Alderford, Attlebridge and Swannington

Pilgrim

REEPHAM & WENSUM VALLEY
TEAM CHURCHES



November 2026

BENEFICE
REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Great Witchingham Village Hall

8th November

10:30

Remembrance at Village Memorial

During Service

Refreshments Chats And Reminiscences

Wreath Laying

Following the Remembrance Service at Great Witchingham wreaths will be laid as an act of remembrance at the following war memorials:

Weston Longville at 12 noon

Swannington at 12 noon

Attlebridge at 12 noon

US memorial at 12:20 pm



Reepham Road through Alderford Safety Campaign

Many of you will have signed the petition requesting a speed reduction to 30 mph before the Station Road junction through to Alderford. We still need your support. Informing the authorities of incidents is a powerful way of forwarding our case, so if anyone has any experience of accidents or near-misses to share, please contact:

drayson.catherine@gmail.com

Many thanks.



Dear Readers,

Hello again from the small band of Swannington Swizzlers! Well, there are chickens named White Sussex, Old English, Hampshire, Lincolnshire Buff, Plymouth Rock, Derbyshire Redcap, Scots Dumpy, Suffolk Chequer and Norfolk Grey so we thought why not ' Swannington Swizzlers'? Better than being a Transylvanian Naked Neck or a Rumpless Andalusian!



We live in a rather posh Chicken Hut (nouveau riche rather than Georgian splendour) and our Owners (bless them) give us free run of their property. This means they are entitled to name their eggs 'free range' - what are they like?

Every morning we await patiently by the gate to be let out, usually by the Master, but occasionally by lovely Poppy who may be visiting and always gives us a special pet! Then we're off! Into the great unknown so we can scratch, scrape and scrummage to our heart's content. This ensures our eggs have that ' je ne sais quoi' about them and are extra tasty. We have a ball but it does drive the gardener apoplectic as she has to tidy decimated borders, replant seedlings and sweep up the soil . However if they want tasty eggs, what's the problem with wielding a broom, tidying with a trowel or digging the dirt? Jolly good exercise we say, and prevents the odd human bulge or two and is cheaper than the Gym!

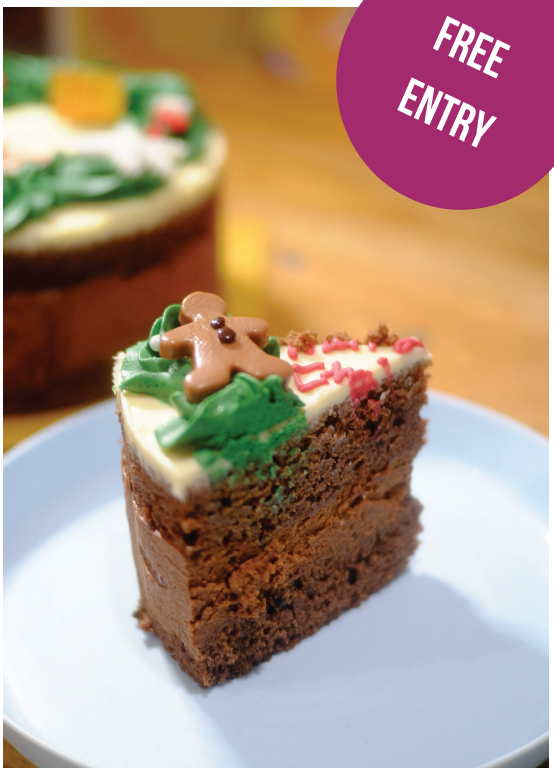
Our Owners have Cats and experience has taught us not to get too close as otherwise there's the odd flying feather and a bit of a flurry. We're not supposed to go into the house but occasionally we do venture in through an enticing open door, seeking the odd crumb or two. If caught, you'd think Armageddon had arrived: a swift dispatch for us. Mind you, in that very recent hot weather our Owners seemed to sleep a lot and as all the doors and windows were left open, we had great fun exploring forbidden territory.

There was, to be, honest a bit of muttering about picking up chicken poo but when a girl's got to go, she's got to go. Mind you, it was, we admit taking it a bit far, when one of our number decided to fly through an open window . Fortunately she did land on the rocking chair which catapulted her back out. Not quite sure if both the humans and the Swannington Swizzlers have recovered from this episode but one for the annals, don't you know

The Flock at Swannington

St Margaret's Church, Swannington

Pre-Christmas Coffee Morning



Saturday 21 Nov | 10am - 12pm

Raffle, Tombola, Christmas gifts, greetings cards, coffee, tea and LOTS of cake

DONATIONS NEEDED: Please drop any raffle or tombola prizes to Bretton House, The Street (opposite Wolvercott) before Monday 16 November, or email swannington@btinternet.com to arrange collection

All proceeds to St Margaret's Church and Swannington Play Area

SPA
SWANNINGTON PLAY AREA LTD

"Oh Yes it is!"

The History of the English Pantomime



We welcome back **Jim Stebbings** for his talk that traces the history and development of this unique form of entertainment, illustrated with slides and pictures.

St.Margaret's Church, Swannington

Sunday 29th November

2:30 pm

£10 with seasonal refreshments



Tickets available from
pamela.msmith@btinternet.com

or on the door



Swannington with Alderford and Little Witchingham Parish Council

The next parish council meeting will be
Wednesday 18th November 2026 at 7:30pm
in St.Margaret's church, Swannington.



Members of the Parish Council

Sue Darling (*Chair*)	01603 864876
Helen Mutimer (*Vice chair*)	01603 754437
Chris Drayson	01603 262394
Doug Harvey	01603 262784
Trevor Nelson	01603 860253
John Powles	01603 261488
Steve Williams	01603 861300

To see the Agenda and Minutes from every meeting since 2018 visit the Swannington-News website:
www.swannington-news.org



Norfolk Montessori

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Funding can be taken throughout sessions 8:30 – 4:00.

Please contact Samantha Mann on

07526 491307

or

samantha@attlebridgemontessori.co.uk



Our Church, Our Village

ATTLEBRIDGE

A village is more than a collection of houses. It is the people, friendships and familiar places that give it character.

Attlebridge has changed considerably over the years. There was a time when the village post office provided somewhere to meet, exchange news and enjoy a few minutes' conversation. We have lost some of those everyday opportunities to come together.

St Andrew's is, of course, a place of Christian worship, but it is also part of our village's history and heritage, and a place for the whole community.

You don't have to be a regular churchgoer to feel welcome. Whether you are interested in its history, enjoy the peace of an old church or would just like to look around, St Andrew's is here for you.

Over the past year, a great deal of work has been carried out to care for the building, including the restoration of the south windows and repairs to the organ. **We are delighted that the final funds have now been received to cover the cost of the window restoration. Our sincere thanks go to the Norfolk Churches Trust and everyone who has so generously supported these projects.**

But caring for the building is only part of the story. What matters just as much is that St Andrew's continues to have a place in the life of Attlebridge today.

Remembrance Sunday – 8 November

We warmly invite everyone to join us as we remember those who gave their lives in war and conflict.

10.30 am – Great Witchingham Village Hall and War Memorial
The main Remembrance Sunday service for our villages.

12 noon – Attlebridge Village Sign and War Memorial
A short gathering at our village sign, which also serves as Attlebridge's war memorial.

Carols & Cakes – A Village Christmas Gathering

Christmas is a wonderful time to come together, so let's gather as a village for Carols & Cakes at St Andrew's.

Come and enjoy some favourite Christmas carols, festive refreshments and the chance to catch up with friends and neighbours.

Carols & Cakes – St Andrew's Church December 20th, 10.30am – 11.30am

Our ever-popular traditional **Midnight Mass** will take place at St Andrew's on Christmas Eve, 24 December, at 11.30 pm, as we come together to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Everyone is welcome.

ALDERFORD

A Place of Peace and Belonging

St John the Baptist has been part of Alderford's village life for centuries. Generations of families have gathered here for worship, weddings, baptisms and to remember loved ones. Today, it remains a place of peace, prayer and quiet reflection.

Our church is open to visitors, and you are welcome to call in, enjoy its history, or take a little time away from the busyness of everyday life.

Caring for Our Churchyard

Over the past year, work has continued to keep the churchyard tidy and welcoming. Pathways have been maintained, overgrown trees and shrubs have been cut back, and further work is planned to care for the grounds and protect the historic building.

The churchyard is also home to a Commonwealth war grave, a reminder of the lives and sacrifices of those who have gone before us.

We are grateful to everyone who helps care for this special place. Even the smaller jobs make a difference and help keep the church and churchyard looking loved and cared for.

Evening Prayer at Alderford

Our summer Evening Prayer gatherings came to a close at the end of September. These peaceful occasions offer a chance to come together for prayer and reflection as the day draws to a close.

We hope to resume Evening Prayer next summer and would be delighted to see both familiar faces and anyone who would like to come along for the first time.

Looking Out for One Another This Winter

As the days grow shorter and the weather turns colder, winter can be a difficult time, particularly for those living alone, finding it harder to get out or facing worries of their own.

A friendly telephone call, a visit or a little help with everyday things can make a real difference.

If you are finding things difficult yourself, or would just welcome someone to talk to, please do get in touch. Our churches are here for the whole community, and we would be glad to hear from you.

Julie – Churchwarden, St Andrew's Attlebridge with Alderford

07850 855222
juliedacre@aol.com

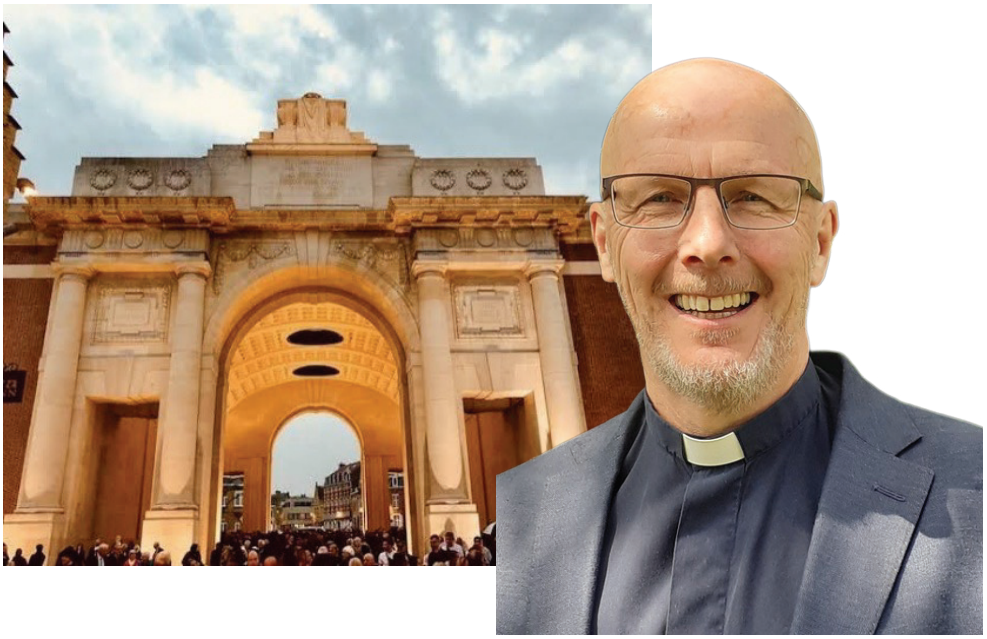
And let's all remember to keep an eye out for our neighbours this winter. A little kindness can go a long way.

North Norfolk foodbank

Any supplies for foodbank can be left in the bin provided in St Andrew's church.

A Message From Revd Nigel

The Importance of Remembering



Standing beneath the vast arch of the Menin Gate in Ypres is an experience that stays with you. As the Last Post is sounded each evening by the Ypres Fire Brigade, people gather to honour the thousands whose names fill every available space on that great memorial. To stand under such a massive physical presence, crammed in every available space with the name of someone who died in the war, is to feel the weight of history and sacrifice in a very real way.

During my years in the Army, I often took new recruits to this ceremony as part of their early training. It was important for them to understand that war is not the stuff of films or video games, but a reality shaped by courage, loss, and selfless commitment. Recruits were taught that service involves “a very real sacrifice by all those involved.” The values and standards of the Army, particularly selfless commitment, were not abstract ideals but principles lived out by generations before them.

This theme echoes the words of Jesus in John 15:12: “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friend.” Many soldiers may not know the origin of these words, yet the truth they express is deeply embedded in the ethos of service.

As we approach Remembrance-tide, we are invited once again to pause, reflect, and honour those who gave their lives so that others might live in freedom. Acts of remembrance speak of who we are, what we value, and the kind of community we aspire to be. May we never take for granted the sacrifices made on our behalf, and may our remembering shape us into people of gratitude, peace, and hope. Amen

Revd Nigel

North Norfolk
Foodbank
Together with Trussell

Christmas treats would be most welcome at this time of year.

Donations can be left in the stacker boxes at the back of Swannington and Attlebridge church

or

on the doorstep at
4 Broad Lane, Swannington

Items we need

- ✓ Chocolate
- ✓ Cup-a-soup
- ✓ Jam
- ✓ Noodles
- ✓ Preserves
- ✓ Rice sachets (microwavable)
- ✓ Squash
- ✓ Tinned fruit
- ✓ Tinned meat
- ✓ Tinned vegetables

Items we don't need

- ✗ Baked beans
- ✗ Long-life milk
- ✗ Pasta
- ✗ Tinned fish

Peace & Quiet

Our monthly reflection on the need for common sense, humanity and quiet prayer for peace is on the second Friday of the month at Swannington Church **at 6pm**. There is no structured service: we have music, silence and discussion over a cup of tea. When so much conflict and hatred is in so many places around the world and closer to home, it is easy to feel helpless. Some of us find comfort and believe we help by prayer.

Please join us at our next meeting on **November 13th**.

Local Church Services

1st November	10:30 am	Holy Communion at Weston Longville
8th November	10:30 am	Remembrance Service at Gt Witchingham Village Hall
15th November	10:30 am	Holy Communion at Attlebridge
22nd November	10:30 am	Holy Communion at Swannington

Local Events This Month

Wednesday 18th November *7:30pm*
Swannington Parish Council Meeting
Swannington Church

Saturday 21st November *10:am to 12noon*
Pre-Christmas Coffee Morning
Swannington Church

Sunday 29th November *2:30pm*
"Oh Yes It is!" The History of the English Pantomime
by Jim Stebbings at Swannington church

Every Monday Morning *10:45am - 12:45pm*
Attlebridge Post Office in Attlebridge church

Thinking Ahead ... Dates for your diary



Sunday 20th December *10:30 - 11:30am*
Carols and Cakes
St.Andrew's church, Attlebridge

Sunday 20th December *6:00pm*
Carols for Christmas
St.Margaret's church, Swannington

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 **December 2026** will be published at the end of November 2026.
Please have news (particularly of new arrivals in the villages), copy or advertisements with us by ***November 15th***.

The editors are
Pam and Jeremy Smith, 4 Broad Lane, Swannington. NR9 5NH;
Tel: 01603 860342
e-mail: pamela.msmith@btinternet.com

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