carry more fuel and equipment, helping crews to stay on station longer before needing to refuel or restock.

Coverage will not be disrupted during the refits as a stand-in helicopter, G-EMSS, will continue the vital life-saving work.

T V - coming soon on 'More 4', please keep an eye open for a new series of Emergency Helicopter Medics – another opportunity to gain a very real insight into what our crews face every day. We're pleased to be able to participate, helping to raise further awareness of the air ambulance sector and, importantly, the level of care our crews can provide pre-hospital – saving lives where it happens.

Trusteeship ! At EAAA we are very fortunate to have the support and backing of a fantastic Board of Trustees who oversee the running of the charity. However, these posts naturally rotate after a few years which leads to vacancies arising from time to time. Our trustees are ultimately responsible for the charity, providing strategic leadership and oversight of the executive team, staff and volunteers. From a wide range of walks of life, each trustee brings competence and experience to support the various aspects of our work. Whilst representing a significant time commitment to prepare for and attend meetings, our trustees find being a part of the board a fascinating, inspiring and worthwhile experience. If this sounds like something **you** could undertake, please register your interest at: eaaa.org.uk/trusteerecruitment

If you have the time to support EAAA, no matter in what capacity, please do get in touch.

Michael White

Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group

Thanks: Thank you to all those who supported the Practice in their objection to the Retirement Village appeal. It will be presented to the hearing in January.

Appointments: The same number of patients are now being seen face to face as pre pandemic.

The Pod: With a grant from the Federation the Practice is planning to purchase a Pod machine to be sited in a cubicle where the playhouse currently stands. This machine will enable patients to weigh, check blood pressure and enter urine sample results which will all be downloaded onto their records on System 1 so the GP can note issues and make best use of the appointment time. Patients are finding home monitoring of their blood pressure.

Ear Syringing: Appointments for this are available at the surgery between 10am and 1pm.

Patients Participation Group: We are currently a very small group of patients who represent all the patients of the Practice. We would welcome new members to best help us with our liaison between the Practice and fellow patients.

We wish you all a Happy and Healthy 2022.

Next meeting: If you would like to join one of our Zoom meetings please email our chairman at s.j.gilson@btinternet.com who will send you a meeting invite. Next regular meeting January 26th 2022 at 2pm.

Bottisham Patients Participation Group



John Norris Remembers –

Before his death in 2012, John Norris was a prolific contributor to the Crier. Here we reproduce an article circa late 1990s about the huge variety of village shops in times gone by.

The Shops

Several folk have been saying to me how concerned they are about the decline in village facilities, and asking what can be done to ensure that a shop and post-office are available, especially for the elderly.

I can recall that over a quarter of a century ago there were many tradesmen operating profitably in Swaffham Prior. Charlie Smith had his garage and paint shop on the corner of Rogers Road where I used to buy the petrol for my car and the farm, as well as get-

ting a professional job done on some painting work. He always seemed busy painting the large earthmoving equipment for Mitchams of Burwell.

Opposite Mr Smith we had Mundens' butchers shop, again a thriving business until he retired. A little nearer the village centre was the Corona Dairy. Nearly all the old buildings have now been pulled down, but at one time many cows would have been milked there and the milk distributed to the village. As time passes and new techniques evolve, the old ways inevitably have to give way to the new and so do the buildings.

Still further along Lower End towards Cambridge, we come to the Police House. We are grateful that we have a policeman living in the community but his work is different today. Thirty years ago PC Rusted not only lived here, but also worked here full-time. He had an office where business could be transacted and to which complaints were made. I used to take my animal movement register there for regular inspection.

Across the road lived Rufus Bowden, the veterinary. His surgery still stands – just! The roof being very interesting, sinking a little more each passing year.

On the same side of the road, two houses nearer the village green, lived carpenter Webb. His large workshop is still there, and was a hive of industry at this time. I did not have a business connection with him as I traded with Mr Bert Day, who was more familiar with farm work.

Still in Lower End, across the road again, we had the second shop. A purpose-built large-windowed trading establishment. I must admit that the proprietors were not doing too well when I first knew the shop but after it was purchased by Mr Dudley, it attracted customers from a very wide area seeking his antiques.

The list of business premises in the rest of the village was equally impressive. On Cage Hill we had a Greengrocer and café in the old Rose and Crown. Mr Curtis ran a farrier's business, chiefly for the racehorse fraternity but also for any local pony

needing a new shoe.

On the other side of the village green stood the “Cock”. This was one of three public houses open in the village; the others being the Red Lion and the Allix Arms. All these places had their regular customers and well-known landlords. Mr Arthur Bye, the landlord of the Allix Arms, also had a coal business. His situation near the station was very handy as living so close to the railway, he could keep an eye on his stock.

This list of village tradesmen is still far from complete as there were three more shops in the High Street all doing business. Mr Lowe the baker, Mr Cooper and the Asbee sisters, the latter two being shops of a more general nature. The bakery was a genuine village shop selling produce baked in the building next door. The Asbee village store in the pretty shop opposite the churches, later run by Bubbles and Philip Sheldrick sold everything from bacon to rat traps. I have already mentioned Mr Bert Day; he too was a man of many trades, from building, carpentry and wagon-making to undertaking, whilst across the road from these workshops was the village blacksmith, Mr Bailey. I well remember Mr Ambrose’s horses coming there for new shoes and having the work done outside because the place was so small. This may be the reason for the second blacksmith’s shop in what are now the open garages next to Knights Manor. I do not know what happened to the bellows and anvil from that place but they seemed to lie there in a derelict state for years.

Before the last war, in the High Street near the church, business was carried on in Anglesey House, Shadworth House (formally the John Bull Inn) and Oak Cottage, all these houses being altered to provide a shop window and access, and selling meat, fish and game.

Today all the shops have been sold as houses, apart from the café where the post office is today and all of the traders have gone, save Mr Gould the veterinary.

The supermarket and the motorcar have turned this village into a dormitory for workers elsewhere. We are not alone in this. The same fate is happening in many of the small rural villages, partly by planning regulations which seem to prohibit any activity in the village. How would we treat an application for a blacksmith in the High Street today? Reject it; too much noise, traffic, obstruction etc.

If this trend continues we seem destined to live with the prospect of no village shop, unless we change some of our attitudes and welcome traders into our midst, which means allowing them to build appropriate premises and patronising their establishments. Perhaps the “Dencora” (a proposed building development) idea does have some merit, as a shop was included in the development plans.

John Norris

BON MOT NUMBER 124

“If you are idle, be not solitary;
if you are solitary, be not idle.”

Samuel Johnson (1709 - 1784)

The Swaffhams' WI

We thought long and hard, about whether or not to hold our Christmas Party- but decided as we'd all been boosted and had negative lateral flow tests, we'd go ahead.

There were few party dresses in evidence- mostly thermals and a few rugs, as all windows and doors were open, socially distanced games, quizzes and raffle and excellent food. No social gathering in the kitchen over the sink, so disposable plates and dishes, our own cutlery and glasses- destined for a members dishwasher. I think we'd thought of everything and we had a very enjoyable evening.

At our meeting on January 17th, Rob Needle is coming to talk to us about the work of the Children's Society. All are very welcome.

Margaret Joyce



Mothers' Union

On the 18 November Jean Webb, Ely Diocese Mothers' Union, Trustee, and Faith in Action, Task Group Co-ordinator spoke to us about her role and current Faith in Action projects. Jean has held her role as a Trustee for three years and will continue to do so for the next triennium. Jean spoke about the Away From It All (AFIA) is a Mothers' Union holiday scheme, primarily funded by our members, to give the opportunity of a break to those who may be experiencing stress or difficulties in their family life, continued to go ahead (when restrictions allowed) during the pandemic. The number of families that MU funded for a holiday at Searles Caravan Park in Hunstanton had been somewhat less because of this. The families who had benefitted very much appreciated their holiday. Each child is given a purse with pocket money to spend, and Jean encouraged members to look out for purses in charity shops or on stalls usually for the price of a few pence. Jean described how difficult it had been for the organisations that MU supports during the Covid pandemic lockdowns. Members throughout the Diocese were very productive with knitting and crating during lockdown and the number of knitted 'traffic light bonnets' for premature babies has been overwhelming. To the extent that local hospitals are unable to accept any more until current stocks have been used. Sadly, involvement with Littlehey Prison had to be suspended due to covid restrictions, but hopefully this will be able to resume in some form in the not-too-distant future. Jean then went through a table of items she had brought with her, including mixing bowl filled with essential kitchen and baking items, and little bags filled with essential toiletries. Many clients at the refuges and hostels supported arrive with no personal possessions. A newly introduced knitted item Jean has been working on is the Dementia Canula Sleeve for patients that have a canula in situ. Once on the arm it protects the patient pulling the on the canula. The sleeve is knitted in a similar way to a 'Twiddle Muff', and decorated likewise with small knitted items and varying textures. Jean concluded her talk by clarifying how important and essential all these items are in making the recipients' lives that little

bit easier. Donations or these organisations are acceptable throughout the whole year not only for the Christmas appeals!

Copies of our programme for January to June are now available in all five parish churches and the programme begins with our New Year Communion Service on Thursday 20th January in Lode Church at 2.30pm. This will be led by Rev'd Sue Giles. You are most welcome to join us.

New Year Good Wishes to all readers.

Ann Langran



Much of the extra expense incurred by the Heating Scheme road works has been due to the difficulties of avoiding existing infrastructure. Above, a neat repair job on damaged water main.

Happy New Year! We hope you had a good Christmas, despite the additional Covid restrictions.

On 26 November Councillors were informed by East Cambs Street Scene that they would be cancelling the green waste collection from Monday 13 December to Friday 28 January inclusive because they were short staffed. This announcement came just 11 days after the Operational Services Committee had met and no mention was made of reducing the service, although the problem of staff shortages was well known by then. Councillor Julia Huffer, as Chair of the Committee, decided that it was acceptable for the green waste to be cancelled for this period. To add insult to injury ECSS has described this as an 'efficiency saving' so the Council must continue paying ECSS as if they were providing a full service. The Council then issued a press release claiming that the reduction in service was to support the staff. We certainly agree that the waste staff deserve praise for keeping our collections going throughout Covid restrictions and we do not want them over-worked especially over the Christmas period. But we are concerned that stopping the green waste leaves residents with the problem of disposing of exactly the sort of waste which is most likely to attract rats and other pests and vermin. Suggesting that residents travel up to 44 miles round trip to Witchford to dispose of their green waste is impractical and unsustainable. We have asked Cllr Huffer to explain why she accepted this reduction in service, with no reduction in cost and why she decided green waste was the best collection to cancel. We understand that there is a marked reduction in green waste over the winter, but it is still important that it is kept separate and doesn't go into landfill. In her statement, Cllr Huffer noted "“From our last waste analysis, we know that typically 30% of everything we throw away in black sacks is food waste...” It therefore seems very strange that she agreed to remove our option to have our green waste collected separately.

The grant to Citizen's Advice Bureau West Suffolk (CAWS) is to continue for another two years, which is good news for all our residents. We would like to thank those residents who contacted the Council to support CAWS.

By the time you read this, Mepal Outdoor Centre will have been demolished – demolition was due in the week beginning 6 December. The Council's current leadership is pressing ahead with its plans for an unwanted and unnecessary crematorium on the site, despite the fact that only thirteen per cent of local residents supported the idea. The Council has already admitted that the crematorium proposal will take financial contributions from developers intended to improve facilities for local resi-



dents, and turn them into ready cash to subsidise council tax.

The Council was late in publishing its annual accounts, even missing its own revised deadline of ‘on or about’ 30 November. As we write this article, they have still not been published. When they were presented to the Audit Committee, the auditors gave a verbal update to the Committee as they had not completed their review when the papers were sent out. They reported that the accounts were largely free from material error apart from a £2million error due to incorrect consolidation of the trading companies. We asked for a further meeting so that members could review a corrected set of accounts before approving them, but the Conservative majority decided that it would be sufficient for the Committee Chair to review them. At one point they were ready just to approve the accounts as they were, subject to non-material amendments, until we pointed out that that would prevent them from correcting the £2m error. They tried to deny this, saying £2m was not material but the external auditor confirmed that £2m was indeed material.

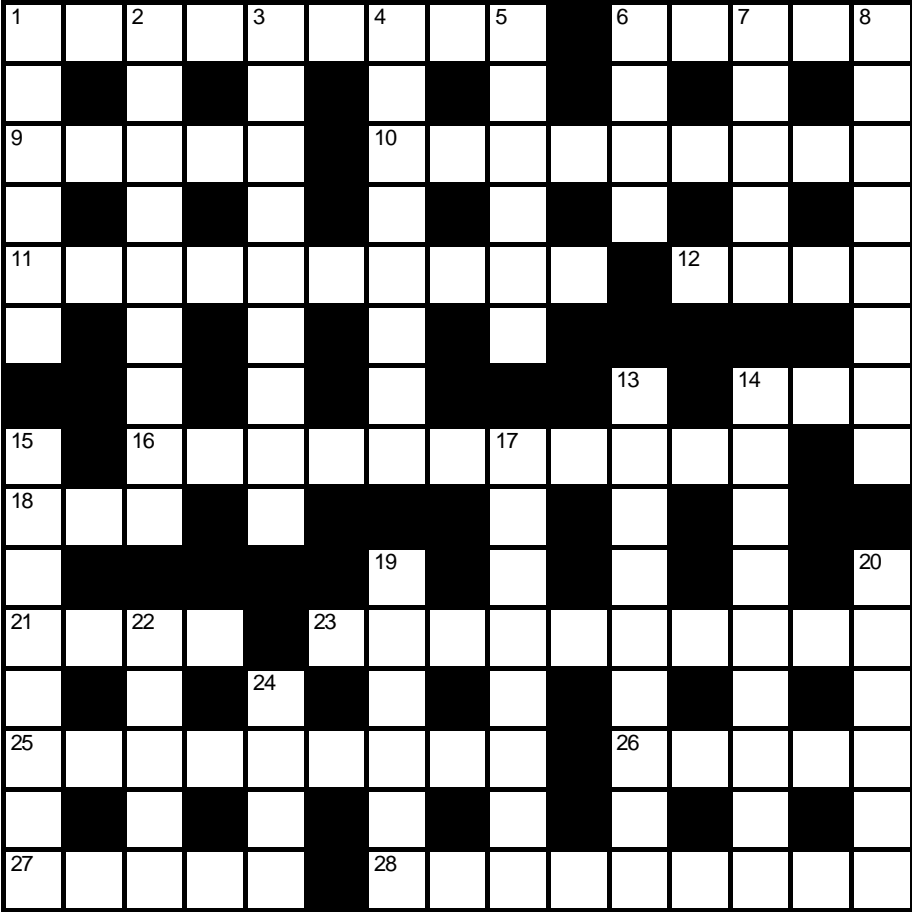
We will be holding our virtual surgery via Zoom from 6:30 to 7:30PM on Wednesday 19 January 2022. Please contact Charlotte at charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk to book your timeslot.



Crossword Number 191

Compiled by **CALVIN**

This month we welcome a new compiler to our crossword team. Send your answers to the editors by 22nd January 2022. The first correct solution out of the hat will win a meal for two (see box below) at the Red Lion—contact the pub manager for full details. Emailed solutions are acceptable but please include “CROSSWORD” and the crossword number in the header



Name:.....

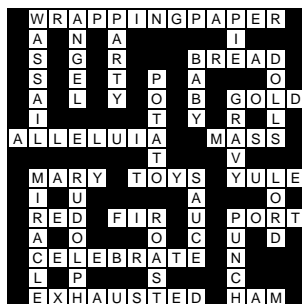
Address:.....

.....Tel:.....

Across

- 1 Gathering fame, coach supplies hot drink (4, 5)
- 6 Nurse with castle in Wales (5)
- 9 Alligator pear, missing audio-visual component of online 16 (5)
- 10 Dictator, partner, wrapped in cloth by setter (9)
- 11 Good people missing tea, we're told - cover up special 16 (10)
- 12 Worker runs for drink (4)
- 14 Either way, she's a sibling (3)
- 16 Nameless comic book hero goes on meandering trek to shop (11)
- 18 Some weight on load-bearing structure, initially (3)
- 21 Den in Kent dry (4)
- 23 Badger, mostly followed by male sheep, forwards and backwards: "It ain't right!" (3, 7)
- 25 Straighten out if stymied, to be confused (9)
- 26 Friend, male, follows key rubbish (5)
- 27 Grill counterpart of 14A - he's French! (5)
- 28 Disgusting nests - I heard they sell them at 16s (9)
- 7 European river where horned animal gets drug for nothing (5)
- 8 Shrivelled, so I water 16 (8)
- 13 Desk upended, become rotten and run away (9)
- 14 Tangled broom's lit by volcano (9)
- 15 Sudden gathering, organised by stylish mafia (5, 3)
- 17 Scientist with number of a good rave, endlessly confusing (8)
- 19 Man places degree ahead of producing cakes (6)
- 20 Problematic rust stays concealed in pie casings (6)
- 22 Ford, but no river? Back to front for 16 (5)
- 24 16 top, and top again (4)

Solution to crossword no. 190



Down

- 1 Pick echoes when used, head missing and nothing gained (6)
- 2 Human unreliability, but a good property for 20 (9)
- 3 New lows around cloak, in the Sea of Tranquillity, perhaps? (9)
- 4 Traveller for work swaps a million for quiet electronic device (8)
- 5 Tests donkey outside, for example (6)
- 6 Hen housing 16 (2-2)

We congratulate Sue Richards, the winner of last month's competition, who will receive her prize certificate from the editors. Honourable mentions go to Colin Dailly, Sue Jackson, Mary Joiner, Robert Nunn and Trish Whitehead.

PUB PRIZE MEAL FOR TWO (including a glass of wine or beer each)

Fish and Chip dinner
or
Speciality cheeseboard

Notes from the Swaffham Prior Parish Council meeting

Thursday, 9th December 2021

Cllr Kent-Phillips chaired a meeting at which 5 parish councillors and 2 members of the public were present.

Reports

ECDC – Cllr John Trapp attended. He confirmed that the Suffolk Citizen's Advice Bureau would receive a grant for the next two years which would prevent the loss of the skills and independent advice of its advisers. It also noted that there were problems of low morale and a lack of HGV drivers among the Green Waste Collection teams.

Mepal Outdoor Centre is due to be demolished by Christmas.

Cllr Trapp is involved in trying to get improvements to the Swaffham Bulbeck to Bottisham cyclepath, making it safer for students to cycle to Bottisham Village College.

A Business Growth fund is open to applications from small businesses – suggestions included funds for electric charging points for the Village Hall. Applications need to be made by 5pm on 12th January 2022.

Matters arising from previous minutes (for information only)

Cllr Kent-Phillips had reported the large branch in the ditch by Lower End but Highways have cancelled the work to see to it, noting that it may or may not happen at a later, unnamed date.

Cllr Greenfield had left notes on the following matters:

The A-B1102 is a lobbying group representing several Parish Councils but does not have the same importance or recognition as Parish Councils or individuals – while they can prepare and provide input and apply pressure they are not currently written into the legislation as the PC are, therefore it is important the PC reply as a PC and/or as individuals (see Correspondence).

The temporary traffic lights on Mill Hill have been removed until the New Year.

The primary digging in Fairview Grove was confirmed as taking place in the grass verge to the north of the highway.

Correspondence for consideration/circulation.

In response to emails from Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership reminding of the deadline for their 2 consultations, it was agreed that the PC would endorse the A-B1102 findings to the consultation.

To discuss the proposed development at Laundry Cottage.

Cllr Greenfield had left a statement that was read out by the Clerk. Cllr Greenfield wrote that although it was good that the lack of previous community engagement was acknowledged, there were still significant issues with building in this area. The PC do not oppose new builds in the village but the numbers need to be in scale. Until further details are forthcoming, Cllr Greenfield stated that the PC should not support any development in the location as previously proposed. Cllr Kent-Phillips agreed, noting that the school was full, there are no drains, electricity or water supply to that area currently and that the drains at the Bulbeck end of the

village are already subject to blocking. Additionally, Laundry Lane is a bridleway and would involve blind access to the High Street.

It was agreed to invite Mr Hurrell to the January meeting, but at present and without concrete plans to inspect, the PC are against development of the area.

To agree the budget for 2022-23

Cllr Kent-Phillips produced information regarding the 21-22 and 22-23 budgets. He noted that the cost of the Village Hall fire alarm came out of reserves, but once ring-fenced reserves were taken into account, there was still £11,000.00 more in the reserves than is recommended. As income from the cemetery can not easily be predicted accurately, the current precept level would cover the budget and leave a healthy surplus. After discussion, the budget was agreed and the precept will remain at its current level.

To discuss the next step regarding the requirement for a safe crossing on Mill Hill (B1102)

The Clerk noted that emails from the Policy and Regulation department of Highways England indicated that a Local Highways Improvement application or a privately funded improvement would be the way forwards. LHI applications for 2022-23 had closed so evidence would have to be gathered for an application for 2023-24. Cllr Kent-Phillips pointed out that LHI's are for up to £15,000.00 which would not cover the cost of a crossing, even with the PC adding 10% as would be necessary. Cllr Kent-Phillips had also been in contact and reported that a reduction to a 30mph limit would be unlikely due to a rise in the road, short sight-lines and the houses being set well back from the road. A crossing would cause traffic to back up and this would increase air pollution levels to people locally.

It was noted that past efforts to improve the safety of crossing the B1102 had involved huge amounts of effort for very, very little return.

Action: Clerk to contact A-B1102 to see if they would be interested in helping apply for a LHI.

It was noted that the PC could not fund a crossing as there was not enough in the reserves and the amounts involved were far more than could reasonably raised. To be discussed further in January 2022

Clerk's Report

It was agreed to ask ETS to undertake a detailed survey plus mapping of the cemetery trees.

Proposed text for cemetery warning and information signs was agreed by the PC. In addition to putting them on the noticeboard, it was suggested that they be laminated and attached to the bins.

It was agreed that the Clerk would update cemetery regulations so that only the owner of a grant to erect and maintain grave markers be able to upgrade to a full Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial, to avoid complications caused by different owners for burial and grave marker rights. For approval at the January meeting.

Interest had been shown in the last marked-out plot in the cemetery – Cllr Durrant to mow the new area and assist Cllr Camps in marking out new plots.

Wednesday 18th May 2022 was provisionally agreed for the next Annual Parish Meeting.

Parish Councillors' Reports

Cllr Gynn ascertained that there had been no response to the letter regarding cutting back of the hedge on the High Street.

Cllr Durrant agreed to pass on a message that the trees along the Village Hall driveway are not to be cut back again.

Cllr Camps established that a donation to the British Legion for Remembrance Day would be made at the January meeting

Cllr Kent-Phillips reported that 47 households had now signed up for the Heating Scheme. Hereward Housing had not signed up their house en bloc as not all were suitable, but individual households were discussing signing. Cllr Kent-Phillips stated that 161 houses were needed for the scheme to break even and that under a Freedom of Information request, it would appear that the first house must be being heated by the scheme before midnight on 1st April 2022 to prevent the government loans being called in. Concerns were expressed over pressure to build new houses to increase the numbers on the scheme. Cllr Kent-Phillips also noted that the plan to sell carbon credits to raise £6million for repaying the loan was facing difficulties.

Open Question Time

A parishioner noted that there was a long enough straight to bring the speed limit down to 30mph when entering the village from Burwell and asked if the PC had considered using a lollypop person at school times.

Cllr Kent-Phillips clarified that Cllr Greenfield was part of A-B1102 as a private individual, not as a representative of the Parish Council.

Mr Limb noted that a street light on Cage Hill needed repairing. Cllr Kent-Phillips explained that it is due to be removed as it was found that Cage Hill would be sufficiently well lit without it.

If anyone would like any further information on any of the above items, please contact the Clerk. The next monthly Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday, 13th January 2022 starting at 7.30pm at the Village Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Jude Griffiths – Clerk to the Parish Council. Tel 745 106.

Email swaffhampriorclerk@gmail.com

FREecycle



Everything is free and nothing is expected in return. If you have any offers or wants, please contact me by the 14th of each month by phone (01223 813362/07980 423210), 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: Comb binding machine & many A4 combs of different sizes (widths), Mostly black. Small number of other colours and some slide binders. Jacqui 01223 811190

Ground-breaking COVID-19 antiviral treatment trial opens to recruitment in the east of England

Local GPs and healthcare professionals have today begun enrolling participants across the east of England to a first-of-its-kind clinical trial investigating the effectiveness of new oral antiviral treatments for COVID-19 - which can be safely taken at home.

The *Platform Adaptive trial of NOvel antiViRals for eArly treatMent of covid-19 In the Community (PANORAMIC)* trial will rapidly assess a range of purpose-designed antiviral treatments which could help clinically vulnerable people with COVID-19 in the community recover sooner, prevent the need for hospital admission and ease the burden on the NHS.

These new antiviral treatments are intended for use in the very early stages of infection, by people in the community with COVID-19 who are at higher risk of complications.

Local people can join the study if they are aged 50 and over, or between 18 to 49 years with underlying health conditions that make them clinically more vulnerable. All participants also need to have had a positive COVID-19 test and be within five days of the onset of symptoms.

To enable the benefit of each treatment to be compared against standard care - a total of 10,600 volunteers are needed to take part in each arm of the study. Half of the participants will be randomly allocated to receive the antiviral treatment plus standard care, while the other half will receive standard care alone.

Taking part is easy. Local people who receive a positive PCR test for COVID-19 will be contacted by the trial team or a local healthcare professional, such as a GP or a research nurse, to consider enrolling in the study. Alternatively, anyone who meets the eligibility criteria can also sign-up to take part in the study directly through the trial website: www.panoramictrial.org

All participants take part from their own homes, without needing to visit a clinic or hospital. Participants randomised to the group that receives an antiviral treatment will have their medicines sent directly to their homes by courier. Participants will keep a daily diary for 28 days through the PANORAMIC website or receive a phone call from the trial team on days 7, 14 and 28 to speak about their symptoms and any NHS care they have needed.

PANORAMIC has been designed as a 'platform clinical trial', meaning it can rapidly evaluate several antiviral treatments, as and when they become available. The UK Antivirals Taskforce has selected all treatments to be tested. The first treatment to be investigated through the trial will be molnupiravir (brand name, Lagevrio) - a COVID antiviral pill - which has already been licensed by the MHRA.

The results from this highest priority national study will provide a clearer understanding on how antivirals work in the UK population - which has a high vaccination rate - enabling the NHS to better plan how to make COVID-19 antivirals available for those who would benefit from them the most.

RENEW Church

Dear friends, Happy New Year! I'm sorry it's been so long since my last article, a lot has happened, much has changed, but we are back, hoping to regularly contribute something that may make you think afresh about the intersection of life and faith.

At the end of each of my articles, I invite you to RENEW Church, stating that you are welcome and we'd love to see you. I want to use these articles to describe RENEW Church to you, and clarify what we mean by 'welcome'.

We spent the month of October in conversation together as a church family about our vision and core values and I'll unpack these in the coming months.

For now, there is one main thing I'd like to let you know. Recently, RENEW Church became affiliated with Inclusive Church, the vision and purpose of which is best described through their statement:

"We believe in inclusive church –a church which celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate.

We will challenge the church where it discriminates against people on grounds of disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality.

We believe in a Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ."

We gather for worship on Sunday mornings, 10.30am at Lode Chapel and have some other opportunities to gather in person and virtually through the week. If you'd

like to find out more, contact Alan Brand, details below. For more on Inclusive Church, see

www.inclusive-church.org

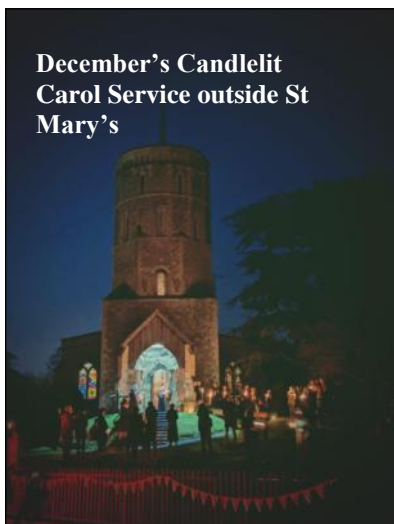
Thank you for reading,

Rev. Alan

C.812558 / 07896000796 / [alan-](mailto:alan-brand77@icloud.com)

brand77@icloud.com

**December's Candlelit
Carol Service outside St
Mary's**



Anglesey Benefice Services in January

Sunday 2 January

- 9am Online service on Zoom
Village Worship, Village Hall, Quay
10.30am Holy Communion, Bottisham

Wednesday 5 January

- 8 pm C by C (a short contemplative service) Online service on Zoom

Sunday 9 January

- 9am Holy Communion, Quay
10.30am Family Worship, Swaffham Prior – also on Zoom

Sunday 16 January

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

Sunday 23 January

- 9am Online service, on Zoom
10.30am Holy Communion (BCP), Swaffham Prior

Sunday 30 January

- 9am Online service on Zoom
10.30am Holy Communion, Lode
6pm Evensong, Swaffham Prior

Each Thursday

- 10.30am Holy Communion, Lode

***All in the Anglesey Benefice wish you a very
blessed, healthy and peaceful New Year***

Please wear masks for services in church

*Please check <http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7378/benefice> for
current information;*

*or email admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk, also the address to request
the Zoom link.*

Dates for Your Diary January 2022

Sat	1	
Thu	13	PC Meeting, 7.30pm, VH [24]
Mon	17	WI, 7.30pm, VH [16]
Tue	18	Village Gardeners, 8pm, VH
Wed	19	District Cllrs Virtual Surgery, 6.30-7.30pm [19]
Thu	20	Mothers' Union, 2.30pm, Lode Church
Sat	22	Crier Copy Deadline
Mon	31	

Numbers in square brackets indicate page number of an accompanying article

Club	Contact	Tel.	Date	Time	Place
FOSPS			2 nd Mon of Term	8pm	Village School
Beavers, Cubs and Scouts	Tim Doe	01223 861083	Variable		
Reading Group	Brenda Wilson	743937	1 st Weds of month	8:00pm	Kent House
Village Gardeners	Ruth Scovil	743720	3 rd Tues of month	8:00pm	Village Hall
WI	Margaret Joyce	744390	3 rd Mon of month	7.30 pm	Village Hall