



The Swaffham Crier

Volume L Number 4

April 2026



Editorial

Many congratulations to Michael Hargreaves who successfully drove across Europe last month to deliver ambulances and medical support to Ukraine — next year he’s hoping to go again and would like some support (See Letters).

We all know that Andy Murray was the first Brit to win Wimbledon, but what about the first British football team to win the European cup? No? Shame on us! It was Celtic of course, in 1967 and that was the answer to our New Year Quiz tie-breaker which no-one got. Many congratulations to Bob Nunn and Mike Carrington (Joint WINNERS—see p. 6)) for doing the difficult part (the modified Cistercian Runes decoding) but neither came up with a convincing answer, and it looks like Mike was a victim of the ever-helpful AI..

In fact, we all seem to be victims of something or other these days, they are always in the news (except perhaps the people who really are...). Do read Keith Carter’s letter in this edition — we love his phrase “competitive victimhood” and meanwhile, for THIRD time of asking, please parking people, don’t park in the disabled spot in the VH car-park — apart from anything-else, it’s genuinely needed.

Spuds in buckets! More entries are needed and it just may be that Andy Pumfrey (whose bucket usually tips the scales into the hundredweight region) is not entering this year? Hmmm, that gives us all a chance. A very Happy Easter to all, and see you Quizzing afterwards.

Regulars

Letters	2
This Month’s Cover	4
Our Reporter	5
Julie’s Recipes	8
Bon Mot	12
WI	18
Bell Ringers	19
Arthur Rank	10
Bookclub	20
Village Gardeners	21
Bottisham Patients	22
Clrs Cane & Trapp	23
From Our MP	24
Freecycle	25
PC Notes	26
CROSSWORD	28
St Mary’s News	30
Church Services	31

News, Views & Reviews

New Year Quiz	6, 17
New Bins System	11
St Mary’s Spring Clean	15, 23,31

What’s On

Quiz Night	7
SPUDS IN BUCKETS	9
POP Litter Pick	10
Newmarket Cinema	11
Coffee & Cake Concert	12
Reach Fair	13
Easter Lilies	14
Village Feast	16

Wanted

Bric-a-brac Donations	10
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Caroline Matheson

Cover Picture: *Blue Tit on Forsythia*, watercolour by Sarah Northrop



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Support for Ukraine

I had the privilege to visit Ukraine in February with Convoy4Ukraine, <https://www.convoy4ukraine.com> . Through the Crier I would like to thank those who supported me.

We delivered six ambulances, 13 4x4s, and a lorry to our Ukrainian partners filled with generators and good quality medical and humanitarian aid. The vehicles are life-savers in getting injured soldiers to medical help. The aid gives messages of hope and support.

Despite huge suffering, a much smaller population, and predictions they would fold in weeks, the people of Ukraine have resisted Russian aggression for four years. What has driven them is knowing what dictatorship under Putin would mean. Since independence in 1991, the people of Ukraine have come a long way. Their freedom of speech and democracy is precious to them.

Trump could have ended the war, but has withdrawn military aid. A victory for Russia would threaten Poland, Georgia and the Baltic republics. Europe must stand together in support of Ukraine.

Unless the war is over by then, in March 2027 with Convoy4Ukraine I am hoping to fund an ambulance to drive across Europe to donate to our Ukrainian partners. Is this something the people of Swaffham Prior would want to support?

Please email me if you want to contribute, or have ideas about how Swaffham Prior can help fund the donation of an ambulance to the people of Ukraine.

Many thanks,

Michael Hargreaves

5 High Street

michaelh5sp@gmail.com

Dear Parish Council,

Petition - Repairing fen-soil-affected roads

I am writing to share with you a new petition I have launched calling for urgent action and fair funding to repair fen-soil affected roads across Cambridgeshire.

I am writing to you following a request that it be shared with Parish Councils. Even if your parish is not directly affected by fen-soil subsidence, the high cost of repairing these roads is placing significant pressure on the county's highways budget, meaning less funding is available for other roads across the network.

The more residents who sign, the stronger our case becomes for securing the investment Cambridgeshire urgently needs: <https://www.eclد.org.uk/campaigns/government-must-fund-repairs-to-cambridgeshires-soil-affected-roads>

Thank you in advance for your support.

Best wishes,

Charlotte

Dear Editors,

Being Offended is a Choice

Our esteemed editors generously apologised to Mr Lewinski-Grende ‘and anyone else offended’ by my account of the February PC meeting. In it I recounted being unable to park owing to the car park being full of Slimming World members’ vehicles, including two in the space set aside for disabled badge holders. I could not see if these vehicles were displaying blue badges, but made a witticism which Mr Lewinski-Grende found sufficiently offensive to don his armour and take to his keyboard.

I too am sorry that he was offended, but I resile from a formal apology. Let me explain why.

Last week I sat waiting outside the occupied lavatory in Stansted's arrivals area, contemplating the sign on the door beneath the little white-on-blue sketch of a wheelchair user: *Not all disabilities are visible*. These signs began appearing a couple of years ago and, uncharitable as I am, my first thought was 'cheat's charter'. When the door finally opened, out stepped a fit young man in shorts, newly bronzed from his skiing holiday. At least he had the good grace to look somewhat shame-faced on seeing me waiting in an actual wheelchair.

Often, when attempting to park in a Blue Badge bay, the people jumping in and out of surrounding vehicles are far from visibly disabled. It would be no exaggeration to say this happens more times than not. It was this that I had in mind when making my witticism in these pages about obesity — namely, that unlike cheats and the many conditions newly conferring Blue Badge eligibility, obesity is emphatically not invisible. I won't spell out why it is funny to state the obvious about the nature of obesity; some will never get the joke because they fear more than anything being seen as ‘punching down’.

By making this witticism in the opening paragraph of my PC report, I was making a serious point. The practical consequences of disabled bay misuse are not trivial. A disabled bay occupied without entitlement does not merely inconvenience its rightful users; it can mean they are physically unable to leave their vehicle and reach their destination at all. This is what distinguishes my complaint from a matter of *bien pensant* social sensitivity.

In his humourless complaint (‘Obesity Isn't a Joke’, SC March '26), Mr Lewinski-Grende musters a distant former student who has been unable to work for some years owing to obesity and the proximate Professor Yeo to fine-tune his victimometer (carefully calibrating between ‘obese’ and ‘paraplegic’) and concludes that I was guilty of the heinous crime of punching down. I have no wish to be unkind about his workless friend's circumstances, of which I know nothing. But all this is quite irrelevant to the question of whether drivers, including those from Slimming World, are parking in spaces reserved for Blue Badge holders without troubling themselves with the petty formality of actually being one.

..all this is quite irrelevant to the question of whether drivers are parking in spaces reserved for Blue Badge holders without troubling themselves with the petty formality of actually being one.

Mr L-G also takes us on an entertaining little parenthetic tour of his rabbit-hole, complaining he is the victim of sex discrimination by the WI. Some people and their discrimination! As a convinced feminist I will defend stoutly the WI's right to exclude the likes of him - and me - but will gladly accept his kind invitation to be his guest next time Prof Yeo is speaking; the 30' knitted intestine sounds irresistible.

I have no interest in participating in the currently modish hierarchy of competitive victimhood. I will not be labelled a victim. But I am disabled, and the misuse of disabled parking provision has direct and concrete consequences that no amount of fine-tuning of the social justice antennae can wish away.

Unlike the rather delicate Mr Lewinski-Grende, I do not consider it impolite to enquire whether the Slimming World attendees in question, or anyone else parking in a disabled bay, are in possession of a Blue Badge. I suspect Mr Lewinski-Grende's delicacy would be less evident if he were himself disabled and so encountered this problem other than merely vicariously on behalf of distant ex-students.

But I may be wrong. Mr L-G might indeed be riddled with invisible disabilities — one of which appears to be an underdeveloped sense of humour.

Keith Carter

THIS MONTH'S COVER PICTURE

Sarah found her inspiration for this particular painting in one of our common garden birds, resident in most of the British Isles. In her own words: *I prayed for inspiration and heard the words 'paint a blue tit'. Just after, I heard a blue tit start to sing outside for a few seconds, then it stopped!*

Often seen on garden feeders during winter, blue tits are active all year round and are particularly vocal during Spring and Summer when they defend territory and attract a mate. They lay one large clutch of eggs per year and have been known to lay as many as 16 eggs! You can find out more from the RSPB:

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/blue-tit>

Celia Tyler



From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

Alerted by reports in February's Crier about cars occupying the disabled space outside the Village Hall, I took the liberty of establishing that the large car parked there on this occasion did not display a blue badge. Under the circumstances this suggests to me a certain level of arrogance. I took a photo of the car which may appear in the Crier. (*it did – see below. Eds*)

Both our CCC and ECDC Councillors attended the meeting, and their reports were dominated by the threatening Local Government Reorganisation. There is apparently a lot of discussion at a national level, and locally there are local public engagement events coming up during March, but the deadline for responses is the end of the month, so the window of time available is minimal and will be over before you read this.



A couple of doubters at the meeting wondered if any response now would make any difference to the outcome, but the majority agreed that the PC (and the commoners) should be seen to be as active and positive as possible “better to make a noise than not”. Charlotte pointed out that if the government ignores lots of people then they need to explain why. Later in the meeting the subject arose again, with the suggestion that the 13 PCs forming the two southern divisions of ECDC should be split from the rest and join Cambridge, leaving the others with Peterborough. Nice idea but no-one knows if at this stage it is a feasible alternative. Watch this space...

At a local level the interest was in the state of the fen roads and the huge amounts of money that would be required to fix them (and even to carry out research into the best way to do it), in the extra money now needed for the misbegotten Mepal crematorium project (oh dear, they found that that ground underneath was not what they had expected), and the need to reinstate the Ely Citizens' advice bureau. And of course the new rubbish bin system that we will all have to get used to, including a separate bin solely for food waste. One councillor declared that this was a waste of money because we should all personally ensure that by diligent planning and management there is no food waste.

Planning applications: a late arrival on the agenda was to do with a change of use (and apparently



Blue-Badge holder occupying Village Hall Disabled Parking place again?

change of application) of a converted railway

carriage (did I get that right?) for rental as holiday accommodation. The PC did not express much enthusiasm for this but agreed to walk away and leave it to the Conservation Officer. Other applications for improvements and updates to some of our manor houses were approved. Various routine accounts for payment were also approved, but it transpires that funds will also have to be found to get the village defibrillator up to date because the glue on the pads which attach to the patient was best before 2018... Now we know to keep an eye on them. We also learned that the unit has been taken out three times during its lifetime, but never in fact used in anger, and that it is the only one in the village – some of the PC had assumed that the school would also have one.

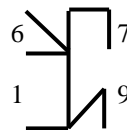
The Reach Lode catchment plan was discussed: having not studied it I was a little at sea here but the central issue was abstraction of water from the lode, and by whom. The PC agreed to support the plan as it is now, but keeping a keen eye out for possible mission creep. They also agreed to support the Kingsway PC Alliance which has been set up to challenge the solar farm development, but we will not commit to any expenditure for legal advice etc., not least because there seems to be a consensus that it will never happen anyway.

Problems caused by inconsiderate parking in both High Street and Lower End were reported, blocking buses and pavements, and there is no chance of getting new (or newly repainted) yellow lines, so this will be an ongoing issue. Just as annoying is that some buses are consistently departing early, a matter to be taken up with the service providers.

John Chalmers

New Year Quiz Tie-Break (see p. 17 for quiz answers)

Big congratulations to Mike Carrington and Bob Nunn who both got 1967, the correct year represented by this symbol. But neither got the right answer. Bob went for the first Gulf War (nothing to do with the clue, but at least it did happen) whereas Mike wrote: *I believe that this symbol represents 1967 (by adding the individual strokes for 300 and 600, and for 20 and 40). 'Dachaihg a-rithist!' is Gaelic for Home again! Together we get the return of the Stone of Scone to Westminster Abbey in 1967.*



Excellent answer, saving Westminster Abbey isn't in Scotland and we can find no reference to this! Was Mike using AI? Anyway, our actual answer was that this was when Celtic became the first UK team to win the European Cup (a reference to a similar 'coming home' clue for 1966's World Cup victory in the main quiz). SO the judges verdict is:

BOB NUNN & MIKE CARRINGTON JOINT 2026 NEW YEAR QUIZ WINNERS

What is not noticed by commentators today is that this system easily supports a kind of graphical arithmetic (with far fewer 'tables' to learn than for our decimals!) because the individual strokes, representing 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 add up to produce the other digits in each quadrant (top right to left, bottom right to left representing units, tens, hundreds and thousands respectively), but the Cistercians always used the same combinations (like 1 and 6 for 7, rather than 3 and 4). In tie-breaker, we used a mix.

QUIZ NIGHT

Swaffham Prior Village Hall

7.30 pm Saturday 18 April

Tickets £7 each. To book a table, contact



Jenny Brand
(01638) 742161

or

Lynne Rand
(01638) 741960



Jacket Potato Supper

Bring your own drinks and glasses !!

Proceeds in aid of St. Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior

Julie's Easter recipes

Garlic & Herb roast lamb on Boulangere potatoes

2kg leg of lamb
4 garlic cloves, sliced
A few rosemary sprigs
A few thyme sprigs
2kg potatoes
2 onions, sliced thinly
600ml chicken stock
50g butter

1.Heat the oven to 190c. Cut small pockets in the lamb and stuff with garlic and a few sprigs of rosemary and scatter with thyme. Put in a roasting tin, season well with salt and pepper, then cover with foil.

2.Peel the potatoes and thinly slice. Toss them with the sliced onions and any remaining garlic and a good scattering of herbs.

3,Heat the stock and butter together, then pour over the potatoes. Cover the dish with foil and bake in the oven with the lamb for 1 hour. Uncover, put the lamb on top of the potatoes and roast uncovered for 45 minutes more. Allow the lamb to rest before carving and leave the potatoes in the oven to keep warm.

Once rested carve and serve with fresh spring vegetables.

Serves 8

Chocolate fudge Easter cakes

140g soft butter
140g golden caster sugar
3 medium eggs
100g self raising flour
25g cocoa, sifted
85g milk chocolate, broken
85g soft butter
140g icing sugar, sifted

235g white chocolate Maltesers and foil wrapped mini chocolate eggs

1.Heat the oven to 190c and put 16 gold coloured cases into a bun tin. Cream the butter and sugar together, add eggs, flour and cocoa powder and whisk until smooth. Divide into the cake cases, then bake for 15 minutes until risen. Cool on a wire rack.

2.For the frosting, melt the chocolate, cream the butter and icing sugar together, then beat in the melted chocolate, spread on to the top of the cakes and decorate with the Maltesers and foiled mini eggs.



It is not too late to book your bucket and seed potato ready for the warmer weather. Don't forget the children's competition!

Spuds in Buckets 2026!

Beat your neighbours (and the 2025 winning weight) in the great village competition

Just £5 will buy you a bucket and a spud! It is then up to you to grow the heaviest yield of potatoes in your bucket to be weighed at the Harvest Show and Dog Show on Saturday 5th September.

Call Mandy Kingsmill on 07796 091855 or contact mandy@kingsmills.uk to sign up.

In aid of St. Mary's Church

The Rules:

1. Spuds and buckets will be available for delivery or collection up to 19th April
2. Spuds to be grown in the buckets in whatever manner the grower chooses
3. Spuds and buckets should be delivered to the Village Hall at 2.00 pm on Saturday 5th September for the grand weigh-in
4. There will be prizes for the adult and child (under 16 at that date) with the heaviest yield of potatoes from an undisturbed bucket
5. The judge's decision will be final
6. The winners will be announced at the Harvest Show and in the Swaffham Crier





Join POP
(Proud of Prior)



COMMUNITY LITTER PICK

FRIDAY TIDY

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

Friday 17th April
10.00am

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

Please bring your own gloves
All other equipment provided

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

**Look forward to seeing
the results!**



ECDC - New bins full of benefits



Residents are being encouraged to find out more about the new waste and recycling upgrade being rolled out across East Cambridgeshire.

Drop-in sessions will be taking place throughout the district to update people on the new service which starts from 1 June.

Residents will be able to see the new free of charge bins they will receive and ask questions about changes that are being brought in to help people reduce waste and recycle more.

The waste and recycling team will be at the

following locations:

- Wednesday 4 March, Sutton Co-op, 10am to 1pm
- Thursday 5 March, Market Stall, Ely, 9am to 3pm
- Thursday 19 March, Isleham Society at The Beeches, 7pm for 7:30pm
- Thursday 26 March, Soham Warm Hub, Soham Town Rangers, 10am to noon
- Saturday 2 May, Ely Eel Day, all day

Cllr Anna Bailey, Leader of East Cambridgeshire District Council, said: “There is not long to go now before the new bins start arriving. We want to make sure everyone has had an opportunity to find out more about the service upgrade and ask questions. Our team can answer queries about why the changes are coming in, what they mean for you, and what happens to food waste when it gets recycled.”

To support the waste and recycling upgrade the council is also including information for residents with its annual council tax bill and putting messages out on social media. When the new containers start to arrive at people’s home from 16 March, a full information pack will be attached. This includes a guide to what goes where and their collection calendar.

People can also visit the council’s website www.eastcambs.gov.uk or speak to a customer services advisor on 01353 665555.

Newmarket Cinema

Here are our film shows for April - June 2026 at The Stable, High Street, Newmarket.

April 20th - Brassed Off (15)

May 18th - Made in Dagenham (15)

June 15th - The Choral (12)

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

Richard Penney

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH BOTTISHAM



Coffee & Cake Concert **SATURDAY 2nd May 10.30AM**

CAMBRIDGE VOCAL CONSORT

A small vocal ensemble performing music from the 16th and early 20th centuries, including madrigals, folk songs and lute songs.



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

**Suggested donation £5, in aid of the church
building fund – children free**

BON MOT NUMBER 169

"The first of April is the day we remember what we are
the other 364 days of the year."

Mark Twain (November 30, 1835 – April 21, 1910)



Bank Holiday Monday

4th May 2026

12 noon to 5pm

*Fairground, Village Fair, Maypole Dancing,
Morris Men, Craft Stalls, Live Entertainment and more*

Entrance free. Parking £10 per vehicle
£5 Blue Badge holders and motorbikes

www.reachfair.org.uk 

Fair Green, Reach CB25 0JD



POEM OF THE MONTH

Spring

Nothing is so beautiful as Spring –

When weeds, in wheels, shoot long and lovely and lush;
Thrush's eggs look little low heavens, and thrush
Through the echoing timber does so rinse and wring
The ear, it strikes like lightnings to hear him sing;
The glassy peartree leaves and blooms, they brush
The descending blue; that blue is all in a rush
With richness; the racing lambs too have fair their fling.

What is all this juice and all this joy?

A strain of the earth's sweet being in the beginning
In Eden garden. – Have, get, before it cloy,
Before it cloud, Christ, lord, and sour with sinning,
Innocent mind and Mayday in girl and boy,
Most, O maid's child, thy choice and worthy the winning.

Gerard Manley Hopkins

You don't have to be a Jesuit priest, as Hopkins was, to share something of his sense that the beauty of spring, with its as-yet-unsullied promise of renewal, brings with it a hint of a lost Eden.

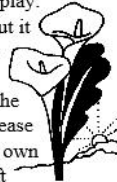
His characteristic combination of alliteration and “sprung rhythm” - a technique invented by and almost unique to Hopkins – is as unmistakable as it is complex to analyse. Reading it aloud can feel exhausting, as though you've been chewing a rare steak. Here it conveys well the intense energy of his ecstatic joy. *Andrew Grant*

Easter Lilies

Each year we have had lilies in St Mary's Church at Easter time and, recently, many people have contributed to these in memory of a loved one.

Donations can be made anonymously or with your name and the name of your loved one. A list will then be compiled and placed in church for Easter Sunday. As a guide the Easter lilies will cost £3.50 per stem this year. All contributions will be *very* welcome and will enable us to have a beautiful display.

If you would like to make a donation please put it through Sue Rust's door at 23 Greenhead Road or Hilary Grant's door at Rose Cottage, 42 High Street, opposite the Red Lion (the letterbox is in the blue door through the arch in the hedge). Please include the name of your loved one and your own unless, of course, you wish to make your gift anonymously.





**St Mary's Spring Cleaners at work.
See page 31**



Bric-a-brac donations wanted!

Calling all Spring cleaners!

St Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior, is running a bric-a-brac stall at the Swaffham Prior Village Feast on Saturday 16th May 2026

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



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

SAVE THE DATE
ANNUAL VILLAGE FEAST
SWAFFHAM PRIOR VILLAGE HALL
SATURDAY 16TH MAY 2026

12.30PM - 4.00PM



ANNUAL EGG-THROWING CONTEST AT 4.00PM

BAR & REFRESHMENTS - BARBEQUE - CREAM TEAS - ICE CREAMS
STALLS - CRAFTS - RAFFLE - CAKE STALL - TOMBOLA - BOWLING
BRIC-A-BRAC - PLANTS - CAN SHY - GURNING - LUCKY DIP
WI STALL - PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT - EMERGENCY VEHICLES
BOOKS JIGSAWS, TOYS - MAJORETTES - CROCKERY SMASHING

ALL PROCEEDS TO GO TO SWAFFHAM PRIOR VILLAGE HALL

Answers to New Year Quiz

—see page 6 for results of Tie-Breaker

Q	Event described in the Clues	Year	Rune
1.	The Battle of Hastings (<i>Capt. Hastings</i> being <i>Hercules Poirot's</i> "sidekick")	1066	E
2.	The RMS Titanic left Cobh, County Cork, Ireland and subsequently sank	1912	N
3.	<i>Emily Wilding Davison</i> – a suffragette, collided with a horse and died at the Epsom Derby	1913	O
4.	<i>Queen Boudicca (Boadicea)</i> led a major revolt against the Romans – which eventually failed	60 / 61	B
5.	<i>Sir Francis Drake</i> was (purportedly) playing bowls at Plymouth when <i>King Philip II of Spain's Armada</i> was sighted	1588	I
6.	<i>Robert the Bruce</i> fought and won the Battle of Bannockburn – inspired by a spider trying again and again to spins its web (a legend?)	1314	G
7.	One of the four original copies of the <i>Magna Carta</i> is housed at Lincoln Castle	1215	F
8.	The Romans launched their invasion of England (and stayed until 410 AD)	43	A
9.	The first world-wide Church (Ecumenical) Council was held at Nicaea	325	C
10	The Synod of Whitby met and settled the dates of Easter	664	D
11	Black THURSDAY (29 th October) the dramatic crash of the US stock market which signalled the start of "The Depression"	1929	P
12	<i>Wat Tyler</i> was the leader of the Peasant's Revolt – caused by the unpopular poll tax of 1380	1381	H
13	The Russian, <i>Yuri Gagarin</i> , was the first human who went into space – he circled around the Earth in 108 minutes (Actual orbit only 84 mins)	1961	Q
14	The twin churches of <i>St Mary</i> and <i>St Cyriac</i> in Swaffham Prior were merged by an Act of Parliament	1667	K
15	The Good Friday Agreement was the peace deal that was signed and which ended decades of troubles in Northern Ireland	1998	S
16	<i>Pickles</i> was the dog that discovered the stolen <i>Jules Rimet</i> World Cup	1966	R
17	<i>Bonnie Prince Charlie's</i> attempt to regain the throne essentially ended at Derby – it was the furthest south his Jacobite army reached	1745	L
18	The Millennium Bug was predicted to knockout IT systems worldwide – it never happened!	2000	T
19	The <i>Pilgrim Fathers</i> sailed in <i>The Mayflower</i> for America – fishing was a crucial part of their survival strategy	1620	J
20	<i>Robert Stephenson's Rocket</i> attended the <i>Rainhill Trials</i> – a competition for steam trains. The <i>Rocket</i> managed 30 mph on the flat and 15 mph on the uphill section	1829	M

Many thanks to John Turner for these.

The Swaffhams' WI

The March meeting of the Swaffhams' WI was our AGM. It was a very informative evening with much discussion about our future. Janet provided fabulously delicious cakes and we ended the evening with a light-hearted beetle drive. This last year has proved to be extremely successful with amazing speakers and warmth and friendship from our members and visitors. This coming year is proving to be just as exciting and thanks must go to Margaret for booking another round of stimulating and interesting speakers. We are so lucky to have this opportunity on our doorsteps. With regards to the committee, Hilary has sadly stepped down as secretary and Kaye has risen to the challenge and is treading in Hilary's footsteps beautifully. A huge thank you to our hardworking committee for everything they do to keep our group thriving and a further thank you to our wonderful members for their generosity, friendship and warmth. It has also been a real pleasure this year to welcome so many visitors and see so many new faces.

Next month, on 20th April at 7:30pm in Swaffham Prior Village Hall, we have our Open Meeting where Carol Cooke will be talking about Coco Chanel. There will be a charge of £5 for visitors and non-members of the Swaffhams' WI. If you would like to join us, please call Kate on 07752011308 or email Kaye on kayejanelew@gmail.com. We would love to see you there.

Kate Muscroft



Swaffham Prior Bell Ringers – April 2026

The now not-so-new ringers at Swaffham Prior continue to practice their bell control each Tuesday evening. We started with call changing where a ‘conductor’ calls out an instruction for two of the six bells to swap; this involves making your bell go faster or slower without disrupting the even striking of the bells. Some are now moving on to the first ‘method’ Plain Bob Doubles; ringers need to learn a pattern of changes that occur in sequence. This is mentally and physically challenging but I am sure is very good for us!

The Ely Diocesan Association has a busy calendar of events as usual, offering the chance to ring at towers far and wide. We recently visited Exning tower, very nice bells but an interesting mix of steps, vertical ladders and trapdoors on the approach to the ringing room. In April the annual outing will take in five towers in the Woburn area so plenty of new bells for the ‘tower grabbers’ who like to collect as many new towers as possible.

Swaffham Prior will shortly host two visiting bands – more tower grabbing; on 6 April you may hear a quarter peal from one of the bands if all goes to plan.

Do come along on a Tuesday evening (19:30) if you are interested, or contact swaffhampriorbells@gmail.com

Arthur Rank Hospice

Arthur Rank Hospice Charity is holding their first "Fill a bag" shopping event in April. Shoppers will have the opportunity to fill a pre-provided recyclable bag with [pre-loved](#) women's, men's and children's clothes for just £5.

The shopping event, taking place at the Hospice in Shelford Bottom, CB22 3FB will be open on the following dates and times: Friday 24 April 3pm - 6pm, Saturday 25 and Sunday 26, 10am - 2pm, and will remain open while stocks last. Shoppers are advised to keep an eye on our social media channels for updates on stock levels.

Arthur Rank Hospice Charity supports people in Cambridgeshire living with an advanced serious illness or other life-limiting condition and those who need end-of-life care. Our ‘Outstanding’ services support over 3,800 patients and their families annually helping people to make every moment count.

For more information about the event, please visit: <https://www.arhc.org.uk/retail-sale>

Many thanks for all your support,

Virginia Goode
Communications & Engagement Officer
M: 07584 389095

The Reading Group Reads...

A Month in the Country

by J.L. Carr

In March we read J.L. Carr's "A month in the Country" and I can't remember when we were all unanimous about our enjoyment of such a delightful book.

It's the story- some of which is biographical- set in 1920, and remembered over 50 years later, by Tom Birkin, a Londoner, a deeply shell shocked war veteran and recently deserted by his wife, who's arrived in a village in the North Riding of Yorkshire, to restore a medieval church mural. Here he meets the equally damaged Charles Moon MC, who's been drummed out of the army because he's gay. He's here to find a lost grave. The church tower becomes Tom's temporary home and Charles beds down in a tent in the adjoining field. Evenings are mostly spent in the village pub.

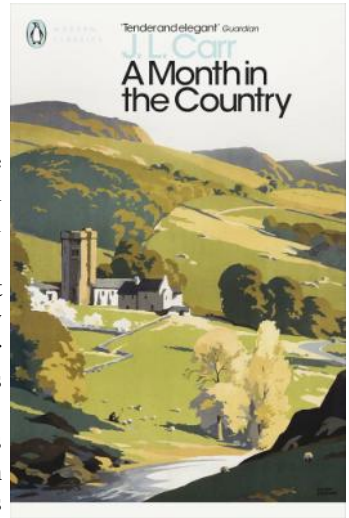
Both projects have been funded by a recently deceased member of the family who've lived in the village since medieval times and considered a huge waste by the Revd. Keach.

The mural is painstakingly revealed and the grave discovered. We meet a few of the locals- a very unhappy vicar and his equally unhappy wife Alice, with whom Tom falls in love. Mossop, who rings the church bells and digs the graves, and the Ellerbecks, steeped in Wesleyan tradition. Mr Ellerbeck is the station master and the whole family take Tom under their wing, mainly at first because Kathy, their daughter is very intrigued by what's going on in the belfry. He's often invited to Sunday lunch and reciprocates by helping out at their Sunday School.

The backdrop to all this is the idyllic, restorative peace of the country side."A blessed time". Meadows, wildflowers, country lanes, horses and carts and constant sunshine. Tom's stutter starts to lessen in this interlude, as he gradually uncovers what turns out to be a wonderful mural. It's a revelation to Tom and he slowly begins to understand the symbolism, and the character and huge talent of the artist. Charles decides he could be the man whose remains they find in the field grave.

There is much joy and pain- the vicar and his wife do a moonlight flit, which devastated Tom. He packs up his tools and saying no farewells leaves to return home. "We can ask and ask but we can't have again what once seemed ours for ever - the ways things looked, the church alone in the fields, a bed on a belfry floor, a remembered voice, a loved face. They've gone and you can only wait for the pain to pass".

Our April book is 'Escape from Auschwitz' by Rudolph Vrba and 'Testimony' by Anita Shreve in May.



Margaret



VILLAGE GARDENERS

Spring warmth had finally arrived in Swaffham Prior when the Village Gardeners met in March to hear Katherine Mann give an entertaining talk about her family's restoration of Histon Manor gardens. Histon Manor is a privately owned, Grade 2 listed manor house dating from the 17th century and sited in 11 acres of grounds on the north-west edge of Histon village. The grounds include formal and informal gardens, lawns, woodlands, and a moated island on which thousands of snowdrops flower each year. The Manor has been home to some colourful characters over the years including in the early 1900s Mr Ambrose Harding, a zoologist, who established a private zoo in the garden to house his collection of monkeys, lemurs and exotic birds.



Zoo-keeper Ambrose Harding

Only some structural evidence of the zoo remained in 2018 when Katherine and her family moved into the property, and unfortunately by then the gardens were neglected and overgrown. However, the family saw past the wilderness and took on the ambitious task of developing and reshaping the gardens to restore them to their former glory. Most of the planted garden areas had to be dug up due to their poor condition. This wasn't an easy decision since in doing so much wildlife was displaced and only brutally bare earth remained. But each garden was replanted in its own unique style; the softer, pastel-coloured walled garden, the hot, brightly-coloured east garden and the structured topiary and herbaceous borders of the formal garden. The wildlife has returned, including, inevitably, herds of hungry deer. Katherine took on the restoration without any formal gardening training but by visiting other gardens and observing the plants which worked well together, through hard work, trial and error, she has succeeded in transforming the gardens of Histon Manor and preserving them for the future.

All proceeds of Katherine's talks about the restoration go to a chosen charity, which this year is the Cambridge Acorn Project who support local children and families affected by trauma, abuse and financial hardship. The Village Gardeners have been invited to visit Histon Manor on 16th June (details to follow nearer the time). In the meantime, the next indoor meeting will be held in Swaffham Prior Village Hall on Tuesday 21st April at 8pm (doors 7:45pm), when Jim Paine will talk about 'The Empire Beneath Our Feet', looking at how soils form and the millions of



life forms that make their home there, and giving practical advice on managing and caring for the soil in our gardens. The talk will last about an hour, and tea, coffee and homemade cakes will be available afterwards. Everyone is welcome to join us; attendance is free for members (£20 for the year) or £4 for visitors. We hope to see you there.

Fiona Geraghty

News from Bottisham Medical Practice

Patients' Participation Group.

Missed appointments: In January 48 appointments were marked as Did Not Attend (DNA) which equated to 14.5 hrs and in February 59 appointments allocated to this category which equated to just under 15hrs of lost appointments. Whilst plans and situations may change it would be greatly appreciated that if you are unable to attend an appointment you inform us so we can reallocate your appointment to another patient.

Online Triage: 88% of patients are now accessing appointments via online booking triage form, thank you. If you are not able to do this it is fine to call, or come to reception and they will fill the form out for you. By whatever means you contact us please stay available to take a call swiftly when an appointment may be booked, often within minutes of your request. If you have not heard within 4 hours your form may not have been received so please call us.

Vaccination clinic: From April 13th we will be offering the spring booster COVID vaccinations to vulnerable groups. Vaccination will be offered in England in Spring 2026 to: Adults aged 75 and over, residents in care homes for older people, individuals aged 6 months and over who are immunosuppressed. We will be offering regular clinics throughout April in the week and on Sunday April 26th.

We just wanted to highlight this brilliant local resource: <https://keep-your-head.com>. A website written by local doctors to help with mental health. It signposts towards many sources of help that you might not be aware of by selecting your age and mental health difficulty.

Chronic health reviews and blood test invitations: From April 2026 we are using a different recall system. You may have a text message from us but from a system called Abrace. This is an automated recall process which should, we hope, reduce the amount of repeat blood tests needed when you've just had one for a medication review and then told you need one for something else! This is a common cause of annoyance and thus we hope this new system will be an improvement.

Smear tests: The surgery is messaging all patients who are overdue a cervical smear test. This is part of a national campaign to improve uptake of smear tests which detect early changes before cancer develops.

Easter Weekend: The surgery will be closed over the Easter bank holidays so should you need help then call 111 or if it is an *emergency* then go to A & E. The Minor Injury Unit (MIU) at the Princess of Wales Hospital in Ely is open 7 days a week, 8:30 AM to 6 PM (including bank holidays),

Next Meeting Details: AGM 9th April 2026 6.30pm in the waiting room at the surgery. At this meeting we will be accepting nominations for chairman, secretary, treasurer. **Dr Keith will be talking about recognition of cancer symptoms, when to worry, and question and answers around this topic. Please do come along.** If you wish to join our meetings or consider joining the committee please email our chairman s.j.gilson@btinternet.com. Or speak to reception.



Licensing Committee 11 February

There was an item on a consultation to a proposal by the Government to transfer responsibility for taxi and Private Hire Vehicles to Local Transport Authorities (the Combined Authority in our area) to save money; however, the safety and the protection of the public or drivers was not considered.

Full Council 24 February

This was quite a long meeting and the budget for the forthcoming year was put forward.

The increase of £300,000 to the Mepal Crematorium contingency budget was brought forward from the last Finance and Assets meeting, and was approved with the Chair's casting vote.

The Lib Dem & Independent group proposed in the budget for next year that funds should be given to:

- establish Civil Parking Enforcement in the District (which 97% of other Councils have) to tackle the blatant illegal parking in most of our towns and villages,
- encourage tourism in our District; the only tourism effort in the District is done by Ely City Council and is, obviously, Ely-biased,
- to increase the Environmental spending by £100,000,
- to help reinstate the Ely Citizen's Advice Bureau, restoring a much-needed independent advice service in Ely and taking some pressure off the CAB in Newmarket,

These proposals, which would have still been within budget and not require a rise in Council Tax, were defeated by the casting vote of the chair.

As you are probably aware, the District Council Tax remains the same.

Bins

The new bins will soon be delivered to residents; there will be information on the procedure to be followed how and when the new bins are to be used.

Surgery

It has not been possible to find a date in April for our evening surgery. However, we are always available on the telephone or via email. John has discovered that his land-line is not working, so includes his mobile phone number instead.



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

Charlotte Cane MP

Fixing Our Roads & Supporting Rural Households

Like many residents, I share the frustration with the state of our roads — it's something I experience myself every day.

One of the biggest challenges specific to our area is soil-affected roads. In our part of the world, many roads are built on peat-based soil that expands and contracts with the weather. This leads to cracking, sinking and rapid deterioration. Around 40% of the county's roads are affected, and they can cost up to four times more to maintain than those built on stable ground.

This isn't just an issue for rural lanes. Some of our key routes — used by commuters, farmers, businesses and emergency services — are among the worst affected.

Cambridgeshire County Council is taking action, including trialling longer-term solutions to properly rebuild and stabilise the most damaged roads. But the scale of the problem is far beyond what local council budgets can cover alone. The total cost of fixing these roads properly is estimated at around £500 million.

That's why I'm calling on the Government to step in with dedicated funding to help bring Cambridgeshire's soil-affected roads back up to the standard we deserve. If you'd like to support this campaign, please sign my petition here: www.bit.ly/fixoursoilaffectedroads

Separately, I know many households locally rely on heating oil and are concerned about rising costs. I wrote to the Minister earlier this month to press for support, and while I welcome the Government's subsequent £53 million package, it does not go far enough.

Unlike households on the gas grid, those using heating oil have no price cap protection and remain exposed to global price spikes. I am continuing to push for stronger action — including a temporary VAT cut and a proper price cap — so rural families are not left behind.

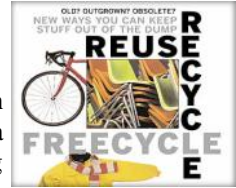
As always, I will keep working to ensure our area gets a fair deal and the investment it needs.

If there's ever anything I can help you with, please do get in touch via charlotte.cane.mp@parliament.uk or +44 20 7362 1601. You can also keep up to date with my work through my fortnightly newsletter — sign up here: www.bit.ly/newsfromcharlotte



FREECYCLE

If you have any offers or wants, please contact me on jun.thompson@tiscali.co.uk, phone on 01223 813362, or drop a note through 23 Longmeadow. Everything is free and nothing is expected in return.



Offers

- Two healthy pot-grown Hazel saplings, one multi-stemmed about four feet high, one single-stemmed about two feet; Set of children's garden hand tools with wooden handles and metal heads (trowel, fork, rake) – well used but still serviceable. Plus, small plastic watering can. Charlie Rickard 07707 635565
- 18 of ceramic floor tiles 300x300mm, sand colour; 10 lengths of 15mm pipe insulation - contact John Chalmers on 07973 728666.

Wants:

- Jigsaw puzzles and paperback books in saleable condition for a local charity fundraiser. Contact Judith Rice on 01223 812085 or 07745286113, judithrice@btinternet.com.
- Digital projector (with HDMI port) & large portable tripod projector screen (ideally 2.4m wide) needed for a course presentation by BALA at Bottisham Sports & Social Club. We would also consider a loan - the projector and screen are needed on Thursday mornings for September to December 2026 (actual dates to be confirmed). Contact Robert on 07785 110434
- Lift wanted/offered from Swaffham Bulbeck to Addenbrookes for work (usually Tues, Weds, Fri, to arrive at Addenbrookes 7am and leaving 8pm). Please contact Jane 07800 934585 for more information.



**Perks of the job
— spring cleaners
get to scramble
up onto St Mary's
balcony**

Notes from the Parish Council March Meeting

The Parish Council meeting of the 12th March was chaired by Cllr Covill and attended by 7 parish councillors and 4 members of the public.

Public participation.

A member of the public requested that the PC consider if membership of CAPALC is value for money.

Reports

Cambridge County Council.

Cllr Yannifer Malinowski attended and gave a verbal report.

- Issues requiring escalation to be forwarded to Cllr Malinowski.
- Local Government Reorganisation. The government national consultation is running until 26th March 2026. Cllrs Malinowski and Edge are co-ordinating a Parish Council response regarding Option A and feel the need for a second letter to be sent. Public consultations are happening locally to raise awareness and collect views. These take place at Stetchworth (20th March) Bottisham (21st March) and Burwell (24th March). Swaffham Prior PC has responded to the government consultation, but Cllr Malinowski noted that individuals can respond as well. PL asked if it will make a difference; Cllr Malinowski replied that she doesn't know but it's worth a try.

East Cambs District Council.

Cllr Charlotte Cane attended and gave a verbal report; a written report was circulated by email.

- LGR. Cllr Cane suggested that if a large response was received supporting Option A, there would at least have to be an explanation why if a different decision was made. Cllr Cane also noted that e.g. the direction of travel for work is much more into Cambridge than Peterborough for the Burwell and Woodditton Wards.
- Greater Cambridge Development Company. Cllr Cane emphasised the importance of responding to consultations about this as it is likely to have a significant impact.
- Consultation on Licensing committee. Cllr Cane voiced concerns that changes proposed would reduce the committee's ability to respond to local detail and concerns.
- Full Council. The budget has been agreed, there will be no rise in Council Tax and a £3,000,000.00 contingency for Mepal crematorium was agreed – Cllr Cane feels the contract puts the financial risk onto ECDC.

As local MP, Cllr Cane asked that the PC share a petition launched by her, for extra funds (£500 million) for repairs to peat-based roads.

Clerk's Report.

- Letter regarding parking issues had been written and delivered to Slimming World lady
- Litter picking equipment ordered, delivered, Janet passed on her thanks.
- Letters re overgrown vegetation – still to do/ongoing.
- Playground annual inspection will be £85 and take place in April.

Parish Councillors' Reports

- Cllr Gynn reported that a parishioner had complained about parking on the High

Street and requesting further double yellow lines.

- Cllr Kent-Phillip reported a mobility scooter had been forced onto the road by cars parked on the Lower End pavement.
Cllr Hart reported that a parishioner had asked if the drastic hedge cut-back on
- Cage Hill had been commissioned by the PC. It had not.
- Cllr Latchford stated that parts of the double yellow lines are still incomplete on the High Street opposite Anglesey Abbey House. Cllr Malinowski to chase again.
- Cllr Latchford reported that buses were still leaving 4 minutes before time – to be passed on to A-B1102 group.

Matters arising from previous minutes

Cllr Greenfield had responded to the National Planning Policy Framework consultation on behalf of the PC as previously agreed.

Planning Applications.

25/01237/FUL Provision of new driveway and relocation of existing oil and septic tanks – amended development description to include reference to relocation of existing oil and septic tanks and additional consultation of County Archaeologist on the Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (version 1) received 19th January 2026 and comments received 4th February 2026 from Historic England with reference to the septic tank to be relocated. Baldwin Manor, 80 Station Road, Swaffham Prior, Cambridge CB25 0LD.

No objections were made and the PC strongly support these works.

Reach Lode catchment plan.

After discussion, the PC agreed to write a letter supporting the Reach Lode Catchment Plan in its current form but including the wish to be consulted regarding any changes to the plan in the future.

Second joint letter supporting Local Government Reorganisation Option A

After discussion, it was felt that the PC could not support the letter in its current form, as too much was incomplete.

It was agreed that approval of the final version of the letter would be delegated to Cllrs Covill and Kent-Phillips, and that the PC ask for the option of splitting the East Cambs parishes, with the Burwell and Woodditton Wards joining Cambridge if Option B of the LGR is chosen, to be included in the letter.

Kingsway Parish Council Alliance.

An update from Cllr Greenfield was received via email.

The KPCA has been preparing the organisation & structure for the next stage, which is when the 'battle' begins.

An email (Kingsway Solar Farm - What happens next? sent Sunday 8/3/26 17:39) explained the importance of Parish Councils, community groups and individuals registering as 'Interested Parties'.

It was agreed that Cllr Greenfield could act on the PC's behalf to action all this as necessary.

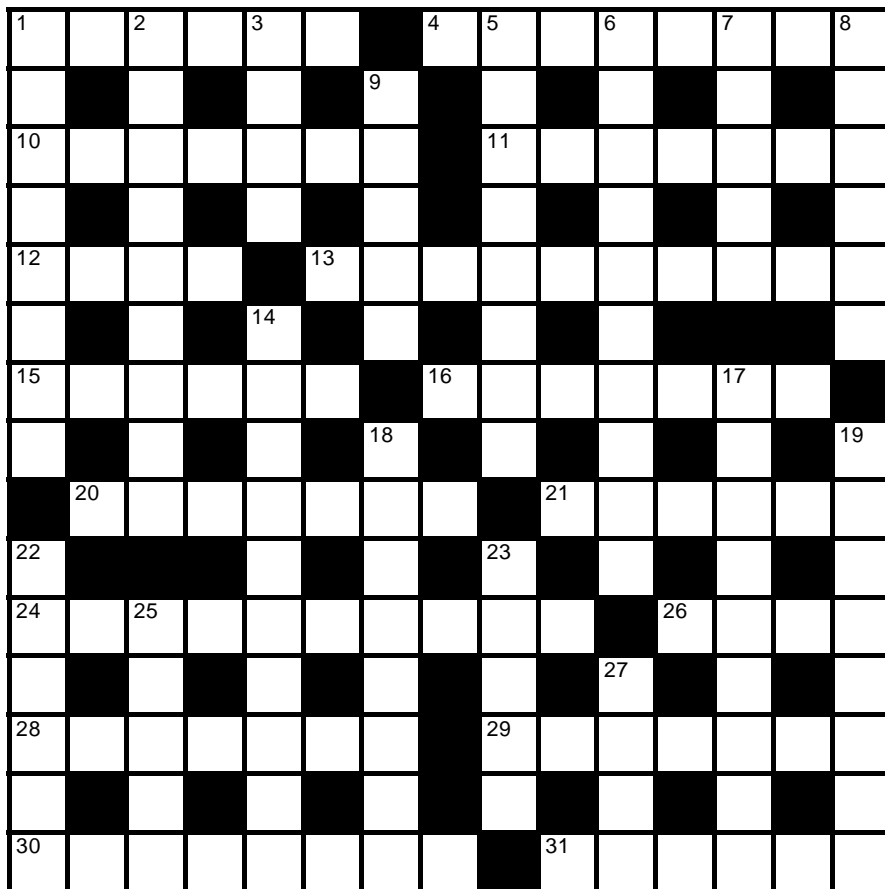
Produced from unapproved minutes and may contain errors; approved minutes can be found at <http://www.swaffham-prior.co.uk/pc/minutes.html> If anyone would like any further information on any of the above items, please contact the Clerk.

The next monthly Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday, 9th April 2026 starting at 7.30pm at the Village Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Crossword Number 237

Compiled by NIBOR

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



Name:.....

Address:.....

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

Across

- 1 Japanese girl gets his age wrong (6)
- 4 Notes confusion a long time afterwards (8)
- 10 Disturb journalist going back to the prairie (7)
- 11 Linen fabric from EU country (7)
- 12 Two found in robot heaven (4)
- 13 Elf gets to clean her up roughly (10)
- 15 Open a French bar (6)
- 16 All go outside to join Welsh leader on Sunday to see the scaffold (7)
- 20 Anxious about volunteers let out (7)
- 21 Indian spices and cooked calamaries but no rice (6)
- 24 Conned user upset but not cut (10)
- 26 Swell initially but eventually arrive unharmed (4)
- 28 Wolf emanation (7)
- 29 College food for mythical creature (7)
- 30 Photo of former river? certainly (8)
- 31 Egghead joins up to get respect (6)

Down

- 1 Dag is a pleasure seeker (8)
- 2 Sensitive rib let air out (9)
- 3 Deer at the back (4)
- 5 Badly late here from Heaven (8)
- 6 Sailor goes to basement to find culinary dispenser (10)
- 7 Tropical fruit starts to give up a vile aroma... (5)
- 8 ... of flowers I'd ingested beside a

railway line (6)

- 9 Macho chaps but chicken around me (2-3)
- 14 Exam taken by a dozen or more (6-4)
- 17 How baleen becomes aquatic horn (9)
- 18 Lure of battle might pull one over the line (3-2-3)
- 19 Golden rain maybe producing insurmountable problem (but not on-site) (8)
- 22 Disturbance four are upset about (6)
- 23 Gloomy after a big meal (3,2)
- 25 Diced but was unhappy (3-2)
- 27 Old Bob follows his whistle (4)

Solution to crossword no. 236

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

We congratulate Colin Dailly, the winner of last month's competition, who should collect his prize certificate from the editors. Honourable mentions go to Rod Clayton and Robert Nunn.

News from St Mary's church

Maintaining an historic building is a huge task. We are grateful to those on the cleaning rota who take their turn every eight weeks or so to keep on top of the day-to-day hoovering, sweeping, dusting and polishing. The church is always in good order for visitors, regular fortnightly services (on second, fourth and fifth Sundays) and special services (funerals, baptisms, school events etc). Once in a while, we have a major clean and last Saturday saw the chancel cleared and scrubbed, brasses polished, hymn books dusted and sorted, the rood screen and carved figures polished and high-level cobwebs removed, together with much sweeping, hoovering and dusting. Thank you to Mandy, Jan, Brenda, Fleur, Kate and Andrew for a wonderful job. The church will be sparkling for the Easter Day service at 10.30am. We have planned an Autumn Clean for Saturday 17 October 10am-12 noon and would very much welcome your assistance to make the church beautiful for Remembrance and Christmas services. Volunteers for the regular cleaning rota are also very welcome.



We are fortunate that the churchyard is “closed” and therefore managed by East Cambridgeshire District Council. They cut the grass, have replaced the stile with a gate and are currently repairing the rear wall near the cemetery. However, there is still a lot of gardening required and a few years ago we started a partnership with the Community Payback Scheme which has proved mutually beneficial. Offenders serving community service sentences come once a month to do jobs of benefit to the community. They have painted railings, stained benches, removed ivy and on their last visit cut back a lot of brambles etc ready for the wall repairs. None of this would otherwise be done. Our liaison person in the congregation provides refreshments for the Team who, like any other workers, have regular breaks according to their contract. If you have any concerns or issues with this – taking into consideration improvement of the amenity provided by this labour – please do be in touch. Again, if you would like to help out in the churchyard there are always jobs to be done!

The church is always open during daylight hours thanks to the team of keyholders who unlock and lock the church each day. You are very welcome to go in at any time – and especially over the Easter period to visit the Easter garden and see the display of lilies. We rely on villagers to be our eyes and ears. Generally, thankfully, there is nothing to be concerned about, but if anything does seem awry, please be in touch. We are grateful that dog and cycling matters in the churchyard have improved; thank you.

Please sign up for the Spuds in Buckets challenge this year, and don't miss Quiz Night on 18 April – just a few spaces remain. Easter Sunday Holy Communion at 10.30am – all welcome.

All at St Mary's church wish you a very Happy Easter!

Dee Noyes, admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk

Services in April 2026

Wednesday 1 April

8pm CbyC, a contemplative service, online on Zoom

Thursday 2 April – Maundy Thursday

10.30am Holy Communion, Lode

Friday 3 April – Good Friday

10am Good Friday Service, Quy

Sunday 5 April – Easter Day

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

Sunday 12 April – Second Sunday of Easter

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

Sunday 19 April – Third Sunday of Easter

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

Sunday 26 April – Fourth Sunday of Easter

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

Each Thursday

10.30am Holy Communion, Lode

Revd Canon Max Osborne max9@btinternet.com; 01223 481187 (Rest day: Tuesday)

Churchwardens: Bottisham: bottisham@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk; 01223 604019

Lode: lode@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk; 01223 811222

Quy: quy@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk; 01223 812652

Swaffham Bulbeck: bulbeck@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk; 01223 812525; 01223 811501

Swaffham Prior: prior@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk; 01638 743937

For general enquiries: admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk;

churchwardens@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/angleseychurches;

A Church Near You: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7380/benefice>

Dates for Your Diary April 2026

Wed	1	Bookclub, 6pm, Lower End [20]
Thu	9	PC Meeting, 7.30pm, VH [27] Bottisham Patients AGM, Bottisham Surgery, 6:30 [22]
Sun	12	Crier Copy Deadline
Fri	17	PoP Litter Pick, meet by play park, 10:00, [10]
Sat	18	Quiz Night, 7.30pm, VH [7]
Mon	20	WI, 7.30pm, VH [18] Brassed Off, Newmarket Cinema, 7.30pm [11]
Tue	21	Village Gardeners, 8pm, VH [21]
Fri	24	Arthur Rank Hospice shopping event, until Sun (various times) [19]
MAY		
Sat	2	Cambridge Vocal Concert, 10.30am, Bottisham Church [12]
Mon	4	Reach Fair, 12 noon to 5pm, Fairgreen, Reach [13]

Numbers in square brackets indicate page number of an accompanying article

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