

### The Swaffham Crier

Volume 22 Number 8 August 1998



#### **Editorial**

School is out, holiday time is here and hopefully some long awaited summer weather. To all those going away this month, have a happy and restful time. For those children remaining in the village, there is the Playscheme to look forward to in the first week of the month. For those of us too old to participate, there is a display of the week's activities on the afternoon of the 7th August in the Village Hall - do go along.

I for one was delighted to see the sails on the Fosters Mill turning the other day when out walking the dog. I am sure I speak for all of you when I wish the new owners well for its future working life. It is one of the major attractions of our village and a very fitting living, working memorial to Michael Bulleid, for his and Jane's dedication and hard work in its restoration. I have sorely missed using the flour from the mill and look forward to the new supplies!

The good news is that Neighbourhood Watch in Swaffham Prior is up and running with a good core of co-ordinators dotted around the village. A list of the co-ordinators is printed in this issue so you will know your contact point. We have recently been informed that one of the current major problems in our sector is bogus callers, so the group decided that they should use *The Crier* as a means of highlighting the problem and to make you aware of some precautions you could take. Particular concern is for the vulnerable members of our community, either elderly or living alone who are more often prey to this type of crime. Sadly these criminals come in different ages and sexes and are very plausible. Andrew Badcock has written an article about it for this issue to provide some practical help. Also included this month is a leaflet on the subject by the Crime Reduction Unit. If you know of any vulnerable neighbour or if you yourself are concerned let us know, your co-ordinator can help.

Finally it is worth mentioning some future dates for your September diary - the Village Autumn Show on the 12th - so keep nurturing those flowers and vegetables! - and the Harvest Supper on the 26th. Both events are in the Village Hall.

Hilary Mengham

Cover Picture: Playscheme by Barbara Jones





The spectre of bogus callers responsible for what is known as 'Distraction Burglaries', still remains a problem in this and other rural areas, although urban dwellers seem to be just as vulnerable. This is a crime that always leaves people with a particular sense of outrage as the victims are all too

often older members of the community. The fact that our senior citizens tend to treat people with less suspicion harks back to a time when the levels of crime were much lower and communities saw fewer strangers in their midst.

The bogus caller might come in a variety of guises, the most common being that of Water Board Official, although we have all read of the many other ploys from Police Officer to Gas Man, to young callers asking to use the telephone, toilet or for a glass of water. The heart of solving this problem is to try and persuade our most vulnerable folk to get in the habit of *always checking the identification of the person at the door*. This simple act of challenging the caller can sometimes be enough of a deterrent, but the best advice is to make sure that you are happy with the identity of the individual. Try to follow these simple rules:

- Keep the door chain fitted
- Ask for identity and read it carefully, closing the door while you do so.
- Do not divulge any personal information.
- If you have gas, water, electricity or telephone account number written down, then they should be able to give it to you for you to check.
- If you are still unsure, then telephone the relevant company, making sure that you use the number in the telephone directory and **not** one that the person standing at the door might offer. (This has been done in the past, where they supply a false number).
- If you are still unsatisfied with their credentials, then politely, but firmly, tell the caller that you will not let them in and close the door, locking if necessary.

This may seem impolite, but a lot of the main agencies have invested a lot of time and money in training their staff to make sure that they follow laid down procedures when calling at premises and they fully accept the need for householders to verify their identity, and are happy to wait until YOU ARE SURE.

Very often people get annoyed by the rather pushy door to door sellers or pedlars. These people are required to have a valid Pedlars Certificate, issued by the Chief Constable of the area they originate from. (An identity card with name and photograph is **not** a Pedlar's Certificate and is worthless). Check the name and date on the bottom of the Certificate to make sure it is valid. If

they do not have a Certificate they are committing an offence and inform the Police. But all of us can do our bit, by keeping an eye out for the more vulnerable members of our community and encouraging them to be on their guard.

Andrew Badcock

**P.S.** If you know of anyone within the village who is on a budget and does not have a door chain contact your Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator as there are still some free ones available via Fred Lawes, the Neighbourhood Watch Administrator at Histon.

### **Post Office and Shop**

We are pleased to be able to tell you that the Post Office and Shop currently operating in Swaffham Prior Village Hall will be **continued** beyond the original closure date of 13<sup>th</sup> July for an indeterminate period. From the 1<sup>st</sup> August, it will be open on **Tuesday** and **Thursday** afternoons only between the hours of **1.30pm and 4.30pm**.

At the Open Meeting held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July in the Village Hall, an Action Group was elected to investigate the feasibility and practicality of providing a Post Office and shop on a permanent basis for the benefit of the inhabitants of both Swaffham Prior and Reach.

Any views or comments would be most welcome and may be sent to any of the following:

Mrs. Clare Brooks, 10 Lower End, Swaffham Prior.

Mrs. Pat Cunningham, Carters Cottage, High Street, Swaffham Prior.

Mr. Trevor Jones, Sheldricks Cottage, Lower End, Swaffham Prior

Mr. Michael Limb, The Croft, Cage Hill, Swaffham Prior





Show

## and Pumpkin Fair

This year, the Annual Autumn Show will be held in the Village Hall on **Saturday 12th September.** Entry Forms and full details of classes will be included with the next edition of the *Crier*.

#### **Cub Scouts and Beavers**

I would like to express, through the pages of the Swaffham *Crier* my sincere thanks to both Clare Brooks and Kandi Lawrence for all the effort that they have put into running the Cubs and Beavers in the village.

Kandi has been running the Beavers for 7 years. Unfortunately, this popular and much needed colony has been forced to disband due to lack of general support. I am at present in discussion with Richard Hames, the District Commissioner to place the existing Beavers into other colonies.

Clare has been running and helping with Cub Scouts for the past 10 years. I, for one, will greatly miss her. At present we have 21 Cubs, so for a small village, we are doing very well indeed.

Thank you both, Clare and Kandi, for your energy and enthusiasm.

Kevin B. Bailey CSL.



## Bellringing at St. Cyriac's Church

There was a time not very long ago when six ringers rang the six bells at St. Cyriac's Church each Sunday morning. But now, as you may have noticed, only three bells are heard on Sundays; sometimes only two. Bell-ringing bands dwindle, as people move away from the village, people

grow old, young people grow up and go to College, people develop infirmities .... Like all village bands, Swaffham Prior needs a continual supply of recruits filling the inevitable gaps.

The ideal recruits are adults, or young people 12 years old and upwards, living in Swaffham Prior (or Reach). No, they do not have to be specially strong; or specially musical, though a sense of rhythm is important. They do have to be able to show up on Sunday mornings at 10:30; and that is almost the only 'job specification'.

Yes, currently people are not permitted to BEGIN their ringing activity on St. Cyriac's bells, but we hope that this may change. But we are fortunate in having two nearby towers (Burwell and Bottisham) with helpful and skilful tower-captains prepared to introduce Swaffham Prior people to bellringing.

So what are you waiting for? If you are considering taking up a new hobby or interest this autumn, why not make it Bellringing? If YOU are a would-be bellringer, phone (01638) 741328 or send a note to 70 High Street, Swaffham Prior.

Margaret Stanier

# MILLENNIUM CELEBRATIONS Do you have any suggestions??

## A street party? Floats? Film Shows? Dances? Childrens events? Concerts? Or any others?

Please send your ideas to any of the Editors with your name, telephone number and/or village organisation if applicable.

## Playscheme 1998 3rd - 7th August

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We're five years old this week. By the time you read this, we will be well under way with a whole range of activities which, as in previous years, will all be on display on the final day, Friday 7th August in the Village Hall from 12.30pm. Everyone is welcome to come along and we look forward to seeing you there.

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Since we started in 1994, we have painted a mural on the side of the School, had a python crawl across our bare tummies, visited the Deer Farm in Swaffham Prior, enjoyed participating in the skills of the circus, had visits from local emergency services and experienced exciting drama and music workshops to name but a few.

This year will be just as varied in content, with a fantastic trip to Marshalls Airport, screenprinting blackout blinds for the School Hall sponsored by the PTA, a wide range of craft sessions with all the usual sports, and this year we are very lucky to include a Samba Music Workshop led by Matthew Gunn from the Norfolk Music Works. We have seen him in action and it is going to be great, if not a little loud! You have been warned - its Tuesday

THUTTHE

## **Harvest Supper**

The Harvest Supper this year will be held on Saturday 26th September in the Village Hall 7.00pm for 7.30pm.

Full details will be in the next edition of the *Crier* but please make a note of the date in your diary now!

### Ode to Jeremy Mitchell Gas Guns

There was an old farmer at Prior Whose circumstances were dire The pigeons were there, They needed a scare, Or they'd be no peas for a buyer.

This farmer he set up a gun, To bang in daylight and sun; It is true to be said, Some folk go early to bed And hearing it go off was no fun.

These folk rang the farmer at home, And to him had a bit of a moan; He considered their plight, And set off as he might, For the timer to adjust it was known.

So, if my scarer you hear, Then call me, (743472), bend my ear, I'll do what I can, I am the man, I'll sort it, for sure, do not fear.

A responsible farmer - James Willmott

Swaffham Bulbeck \*Bright Sparks\* Playgroup

This friendly and caring playgroup is now open again! There are still a few spaces left for sessions starting in September.

Age 3-5

Monday morning

9.15 - 11.45

Wednesday morning

9.15 - 11.45

Wage 2-3

Tuesday afternoon

1.30 - 3.00

For more information, please telephone Caroline on 01223 812417.



#### **Donations**

We are delighted to be able to tell you that we have received donations this month from Mrs Jane Bulleid, Mrs Jean Moore and the WI to all of whom we are very grateful. As you know every penny received goes into the production of the Crier.

Thank you all!



We are running again in September (Numbers Permitting)

Reach Village Hall Thursdays 7.30 - 8.30pm

£30.00 for the 10 week course

Contact Sue Summers on 01638 742884

(Names needed by the end of August)



## **Recipe of the Month**

If you have any rhubarb left in the garden, this month's recipe will make a welcome change from crumbles and pies. You may be lucky enough to have a glut of gooseberries or will be inundated with windfall apples - this recipe will work for them as well.

#### **Rhubarb Layer Pudding**

#### **Ingredients**

400g Rhubarb 50g butter or margarine

2 tsp. ground ginger 125g breadcrumbs - white or brown

50g sugar -white or demerara 75g soft brown sugar

#### Method

- 1. Mix chopped rhubarb (2cm pieces) with ginger and sugar and cook in a pan with 3 tablespoons of water until softened.
- 2. Melt butter/margarine in a frypan and add the breadcrumbs mixed with brown sugar. Fry until crisp but *do not* burn!!
- 3. Arrange in an ovenproof dish in layers of rhubarb, crumbs, rhubarb, crumbs.
- 4. Bake in the centre of a moderate oven for 30 minutes.
- 5. Serve hot with whipped cream or ice-cream.

Hilary Mengham





#### Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

#### Michael Bulleid

This year, I'm afraid, the windmill's contribution to your Festival was the funeral of Michael Bulleid, who restored the mill to working order.



I would like to thank everyone in the village who helped Deborah, Oliver and me with the arrangements for Michael's funeral. It was a privilege to be able to to use St. Mary's made ready for the Flower Festival, and the Village Hall refurbished. Thank you to all those who joined us for the service, to those who wrote such kind letters, and to those who contributed to our designated charity.

It was, I believe, a great relief to Michael that the sale of the mill property, after two anxious years on the market, was completed just days before he died. I wish he could have known how soon his treasured mill would be up and running again, and how much care and interest the new owners are giving it. I do hope that you will all give them your support. Even if you do not have a use for the product, there are several small ways (or, indeed, larger ones) in which you could contribute to the work of the mill (I know - I've done them) and make it a real asset to your community as the MILL-ennium approaches.

With best wishes,

*Jane Bulleid* 3, Mandeville, Burwell

**Dear Editors** 

#### Village Spirit

There is absolutely nothing wrong with village spirit when Tricia Harrison can organize a Bread and Cheese Lunch and Plant Stall at her house and can raise the fantastic sum of £184-odd for a local cause. On behalf of the Technicolour Umbrella Project, for whom the money was raised, I should like to thank Tricia and the wonderful people who supported the morning, both for their generosity and hard work and for the terrific spirit in which this sum was raised. The young people of this area are lucky to have the encouragement of you all.

With thanks and good wishes.

Hilary Sage Stocks Barn West, Lower End. Dear Editors,

#### **Ist Swaffham Prior Scout Group**

On Thursday 9th of July, I retired as Group Scout Leader of 1st Swaffham Prior Scout Group.

I would like to say thank you for the lovely photograph which was presented to me, thank you to the cubs past and present who took the trouble to come and pose for it and to Sally Pearson and Janet Willmott who organised it.

I have enjoyed my ten years with the Scout Group and the photograph pictures Cubs who were there when I started right through to those who have not yet been invested. It will have pride of place on my study wall and I will treasure it.

**Dear Editors** 

#### **Bread and Cheese Lunch**

Thank you to everyone who made time to support the 'Bread and Cheese' lunch on Thursday June 25th. A total of £184.30 was raised on the day with, hopefully, more to follow. The money will support the Children's Holiday Drama Project. Every success to the next production.

*Tricia Harrison*Goodwin Manor

Dear Editors.

#### **Grand Draw**

This is an enormous thank you to all the wonderfully generous people of Swaffham Prior and their friends and relations who bought or sold tickets for the Grand Draw in aid of our church, St. Mary's. The huge sum of £668 profit was raised and, of course, we would not have been able to have had such a grand draw if it had not been for the generosity of all those who donated such marvellous prizes for which we are very grateful.

The lucky winners and prizes were:- J. Aitken - Flight over Swaffham Prior donated by Marshalls; S. McLean - Jaguar for the weekend also donated by Marshalls; Carolyn Cazenove - MOT test voucher donated by Swavesey Garage; Sophie Whitfield - Car Vacuum Cleaner donated by Dave Redfarn; Elisabeth Everitt - Book Token donated by Heffers; Christine Ackroyd - Garden Token donated by Simpsons Nursery; Maggie Cotner - Boots Voucher; Henry Hurrell (Burwell) - Tesco Voucher.

Many thanks to you all for your help and support. With best wishes

Ruth Scovil

The Oaks, Manor Farm Court, Swaffham Prior

welcome

To Anne-Marie and Robert McCubbin and their young son James who have recently moved into Rogers Road. We hope they will be very happy in the village and soon make many new friends.

**Dear Editors** 

#### **Mobile Library**

There is a very real danger that this service could be cancelled because of financial cuts. Please **use** it. Newcomers to the village are particularly welcome

The times have been altered recently causing confusion but this is the latest information just received:

Alternate Tuesdays: Cage

**Cage Hill** 2.40pm - 3.30pm

**Chapel** 3.35pm - 3.50pm

Tricia Harrison

Dear Editors.

#### In Fondest Memory of Eddie Gould

Sadly I lost my best mate and father Eddie on the evening of the 9th July. He and Mum were having a short break in North Wales. Dad was taken suddenly ill and rushed into Bangor hospital for an emergency operation. Unfortunately all efforts failed to save him. As he was under a general anaesthetic at the time I know he felt no pain.

Mum is staying with us for the time being and sends her thanks for all the kind words and letters of support and condolence she has received.

The main thought I hold in my mind to console me is that he had such fond memories of Llandudno. They visited there a day or so before he was taken ill. Mum says he was so pleased they visited because he had happy memories of going there with her when they were courting (50 years ago and of course in those days very well chaperoned by his future mother and sisterin-law!).

This is really just to let all our friends in the village know what has happened. The funeral service will be held at Wicken where Mum and Dad have lived for the past sixteen years or so, and have a close group of friends in the church congregation. As yet, I am not sure of the date or time and by the time this appears it will no doubt have passed but we do thank you all for your kind thoughts.

Alan Gould



## **Excerpts from The Natural History of Selborne**

by Gilbert White, first published in 1788.

Selborn is a village in East Hampshire where White's father was the vicar. Born in 1720, he was a Fellow of Oriel College, Oxford, and in 1755 became in his turn, curate of Selborne. Between then and his death in 1793, he exchanged letters with various naturalists and the extracts below are

from his letters to them. His book has become a classic over the years and is still in print in many editions since the 18th century.

"Queen Anne, as she was journeying on the Portsmouth road, did not think the forest of Wolmer beneath her royal regard. For she came out of the great road at Lippock, which is just by, and reposing herself on a bank smoothed for that purpose, lying about half a mile to the east of Wolmerpond, and still called Queen's-bank, saw with great complacency and satisfaction the whole herd of red deer brought by the keepers along the vale before her, consisting then of about five hundred head."

"How strange is it that the swift, which seems to live exactly the same life with the swallow and house-martin, should leave us before the middle of August invariably! while the latter stay often till the middle of October; and once I saw numbers of house-martins on the seventh of November. The martins and red-wing fieldfares were flying in sight together; an uncommon assemblage of summer and winter birds."

"As to the peculiarly of jackdaws building with us under the ground in rabbit-burrows, you have, in part, hit upon the reason; for, in reality, there are hardly any towers or steeples in all this country. And perhaps, Norfolk excepted, Hampshire and Sussex are as meanly furnished with churches as almost any counties in the kingdom. We have many livings of two or three hundred pounds a year, whose houses of worship make little better appearance than dovecots. When I first saw Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire, and the fens of Lincolnshire, I was amazed at the number of spires which presented themselves in every point of view. As an admirer of prospects, I have reason to lament this want in my own country; for such objects are very necessary ingredients in an elegant landscape."

"I forgot to mention in my last letter (and had not room to insert in the former) that the male moose, in rutting time, swims from island to island, in the lakes and rivers of North-America, in pursuit of the females. My friend, the chaplain, saw one killed in the water as it was on that errand in the river St. Lawrence; it was a monstrous beast he told me; but he did not take the dimensions."



## Village Hall Report

It's hard to believe that it is three months since the official opening of the refurbished Hall when many of us gathered along with representatives from the outside funders to see how "the money had been spent".

Much has happened since then. Changes to the familiar can give rise to concerns or even criticisms. The Village Hall Management Committee is always very pleased to address any comments - good or bad - and redress the situation to the best of their ability. All user organisations have a nominated representative on this Committee who can air their points of view for full and frank discussion at the regular meetings. Please take advantage of this - it's your Village Hall.

It has been heartening to see the return of organisations who "abandoned" the Hall for many years, to receive bookings from villagers for family celebrations (weddings, anniversaries, parties etc) and from outside organisations for seminars and other meetings. These latter are "good earners" for us and as long as we can continue to keep the Hall in good condition, welcoming and inviting, we hope these will increase as the word spreads on what is on offer.

The Post Office and Village Shop continues to flourish in the capable and friendly hands of Val Clarke who has, fortunately for us, agreed to continue the service while action continues to investigate a more permanent solution. Elsewhere in the *Crier* you will see details of the new opening times from the first week of August.

Our next event is the Annual Autumn Show and Pumpkin Fair on 12th September followed closely by the Harvest Supper on 26th September (a return to the Village Hall after many years absence!). More details on these two events in the next *Crier*. We are also delighted to be hosting part of the Summer Playscheme again this year including the Finale and Display on Friday 7th August. The 3 organisers (Janet Willmott, Sally Pearson and Claire Acklam) work incredibly hard along with their helpers to "put this show on the road" for the enjoyment of so many children and we wish them every success.

Pat Cunningham
Secretary



## Village Gardeners

On 21st July, the Village Gardeners were privileged to visit Kate Child's garden in Swaffham Prior.

Mr. O'Grady, Head Gardener of Robinson College, Cambridge, who was involved in the layout and planting of the garden, was there to discuss the work and answer the many questions that were put to him.

We shall be visiting a garden in Woodditton at our next meeting on 18th August. Please be at Swaffham Prior Village Hall at 6.45 pm.



#### W.I. Notes

The W.I. had another 'Royal Visit' this summer when they took a coach trip on 11th July to Windsor. The journey in a double-decker coach was easy and comfortable and by 11.30 we were enjoying our morning coffee in the town. The rest of the day was spent watching the swans on the

river, touring the town and visiting St. George's Chapel and the Castle where we were able to admire the magnificent craftsmanship both in the old rooms and in the newly restored part that was damaged by fire in 1992. A most enjoyable day out, and our thanks go to Betty Fox for arranging it.

Thank you again Betty for inviting the W.I. to your house and garden for the Summer Party. We had a lovely evening with good food and wine, plenty of chat and some thundery showers which kept us dodging for cover. The proceeds of the raffle went to the Burwell Day Centre Ambulance Appeal.

Our next meeting is on 17th August in the Village Hall when Mr. Hallett will talk on 'Gemstones'.

After due consideration, the W.I. have decided not to hold a Christmas Party for Senior Citizens this year.

Betty Prime

## LOST.. Car keys

Any information, please contact one of the Editors.

#### **Ladies Circle**

On Monday 29th June, Ros Wright from Waterbeach came along to the Ladies Circle to tell us *The History of the Toilet*!! This is a subject we do not hear about very often but it was very interesting to hear how the very first loo was invented. We saw slides on the first

primitive loo and the much 'smarter' one used by Henry VIII. The evening was most entertaining and brought back memories to many of the members of how we managed years ago when we were without flush toilets.

#### Future events are:

24th August Alan Maskell of Blue Cross

28th September Social Evening at Christine Plume's

house, Newmarket - Bring & Buy

We would welcome any new members so *please* come along and enjoy a social evening with us.

Sandra Butcher

## St Andrews Fun Day and Barbecue

On Saturday 11th July 1998 St Andrews Care Centre in Bottisham held its annual event, attended by Mr James Paice MP and his wife. Attractions included Pony Rides, numerous games and stalls including: white elephant, cake stall, plant stall and face-painting.

We are very pleased to announce that we raised £700.00 for the residents' activities and outings fund. St Andrews would like to thank all those who attended and supported the event on what proved to be a very enjoyable day.

Laurie P. Woolfenden

Physical Rehabilitation Manager

### **Burwell (Cambridge) & District Medical Trust**

It is very encouraging to be able to report that recently we have been able to purchase more equipment for use by the surgery. After the ECG machine was bought for £2,700, further items included a Diabetes Syringe for £87, a Syringe Driver for £680 and S.A.D. light therapy equipment for £358. These purchases have only been possible through donations, large and small and given specifically to the Burwell Medical Trust. Your support is very much appreciated by doctors, nurses and patients who benefit from the equipment.

Ruth Scovil, Trustee

## Post Office

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√ √ The Post Office will be open every Tuesday and Thursday between 1.30pm and 4.30pm.

#### $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ Village Shop $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ $\stackrel{\wedge}{\sim}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ $\stackrel{\wedge}{\sim}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ The shop will be open every $\stackrel{\wedge}{\sim}$ ☆ **Tuesday and Thursday** $\stackrel{\wedge}{\sim}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ between 1.30pm and 4.30pm $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ You can buy: $\stackrel{\wedge}{\sim}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ $\stackrel{\wedge}{\sim}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ \*Fresh Bread and Rolls\* $\stackrel{\wedge}{\sim}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ \*Cakes and Pies\* $\frac{1}{2}$ $\stackrel{\wedge}{\sim}$ $\stackrel{\wedge}{\sim}$ \*Free-range eggs\* $\stackrel{\wedge}{\sim}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ \*Confectionery\* $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ \*Soft drinks\* $\stackrel{\wedge}{\sim}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ \*Groceries\* $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ \*Pet Food\* $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ \*Household goods\* $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ $\stackrel{\wedge}{\sim}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ \*Fresh Fruit & Vegetables\* $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ (Thursday only) $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ and lots more!! $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$

## **Neighbourhood Watch**

A Co-ordinators meeting was held in the Village Hall on 6th July. This was very well attended and a number of items were discussed. Andrew Badcock gave a report on the Consultation Meeting held the previous week at Bottisham. These meetings are organised on a regular basis by the

Southern Division Crime Reduction Unit and any member of the public can attend - look out for details of the next meeting on the Parish Council Noticeboard. This time the Force emphasised the problem of Bogus Callers which appears to be a major problem in our area.

After some discussion the Co-ordinators came to a number of decisions:

- we would ask the *Crier* to highlight important crime prevention issues on a regular basis, distributing leaflets to all households.
- we would hold an open meeting for the village every six months and invite a speaker on a specific issue.
- the co-ordinators would meet on a quarterly basis and representatives would attend Cluster Meetings to keep in touch with villages in our group as well as asking representatives from Reach and Swaffham Bulbeck to join us for discussions.
- we would highlight Neighbourhood Watch in our village by erecting signs at each entrance to the village.

On this last point we have a major problem as we have no money and no means of funding such signs. Each sign will cost £19.50p and we calculate we will need 4 or 5. We have asked the Parish Council for help and they are prepared to give us a donation. But if there is anyone in the village who would be willing to donate some money towards the costs of the signs (approx. £100) we would be very grateful. Please contact either Andrew Badcock or myself.

An open meeting is planned for **Monday November 2nd** in the Village Hall, it is hoped that the subject will be Women's Safety. The next coordinators meeting will be on **Monday 7th September** at 7.30p.m in the Village Hall.

We are publishing a list of the Co-ordinators names, address and phone number. If you have any queries or worries regarding crime in your road please contact your representative. As you will see the village is well covered but, despite a number of pleas, we have no co-ordinator for Fairview Grove, Mill Hill or the church-end of the High Street. Please do contact Andrew Badcock or myself if you would be willing to represent any of these roads.

Hilary Mengham

#### **Swaffham Prior Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators**

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High Street		
Eric Day	No. 26	742448
Pat Cunningham	Carters Cottage	741183
<b>Station Road</b>		
James Willmot	Adventurer's Farm	743472
Cage Hill		
Meryl Moore	No. 14	742989
<b>Green Head Road</b>		
Andrew Badcock	No. 15	743059
Adams Road		
Ron Prime	No. 1	741221
Tothill Road		
Peter Mengham	No. 12	743883
Jenny and Terry Brand	d No. 14	742161
Lower End		
Frank Crisp	Caxton Cottage	741459
Ruth Scovill	The Oaks, Manor Farm Court	743720
Trevor Jones	No 42	741197
Rogers Road		
Andrew Camps	No. 15	741018
Heath Road		
Chris Carrington	No. 2	741659
<b>Roving Co-ordinator</b>		
Kim Sheldrick	01223	811438

## Líttle Windmills Playgroup 1997/1998

July 1997 saw the playgroup say a fond farewell to the Village Hall, its home for the past decade. The Hall was to be refurbished and for the next 8 months, Reach Village Centre would provide us with temporary accommodation. We quickly

settled in at Reach and started preparing for our annual Social Services Inspection and our first Ofsted Inspection, common in schools but newly-introduced by the Government for all establishments providing pre-school learning for 4 year olds. Gradually our artwork began to adorn the walls and at Christmas we had great fun helping the Reach Committee decorate the hall and in presenting a memorable Nativity play for parents and friends.



We passed our Social Services Inspection (Jan. 1998) and would be delighted to show it, along with our very favourable Ofsted Report (Feb. 1998) to anyone interested. Like all educational inspections, there were areas of study we need to develop. We have to consider:

- 1. Multi-cultural issues often a failing in rural areas. In September we are hoping to be joined by a child from China and this will be wonderful, spurring us on with our studies of other cultures and their festivals.
- 2. Technology the dreaded technology. We need to acquire a durable tape recorder with headphones (ours is old and not user-friendly) and a simple-to-operate computer with a printer. Serious fund raising is now high on our list of priorities.

These matters need to be addressed before our next Ofsted inspection in 2 to 4 years time.

High summer, and we are back in the refurbished hall. So different from the one we left last autumn but with the comfortable feeling of home. It is like returning from a wonderful holiday and finding all the delightful, familiar things you had forgotten about while you were away. For us there is the joy of being near the school and using their playground, of visiting the park with the swings and slide and just looking out of the windows to the green grass and trees to the road beyond.

Over the past academic year, 33 families have enjoyed the pre-school learning experience we provide. To extend the provision for children under school age in Swaffham Prior, we are hoping to start a Mothers and Toddlers group in September, possibly for an hour on a Wednesday afternoon.

The playgroup is non-profit making and is a member of the Pre-school Learning Alliance. We have three members of staff, all qualified to guide, stimulate and care for small people.

At the end of this summer term, we say farewell to 18 of our children who will be starting full time education in reception classes in September. Even now, we are planning for the next academic year when we welcome back the 14 younger members of our group and we are looking forward to making friends with the children who are already enrolled to join us quite soon.

It's great. We have settled back into the Village Hall and are looking forward to a quieter year. No Ofsted inspection and no moving.

Our thanks to the Village Hall Committee for their untiring efforts over the past few years to make the refurbishment of the hall happen. Without their commitment and determination, we might still be in an old hall, rapidly passing its "use by date", instead of enjoying the lovely facilities we now have.

Brenda Doe

### Bright Sparks Playgroup - Swaffham Bulbeck

We are delighted to say that the Bright Sparks playgroup has now reopened! A new playleader, Jane Crussell, has been appointed, and she, the committee, and all the mums have been working very hard to get the playgroup up and running again. Special thanks are due particularly to Lynn Rayner and Pat Taylor, who have been mostly responsible for keeping the playgroup fires "glowing", while making very big efforts to find a new playleader.

We opened again in April and have had a very happy time in the village hall, with three groups each week: Monday a.m. and Wednesday a.m. (3-5 year olds), and also a shorter session on Tuesday afternoons for 2 1/2 - 3 year olds. Initially there is a free-play time, with many different and varied toys laid out each session, followed by a structured art/craft time. The children have been very creative and have made some lovely things such as little gardens, bumble bees, paper flowers, house models, potato prints, butterflies and seascapes etc, etc. The playleader has some very imaginative ideas and the children certainly seem to enjoy this part. This is followed by (usually healthy!) snack time, and then we go outside to the school playground, where we open up our shed of toys! By the time the children have finished playing outside, some of them are becoming rather tired, and story time, on the cushions back inside, is a welcome rest!

We have also had a lovely outing to the Swaffham Bulbeck Fire Station. Mark Ison and his colleague were very kind to us, and showed the children all the secrets of the fire engines! The children really enjoyed themselves and even had the chance to squirt the hoses themselves, as well as climbing up into the fire engine itself.

We had a visitor to the playgroup, Pauline Tansley from the Community Dental Service came to talk to us about our teeth, and we all enjoyed this visit very much indeed. The reception class from school was also present, and the video, puppets and stickers went down very well!

Our end of term treat is going to be a visit to Linton Zoo, with a picnic. We are all looking forward to this and hoping for some reasonable weather!

The playgroup has again become a welcoming, friendly and caring place for our children to enjoy and we would like to thank everyone, past and present, who has been involved in some way, especially those mentioned above and John Roebuck and Tonia Lewis (our previous playgroup leader). Incidentally, there are still some places available in September, so Mums, Dads, Grannies, Childminders etc - do come and join us! (For further information, please contact me on 01223 812417)

#### Caroline Thomas

## Bottisham Burwell Linton Village Colleges Lifelong Learning

The Autumn Term brochure is now available. If you have not received your copy, phone your nearest Village College.

Look out for :-

- \* Computer courses at all levels
- \* Four languages at a variety of levels
- \* GCSEs, A levels and NVQs
- \* RYA certificates
- \* Dozens of general interest courses
- \* Weekend and one day courses

Term starts the week beginning Monday 21st September

## **Further information** from the Community Offices at Bottisham Village College 01223 811372 Burwell Village College 01638

741901

Linton Village College 01223 892400



## Notes from the Parochial Church Council Meeting, 13th July

#### **Matters Arising from the Minutes:**

**Piano Keyboard**: A new keyboard has been purchased by the Festival Committee. It is housed in the Vicar's vestry for security, but is available for use in any of the churches, or the Village Hall, or in other suitable venues.

**Children and Communion**: The admission to Communion of children over seven who had not been confirmed had been already considered by the PCC. It was felt that the matter should be discussed in a wider context in the village.

**Drama**: There would be no drama production in St Cyriac's at the end of August, as had been hoped. Hilary Sage hoped to be able to offer young people a drama opportunity of some sort as a compensation.

**Churchyard lighting**: As the Parish Council had decided, after all, not to install a light at the cemetery gate, the PCC did not feel encouraged to undertake the lighting of the churchyard paths on their own. The Vicar did feel, however, that when the street lighting is altered on the High Street, the lamp on the wall outside the vestry should be changed as part of the scheme. The PC usually reimburse the PCC for the electricity used but had not recently been reminded of this charge, which was overdue, however.

#### Treasurer's Report

The Gift Day had raised £912, which was a big improvement on last year. It was felt that perhaps a coffee morning would have been a better venue for the offering of the gift envelopes, rather than a wine and cheese evening.

The Fete had made £1,218, which was an excellent figure. More Covenants were needed, if the Church was to balance its books in future.

#### **Social Working Group Report**

The Festival had been well supported, and not only had a keyboard been purchased, but also a PA system. A Village lunch at Goodwin Manor had raised £203, which had been given to Hilary Sage to help the funds of "Technicolour" drama productions. The Fete had been a great success, and thanks were due to all who helped, and for the generous prizes for the raffle, which had been a big draw. Attention was drawn to forthcoming church events:

26<sup>th</sup> September Harvest Supper (Village Hall)

11<sup>th</sup> October Salvation Army Concert 6.30pm (St Mary's)

21<sup>st</sup> November Quiz Night (Village Hall)

13<sup>th</sup> December Advent by Candlelight 4.00pm

The Church would compile and circulate a list of dates for 1999 to all organisations, to avoid clashes of dates.

#### **Fabric Report**

Some trees in the churchyard needed their crowns reducing, and the ECDC Tree Officer had been contacted to have a look at what was needed.

A Faculty had been sought for the installation of a seat in memory of Richard Wood, next to the new plot for the interment of ashes behind the two churches.

The reservation of three plots was approved by the PCC.

The steps in front of St Mary's were in urgent need of repair, and the churchwarden was in the process of getting estimates from local builders.

A new Wall Safe had been purchased and installed, following vandalism and theft of the previous one. The Aumbry had also been broken into, and a new lock was needed.

There was a strong possibility that there would be a grant forthcoming from the Church in Community Trust for the vestry refurbishment and reordering. The Church would need to raise 30% of the cost from its own resources, and a Faculty would have to be sought from the D.A.C. before such a grant would be given.

#### Vicar's Items

The Bier had been used for a recent funeral, and was still in the church. The Vicar felt that it should be refurbished by Southgates our main undertaker with support from the PC who own it and kept for use in the church, rather than being put back in the Pound.

The Vicar thought that it might be an idea to ask for a brown Highway tourist sign denoting Swaffham Prior's historic two churches. The Secretary would ask the Highway Authority about this.

The Bellringing team was severely depleted because of the injunction of the Churches' Conservation Trust against young people being allowed to learn to bellring on St Cyriac's bells. The Vicar would write to see if this prohibition could be lifted.

The next meeting of the PCC would be on September 14<sup>th</sup> in the Village Hall. *J. M. Moseley* (PCC Secretary)

## School Play - "The Emerald Crown"

When I was a child, I recall a walk-on (well, run-off, actually) part as lead mouse in 'Three Blind Mice'. Things have changed! Last Wednesday and Thursday, some 64 7-11 year olds, classes 3 and 4 of Swaffham Prior Primary School, put on two stunning performances of *The Emerald Crown*, a witty and poignant musical about the Rain Forest animals' reaction to the destruction of their habitat.

Lovely performances from Joe Pinnington-Hughes as the the 20th Century Highwayman (*Stand and Deliver! He's heading for the Amazon River.*.), foiled on this occasion by the rapping Toucans from Reach (twins Alistair and Robin Quant) - *What do you think you're doing, causing all this rack and ruin?* - poignant soloist, tree-fairy Catriona Towriss (*It takes a hundred years for a forest tree to grow*), silver-tongued panther Katie Groombridge, the Amazon Aristocrat Jaguar, slinkily portrayed by Rosie Almond, Lisa Reader as the white anaconda with the sweet, sweet voice, batty bats Claire Hall and Nicola Gosage, go-go-discoing monkeys, tigers, butterflies, snakes, and a host of other vivacious performances from the whole gorgeously attired cast (there are some pretty nifty mums at Swaffham Prior!).

Produced and rehearsed in a bare two weeks (!) by Ros Aisbitt and David Hunns, *The Emerald Crown* was written by Debbie Campbell, and proceeds of the performance of this work will benefit the World Wide Fund for Nature.

#### **Church Fete**

Unlike 1997, dry weather blessed St. Mary's Church Fete on Saturday July 11th. We were delighted to welcome so many residents with their families and friends to join in the fun.

Everyone enjoyed the CSD band, cream teas, side-shows and stalls. The Grand Summer Draw alone raised more than last years fete, so thanks to your generous support, our treasurer has been able to bank over £1200 towards the fabric maintenance and running expenses of St. Mary's.

Our thanks go to everyone who supported and helped us in so many different ways to make the day a great success.

Thank You All Very Much.

Francis Reeks



## From your District Councillor

Swaffham Prior has its day at the Public Inquiry into the Draft Local Plan on Thursday 19 November. This date may change, so if you want to attend, please contact the Programme Officer, Mrs Jenny Borsberry on 01353 668833 extension 345 to confirm the date. Mr. S F Day has an Informal Hearing at 11.00 am to consider his request that a plot of land to the north east of Mill Lane should be allocated for housing.

Dencora's representation starts at 11.30 am and will last for the rest of the day. Anyone is entitled to attend these hearings, but you will not be able to speak. Nevertheless, it will be an opportunity for you to hear Dencora's objections and their arguments in favour of changing the Draft Local Plan.

In the last issue of the *Crier* I asked for your views about Dencora's plans. So far, the only responses have been **against** any housing development in that field, although over past months I have received comments from a few people who are in favour of the development. It has also been suggested that the field would make an excellent site for a Millennium Wood, which would provide an amenity for future generations in the village.

I have consistently said that I think that Swaffham Prior, Reach and Swaffham Bulbeck should keep their current development envelopes and be 'Infill Only' settlements. I shall continue to press for this through the Public Inquiry until the District Council finalises the Local Plan.

Charlotte Cane

## **Notes from the Parish Council July Meeting**

Mr. Badcock chaired the meeting with four members (plus one arriving late) and 2 members of the public.

#### **Matters arising:**

**Speeding:** Mr Mengham said he would present his report at the next meeting (September).

**Neighbourhood Watch:** A report is shown elsewhere in the *Crier*.

**Village Hall:** The Chairman had attended the Village Hall Management Committee AGM and said that the VHMC appeared to have resolved the problems reported to him by the Playgroup. He had noted the Treasurers comments concerning increased overhead costs on items such as insurance, electricity etc.

Village Shop/Post Office: Mr. H Hardiment reported that the Open Meeting on 2nd July had been well attended with speakers from ACRE and from ECDC. A Steering Group of four (Michael Limb, Trevor Jones, Clare Brooks and Pat Cunningham) had been elected to study the feasibility and practicality of a permanent solution. Mr Mengham said he was concerned about the legal situation and financial responsibilities. The Council agreed that it would consider funding some of the initial admin. costs if asked to do so.

**Vacancies:** The Chairman reported that there had been 2 applicants for the vacant Councillor position. One of these did not qualify (not resident in the village for the required length of time), and the second was Mr. M B Hall. No further action could be taken until ECDC advised they had received no other nominations. The Chairman said there had been one applicant for the position of Clerk but she did not wish to be the Responsible Financial Officer as well. It was agreed that the Chairman would undertake this duty.

**Correspondence:** There was no discussion on any items in the Council brief except the Council agreed that no charge would be made to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission for the erection of a head-stone in the Cemetery. The Clerk would write to advise them of this decision.

Accounts: Concerns were expressed about the quality/number of grass cuts billed for May and June. After some discussion, it was agreed these outstanding bills would be paid but the Clerk was actioned to write to the Contractor asking for full details of cuts during these two months. He was also actioned to request that in future the Council is advised immediately when cuts are made so checks can be carried out.

The Council also decided that they would not pay the invoice presented to them for hire charges (May/June/July) for the Meeting Room in the Village

Hall as they owned the building and had contributed £10,000 to the refurbishment project. The Clerk was actioned to write to the Chairman of the VHMC accordingly and all future Hire Agreements entered into on behalf of the Council by the Clerk were to be cancelled. The Council said they would consider paying for "consumables" only when details were available for discussion at the next meeting in September.

Planning Applications:

The 3 applications received during the month were considered and the Council had no comments to make.

#### **Any Other Business:**

Mr P Mengham will be the Council representative at the Public Enquiry on the **ECDC Local Plan Public Enquiry** on 19th November.

The Chairman would investigate possible sources for the **bier refurbishment.** The Clerk would contact the **Fire Service** concerning **refurbishment of the fire engine.** 

**Open Question Time:** Mr M Hall asked whether the Council was going to talk to Dencora. The Chairman replied that until a decision had been taken at the Public Enquiry, there was no useful point at this time in holding any discussions.

**Peter Cunningham**Clerk of the Parish Council



#### **CPRE**

A meeting of the East Cambridgeshire CPRE Group was held on 16 June at 68 Commercial End, Swaffham Bulbeck. The group heard that a planning application for three bungalows at Dullingham, to which the committee had raised objections, had been refused by the planning

authority. It was also noted that the proposals for developing RAF Alconbury into a major air-freight terminal had been turned down in their present form.

There was continued discussion of the issue of Fordham by-pass. The CPRE is not supporting this, but is instead pressing for measures to reduce road traffic, at both local and national levels.

The next meeting will be the group's AGM, to be held at Ely Museum on Tuesday 15 September at 7.30 pm.



## From our Local County

**Planning for 2001** - The County Council aims to make a difference to our quality of life. Easy to write but it involves aiming high, spending wisely on well chosen priorities and working with, rather than separate from, other partners. To set the scene, the Council is issuing a plan called 'Making a Difference 1998/2001' and will be consulting with us, the electors, to check that it has the right targets. The priorities for this year and 1999 locally include:

- \* Refocusing **Children's services** with emphasis on early prevention of abuse and behaviour problems.
- \* Carrying out a **School improvement** programme, working closely with Heads, governors and parents.
- \* Responding to the Government's desire to locate much more new **housing** in the County than we might like.
- \* Producing a **transport** strategy involving all measures to relieve the commuter and freight traffic jams around Cambridge whilst helping people to reach the city easily to shop.
- \* Developing the above and other ambitions in the context of too little money now in the future. *This last point governs all the others*.

I have mentioned before how badly we compare with other authorities over the amount of money we are allowed to spend by the infamous Government controlled capping system, but it really comes home when you see the simple statistics. Whitehall thinks we need only £573 per person to provide standard County services compared with the average of £627 or specifically £681 in Hertfordshire or £652 for Essex. Bring that down to a gap of £200 less per primary pupil in Cambridgeshire than, for instance, in a Herts. school a few miles away and you will realise the problem. Nevertheless, we have just enough money to educate our children and as a governor of two schools locally I know how hard we try to keep up the high standards we have achieved at all levels in recent years.

So how will the County consult you on this and other plans? The answer is a **Citizen's Panel** of 1000/1500 people from around Cambridgeshire selected to represent a cross-section of the community. The Panel will be consulted say four times a year on a range of matters and members may serve around three years. I expect some readers may find themselves asked to serve. Replies to questions will be collected by mail, telephone or even face to face.

Turning to local matters, the long campaign for a Fordham By Pass is now at the top of the County 1998/99 request list to Whitehall for Government cash. Judging by our experience so far I would not recommend that you plan a Millenium party on it!

James Fitch



## **Zion Baptist Chapel**

#### **Services for August 1998:**

Sunday 2nd	6.30 pm	Audrey Jacobs
Sunday 9th	6.30pm	Steve Ayres
Sunday 16th	6.30pm	Tony Buttress
Sunday 23rd	6.30pm	Steve Ayres
Sunday 30th	6.30pm	Jack Chalklin

#### 'It Could be You'

Sometimes we take for granted things which are crucial to our lives, never stopping to consider what we would do without them. Words are like this. How would we live without words? Libraries are full of them, newspapers bulge with them, TV and radio stations can never find enough time to fit them all in (like some people I know!) and politicians try to persuade us with them. We read them, speak them and listen to them. Messages and information are sent and received by means of words. So are truth and lies, love and hatred, good news and bad.

The first person to use words was God (Genesis 1), and Jesus used them to tell us about the Kingdom of God. Perhaps Jesus' words are those that we take for granted most of all! After all, how many people take notice of Him now? Words are wasted when we ignore them - a bit like a present that remains unopened - and mostly useless unless we act upon them. 'Don't die of ignorance', the slogan of the AIDS publicity campaign in the late 1980s, is good advice in many other areas of life. 'Run for your life' doesn't help the endangered person if he remains standing still!

Many of us have a tendency to listen to pleasing words and ignore uncomfortable words. When the Lottery Voice announces 'It could be you!' many people will part with hard-earned money ignoring the fact that it will almost definitely not be them. On the other hand, when God says 'Whoever trusts in the Lord Jesus Christ will be saved' He is being serious and we ignore Him at our peril. When God tells us that we must turn our backs on what the Bible describes as sinful behaviour He is not joking and when He talks to us about His total love and care for those who love Him He means what He says.

Take Jesus at His Word - He means exactly what He says! Want to know more? Please get in touch.

Steve and Sylvia Ayres



## **Church Services in August**

**Sunday 2nd** 9.30a.m. Family

Service Swaffham Bulbeck

Trinity 8 11.00a.m Parish Communion (Rite B)

6.00p.m Evensong (BCP) and Sermon

**Sunday 9th** 11.00a.m Family Service

Trinity 9 6.00 a.m Evensong (BCP) and Sermon

**Sunday 16th** 11.00a.m Parish Communion (Rite B)

Trinity 10 3.00p.m Holy Baptism - Madelene Jane Bishop

6.00p.m Evensong(BCP) and Sermon

**Sunday 23rd** 8.00a.m Holy communion (BCP) Trinity 11 11.00a.m. Mattins (BCP) and Sermon

12.30p.m Holy Baptism

Madeline Anna Lewinski-Grende

Helena Pomfrey

6.00p.m. Iona service - Reach

**Sunday 30th** 10.00a.m.United Parish Communion

Trinity 12 6.00p.m. Deanery Evensong in St. Cyriac's

- ♦ Holy Communion is celebrated every Wednesday in Burwell Church, every Thursday at 10a.m in Swaffham Bulbeck Church and at Reach Church at 8a.m on August 16th and 30th.
- ♦ Evening Prayer is said on Wednesdays at 5 p.m in Reach Church
- ♦ **Bellringing:** Tuesday practice in St. Cyriac's every fortnight at 8p.m, Sundays at 10.30am and before 6p.m Evensong. Contact Dr. Margaret Stainer on 741328

The Vicar would be pleased to know of anyone needing a home or hospital visit or who would like to receive Holy Communion at home.

#### **Church Diary For August**

Saturday 1st 5p.m. Lambeth Bishops at St. Mary's, Ely and

Godmanchester

Tuesday 4th 8p.m Social Working Group meeting at

The Barn, 44 High Street

Monday 10th 'Contact 4' copy deadline

Thursday 27th 12noon Home Communion, 15, Tothill Road

Parish Register for June 1998

In Memorium Aaron Christopher Northrop (child)

Dear Friends,

#### A Church for all the Family

It has always been difficult to know how to entitle a church service which is not one of the standard, 'set' services, where the intention is to encourage people with children, and/or those generally unused to worship. The title Family Service has long been used as a 'catch-all', implying that the young are welcome with parents and carers, but always avoiding the sense that people without families should in some way feel excluded. The reason why the term *includes* families of one person even, is that family services are, truly, about the family of the Church. Some who continue to be unhappy with the term 'family service' have tried 'an all-age service', but then aren't all church services all-age? 'A Service of the Word' is another, perhaps better answer, since it perhaps makes it clear that there will be no Holy Communion, what do you think?

Whatever title we give them, we have a clear pattern in all 3 parishes, such that you could attend a family service 3 Sundays in a month - but you will have to travel! (the full pattern of worship has not changed for over a year now, and if you are still unclear, there is a sheet to take away at the back of each church). When you come, you will always find a warm welcome, no one will be concerned that you have noisy children and we are providing soft toys, paper and crayons for those who need some alternative distractions. Coffee, squash/juice and biscuits are usually provided at the end of the service, which never lasts longer than 50 minutes, even when Baptism is included, which we encourage at this service. Christianity is always full of paradox, the fact that older, more traditional churchgoers find these services very acceptable too, once they have broken their own 'duck', means that the congregation is an excellent cross-section of the whole parish. So......come!

We are being asked to consider the question of admitting those who have not yet been confirmed to Holy Communion. This inevitably focuses on the young, who may receive the bread and wine from the age of 7, after some short instruction, should the parish wish to ask the bishop for this permission. Do let me, or any church member, know your thoughts on this. The hope is that more families will feel welcome at Holy/Parish Communion services, both regularly and at major festivals. Baptism confers full membership of the Church, thus it is logical that Holy Communion should not reasonably be withheld. The hope is that Confirmation will become a more important step it its own right, and not just a 'ticket' to taking Holy Communion. To help us come to a mind on this, we would value your views. Every blessing,

Mark

## Dates for Your Diary - August 1998

Sat	1	
Sun	2	
Mon	3	Summer Playscheme Starts
Tue	4	Village Hall Management Cttee, Village Hall, 8:00pm
Wed	5	
Thu	6	
Fri	7	Summer Playscheme Exhibition, Village Hall, 12:30pm
Sat	8	
Sun	9	
Mon	10	
Tue	11	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-3:50pm
Wed	12	
Thu	13	
Fri	14	Crier Copy deadline
Sat	15	
Sun	16	
Mon	17	WI, talk on Gemstones, Village Hall
Tue	18	Village Gardeners, from Village Hall at 6:45pm
Wed	19	
Thu	20	
Fri	21	
Sat	22	
Sun	23	
Mon	24	Ladies Circle, Alan Maskell - Blue Cross
Tue	25	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-3:50pm
Wed	26	
Thu	27	Crier Collating, Zion Chapel
Fri	28	
Sat	29	
Sun	30	
Mon	31	

It is with great sadness that we report the sudden death of Felix Bradley at his home on Cage Hill on Thursday  $23^{rd}$  July at the age of 76. Felix was a true native of the Village.