

Alderford, Attlebridge and Swannington

Pilgrim



REEPHAM & WENSUM VALLEY
TEAM CHURCHES

March 2024

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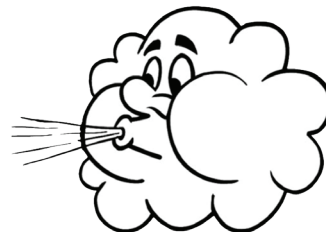
Image kindly supplied by Sheila Foster-Hancock

Dear Readers,



The month of March has in the past caught the imagination of both Poets and Sages (people of wisdom!). “The March winds will blow and we will have snow and what will poor Robin do then, poor thing?”. Well, knowing you good people of Swannington and Attlebridge, you will already have been filling and topping up your bird feeders throughout the cold and chilly winter months and ensuring the ice on ponds and in water dishes has been cracked and replenished with fresh water. How lovely it is to go outside and hear the soft twittering of birds first thing in the morning! ‘March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb’ - I don’t know about you but whoever said that , if it had been 2024, they would certainly have been out by a couple of months. Do you remember the storms earlier in the year, with hurricane winds, torrential rain, flooding, trees uprooted that we saw on our TV screens, heard about on the radio, with cancellations of trains, warnings not to travel unless strictly necessary, places without electricity and the big clean ups? Fortunately for us in Norfolk we appeared to dodge the worst of it. The pundits put it down to climate change and sadly I think they may be right, so if we can do anything, however small to combat this, we should be actively doing something now. So maybe plant a tree or two, certainly recycle wherever possible, don’t concrete over your front garden! And certainly talk to your children and grandchildren about our frighteningly changing world. However from what I gather, it is more likely that the younger generations are the ones educating us and taking steps to try and rectify our years of poor eco-management. It is pleasing that with the warmer weather on the way we will see our villagers once more out and about in their gardens, digging and planting, sharing seeds and cuttings. There will be excess produce shared with neighbours, friends and family, contributing to the Swannington Lunch Club, on offer in local Churches and some for sale at garden gates. The annual Plant Sale is an event to look forward to and those of you who grow your own will benefit, not only from the gardening exercise, but from newly freshly picked fruit , salads and vegetables and knowing you have contributed to zero miles as they were grown on your doorstep! Those of you who delight in raising choice blooms will be picking bunches and bouquets for your homes and for gifts, knowing there is nothing better than a fragrant rose or spray of sweet peas with not an air mile in sight!! for one am looking forward to tilling the soil, picking the first salad crops, knowing that the fruit crumble I eat was grown locally and hopefully in my own small way doing my bit for the universe.

Never mind, March, we know
When you blow,
You’re not really mad,
Or angry or bad;
You’re only blowing the winter away
To get the world ready for April and May.



Until next month, Happy Digging!

The Voice from the Village

Quiz and Chips

Swannington Church

Friday 22nd March 2024
7 for 7:30pm

£15 per person (includes fish and chips)

Cash only please

Up to eight people per team

Pre-booking is essential

Please book tables with Sally Day 01603 260210
or

Richard Cooke 01603 872260
cookes@richard-cooke.co.uk

Bring your own cutlery, crockery, drinks and dessert



Swannington

Coffee Morning

St.Margaret's Church

Bric-a-Brac

Plant Sale

Card Sale

Raffle



**Saturday 20th April
2024**

10:00 am – 12:00 noon

Proceeds to be split
between the church
and the play area



Call-Out for Bric-a-Brac!



Are you spring-cleaning? Maybe doing a spot of decluttering?

There will be a Bric-a-Brac stall at the **Swannington Coffee Morning on April 20th** and we would love it if you donated your pre-loved items that we could sell to raise much-needed funds for the **Play Area** and the **Church**.

Either drop them off in St Margaret's church porch on **Friday 19th April**, or bring them with you on the day.

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- Bowen Technique
- Skin Treatments



www.mrlwellbeing.com

info@mariereynoldslondon.com

Swannington Lunch Club 4th Annual Plant Sale

(with cake!)

Thursday 9th May

10:00 am - 2:00 pm



To be held on the village green unless the weather dictates that we move to the church.

Please can we ask that you put in a few extra seeds/cuttings as donations for this event?

Proceeds of the day go entirely to support Swannington Lunch Club.

If you are going to be away on the 9th but have donations, they can be left on the drive of Schoolfield, School Road, Swannington from the evening of Sunday May 5th.

Note - No sales before 10am.

Refreshments and cake (maybe more) available.



St Margaret's Car Park

As you know, we have had our fair share of rain recently and the path to the car park at Swannington Church had become rather muddy! We came up with a cunning plan to to lay down wood chips to make access a little easier and safer for everyone. Many thanks for the donation of wood chips and also thanks go to the small band of volunteers who got up early one morning and set to work with shovels and wheelbarrows!



Swannington with Alderford and Little Witchingham Parish Council

The next parish council meeting will be
Wednesday 20th March 2024 at 7:30pm
in St.Margaret's church, Swannington.



To see the Agenda and Minutes from every meeting since 2018 visit the Swannington-News website:

www.swannington-news.org

Members of the Parish Council

Sue Darling (Chair)	01603 864876
Helen Mutimer (Vice chair)	01603 754437
Doug Harvey	01603 262784
Trevor Nelson	01603 860253
John Powles	01603 261488
Steve Williams	01603 861300

There is currently one vacancy on the parish council.
Any resident wishing to offer themselves for co-option should contact the clerk.

salwparishcouncil@gmail.com

TEL: 01603 898621

Future of the Pilgrim

We are still actively seeking advertisers so if you have a business you would like to promote, please do get in touch! Our rates are shown opposite.

If you would like to donate to the Pilgrim our bank details are as follows:

Bank: Barclays
Account name: Pilgrim Newsletter
Sort code: 20-62-68
Account number: 40955353

**Huge thanks to all who have
already contributed!**

Alderford, Attlebridge and Swannington

Pilgrim

Advertising in the Pilgrim

Pricing for advertising in the Pilgrim is based on a 90 mm column width (the width of this column) and is as follows:

Height of column	Price per issue	Price for 10 issues
67 mm	£5.50	£48
135 mm	£8.50	£70

Or if you would like a larger space for your advert:

	Price per issue	Price for 10 issues
Half-page	£20	£150
Full-page	£40	£300

Offer of Babysitting Services

Sensible nearly 15-year-old with 12-year-old assistant are available for hire at very reasonable rates. References can be provided. Bookings via Laura on 07769 572318

Series for Lent

Peter and Margaret Halls will be hosting an informal Lent Series on Wednesday Afternoons in Weston Longville.

Looking at the 7 signs in John's Gospel



February 21st and 28th 2:30-3:30pm

March 6th and 29th 2:30pm– 3:30pm

All Welcome for more information contact

Peter or Margaret on 01603 880835 or

pandm.halls@gmail.com



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A Message from the Revd Richard Turk

When I was growing up, I used to get a bag of sweets each Friday. The shop down the road sold sweets from the jar by weight, and I would usually choose the mis-shapes. That way I could have a wider variety of sweets without having to buy multiple bags. Who cared if the gum-my bears had an extra leg, or the cola bottles looked like they might have been leaking? I certainly didn't. If the sweets weren't quite the right shape, it didn't matter: they tasted just the same.

In Lent, I would give up sweets. Or at least I would give up eating sweets. I still got them

each Friday, and I would keep them in a jar. The smell when you opened the jar to add each week's new bag was very tempting. Just writing about it is making my mouth water. As Easter got closer, the jar would fill up until the day itself arrived when I could open it and finally tuck in.

You may think that collecting the sweets during Lent and saving them for Easter rather defeated the point of giving them up. You'd probably be right. But as I was thinking about Easter for this article, I couldn't help but think about those sweets. And what struck me about them was the fact that they were all malformed in some way. They were all cast-offs. The people in quality control had rejected them.

Sometimes people think that you have to be a good person to be a Christian; that God won't love you if you're not good enough. But this isn't true. The whole point of Easter is that we aren't good enough. Jesus came to die for us, so that we wouldn't need to be good enough as individuals because he was good enough for us all. It doesn't matter if you have made mistakes, or behaved in a way you know isn't right. When it comes down to it, we're a bit like those sweets. We should be in a certain shape, but we're not. But Jesus still accepts us in his jar. He can see past the superficial things into our hearts, and what he sees there gives him joy.

I wish you all a blessed Easter.

Richard





REEPHAM & WENSUM VALLEY
TEAM CHURCHES

Services for March 2024

Services are subject to change, please see website or church notice boards for up to date information.

Date	Service	Venue
Sunday 3rd	9am Holy Communion (BCP)	Salle
	10.30am Holy Communion	Weston Longville
	10.30am Holy Communion	Elsing
	10.30am OASIS	Sparham
	10.30am Morning Worship	Reepham
Sunday 10th	9am Holy Communion (BCP)	Bylaugh
Mothering	9am Holy Communion	Thurning
Sunday	10.30am Holy Communion	Gt Witchingham
	10.30am Holy Communion	Reepham
	10.30am Words & Praise	Lyng
Sunday 17th	10am Café Church	Reepham
	10.30am Holy Communion	Attlebridge
	10.30am Holy Communion	Lyng
	10.30am Morning Prayer	Salle
Sunday 24th	9am Matins	Thurning
Palm Sunday	9am Matins (BCP)	Bylaugh
	10.30am Word and Praise	Elsing
	10.30am Holy Communion	Reepham
	10.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	Sparham
	10.30am Holy Communion	Swannington

Good Friday Walk of Witness

10 am Reepham Methodist Church

1:30 Swannington to Attlebridge

2pm Lyng to Elsing



Easter Sunday Services 31st March

10:30 Holy Communion	All Saint's, Weston Longville
10:30 Holy Communion	St Mary's, Elsing
10:30 Holy Communion	St Mary's, Reepham

Daily	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Morning Prayer	9am, St Margaret's Lyng (CW)	9am, St Margaret's, Lyng (CW)	8am, Zoom (Celtic Daily Prayer)	8am, Zoom (Celtic Daily Prayer)	Noon Prayers Reepham
Evening Prayer		6pm, Zoom (Celtic Daily Prayer)	6pm, Zoom (Celtic Daily Prayer)	6pm, Zoom	Meeting ID 82508875273 P/W 374589

The Rev'd Helen Rengert

01603 879275

revdhelenrwv@gmail.com

The Rev'd Keith Rengert

01603 879275 (Sunday only)

revdkeith@gmail.com

The Rev'd Judith Sweetman

07484 862962 (Fri to Sun)

Judith.sweetman@btinternet.com

The Rev'd Richard Turk

Website: www.reepham-and-wensum-valley-team-churches.org.uk **Facebook:** Reepham & Wensum Valley Events

To subscribe to our benefice newsletter, contact parishofficerwv@gmail.com

Local Events

Monday 11th March 7:30pm

Swannington in Bloom planning meeting
St.Margaret's Church, Swannington

Wednesday 20th March 7:30pm

SALW parish council meeting
St.Margaret's Church, Swannington

Friday 22nd March 7 for 7:30pm

Swannington Quiz and Chips
St.Margaret's Church, Swannington

Thinking Ahead ... Dates for your diary

Saturday 20th April 10:00am - 12:00noon

Swannington Coffee Morning
St.Margaret's Church, Swannington

Thursday 9th May 10:00am - 2:00pm

Swannington Lunch Club plant sale
Swannington Common

Sunday 30th June

Swannington in Bloom 2024

October 2nd - 23rd

Series of talks at Attlebridge Church



PILGRIM

Pilgrim is published ten times a year and delivered free to every household in the villages. Thank you to our distributors. It is supported by voluntary contributions which will be welcomed by your distributor. (Please make cheques payable to Pilgrim Newsletter). Your help is important as printing costs continue to rise.

The next issue, covering **April 2024** will be published at the end of March 2024.

Please have news (particularly of new arrivals in the villages), copy or advertisements with us by **March 15th**.

The editors are

Pam and Jeremy Smith, 4 Broad Lane, Swannington. NR9 5NH;

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