



The Swaffham Crier

Volume 24 Number 4

April 2000



The Vicar is asking us, in this run up to Easter (remember the Easter Lilies!—donations to Sue Rust or Ruth Scovill), why it is we do not go to church on Sunday morning. Well, for my part, I know the answer to this. It is a lovely service which I very much enjoy. There is beautiful music and good company and of course words of wisdom, some of which occasionally sink in. The reason *I* do not go is *sloth*, a deadly sin. So this Sunday, I did go, and was rewarded by a spectacle which is hard to describe. This was Ian de Massini, who played our creaky, wheezing old electronic organ so that it did not creak and it did not wheeze, as he used to play it, which is the reason why only he can do it and make the music which was so thrilling as to summon his old friend, Barbara Ives, who also has not gone to church, from her cottage down the High Street.

As a result, I missed the unveiling of the Sundial. That is, I did see from a distance an old dust sheet half fall aside— not quite as anticipated, perhaps! (*"I told him that wouldn't work"*, *E. Everitt*) — effective though, but missed Margaret Stanier's address about the Meridian, the precise nature of which I haven't been able to find out, so I shall go and ask her. There were about fifty adults and children there, and the sun did not shine at the moment of unveiling, when the press photographs were taken, but of course came out immediately afterwards. If anyone has a photograph of a sunny sundial, please send it to us, and we shall publish it in next month's issue.

The Village Quiz night was very exciting and a good time was had by all. The results at half time were: DENSA second, **EDITORIAL TEAM: first, leading by miles.** Ably assisted by myself of course, who knew the answers to four questions, just two less than the nine-year old speciality youth expertise section of our team. As you can see, this column is a bit cramped this month, so there is no space to publish the final results.

Caroline Matheson

The Sundial

Unveiled at Fifteen Minutes after Solar Noon

Three Days after the Vernal Equinox

In the Year 2000

Cover Picture: Original Sketch, by Dr Margaret Stanier



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editor

On behalf of my mother Jessie Flack, brothers John and Don, sisters Hilary and Geraldine and their families, may I through the Crier thank everyone who came to dad's funeral and for the many cards and messages of sympathy given to us all, specially mum through this sad time.

Mum and dad spent 63 years of happy marriage together and this has obviously caused mum to feel at a loss, so if any friends and neighbours feel they have a few minutes to spare please feel free to pop and see mum—she would certainly make you feel welcome.

Thank you everyone once again

Sandra Butcher
7 Rogers Rd

Dear Editor,

I am writing on behalf of the Village Hall Management Committee to thank you for the kind donation from the Crier for the use of the Hall when collating the Crier. The Committee much appreciate it.

J. H. Cooper

As the collating team much appreciate our surroundings. Thank you VHC. Ed.

Apologies to a correspondent who forgot to sign a letter. There have been exceptional circumstances in the history of this magazine when we have printed unsigned letters (I believe there was one that was very funny!) but in general we don't. If this correspondent would like to claim authorship, we will ensure the letter is published next month.

History of Art

Are you interested in the History of Art?

Do you like looking at paintings, learning about art and architecture? Would you be interested in attending some talks on Art History in the Village?

I have some ideas for illustrated talks on Art History and am wondering if anyone else shares my enthusiasm?

If you are interested, please give me a call: Anne Hollingsworth, 01638 741613



EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

AWARDS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Do you know of any young persons in your village or neighbourhood who have done something on their own which has been of benefit to others?

Are you a young person who has done something for your village or neighbourhood during the last year?

If the answer is YES then we would like to hear from you.

The Council will give awards of £100 each to a limited number of young people who are nominated by adults in their community.

It could be you!

Further details from: East Cambridgeshire District Council, Nutholt Lane, Ely, CB& 4PL. Telephone 01353 685555

CLOSING DATE : 6TH JUNE 2000.



Charlotte Klara Flores
13. December 1999, 3.29h
2,7kg (5.15 lbs)
49cm (19¼in)

the happy parents:

Chris and Sabine - 5 High Street - Swaffham Prior - Cambridge - CB5 0LD - 0044-1638-744113

Donation

Many thanks to Elizabeth Kent for her kind donation to the *Crier*!

Report on the Parish Council Meeting

As I walked down the street to the Village Hall on this Thursday evening I was thinking about a higher level of government: the Labour Party—Sleeze--- Tony's Cronies---What You Can Get Away with, as a Minister in a Government with a huge parliamentary majority.

Down at the Hall I was pleased to discover that we are back in our own cosy room, complete with induction loop, and that Meryl and Michael were in the Visitors' gallery.

The early part of the meeting included several entertaining moments. The grass-cutting contract would be for 12 cuts starting in April, but this year's mild winter had caused an early grass growth and we needed a cut in March, but this would be in the *current* financial year. It took a good 5 minutes to overcome the problem of grass-growth failing to fit in with financial years. Then we had the cemetery problems: overhanging trees, a stump in the middle of the path (It would need a tractor to uproot it: why not a root-grinder to grind it out, I wonder?). There was the water tap, too, and the route of the water piping: where did it run? Stick in a spade to find it. No, said Eric, all you need is a hazel twig and dowser: this works perfectly.

Money matters concerned the unseemly large reserve balance: the auditors do not like to see as much as £6000 in 'Reserve', so the chairman rapidly reduced it by putting about £4000 into 'Earmarked Reserve' for payment for jobs which we have already put in hand but for which the invoices have not yet come in. This reduced our Reserve to a size which the auditors will be able to swallow.

In the 'Correspondence' item we heard a letter from James Paice M.P. telling us that the Government is thinking of abolishing Parish Councils, and replacing them with something called a Local Forum. Why? (If it works, don't tinker with it) A Local Forum, whatever that is, might have no money, and No Money means No Power. Everyone (including James Paice) thought this preposterous. The Government should be thinking of ways of *strengthening* Parish Councils. Another item of correspondence came from Reach Parish Council, which is concerned with the number of huge farm lorries which lose their way in looking for Lordship Farms Upware, and finish up trying to negotiate the 3 hairpin bends in Reach Village. Accordingly Reach had asked the County Council to put up some extra road signs in Swaffham Prior to direct drivers towards Upware; and Reach, 'as a matter of courtesy' was letting us know about this beforehand. This led to a discussion: How many lorries per day up and down Station Road? What time of year? How to make a one-way system? At this point Elaine and Meryl revealed that on one dark rainy night they had gone out by car to escort a totally lost Spanish lorry driver down onto the Fen, and we were all moved by this Good Samaritan action.

A serious problem came to light in a letter from a local man, Tom Cutting, who had made application to rent one of the houses now being built on the Heath Road corner opposite the top of Cage Hill; he was brought-up here and now has a job in Swaffham Prior. In reply to his application he had been told that all those houses were to be let to people on the *South* Cambridgeshire District Council housing list.



The Parish Council was horrified. When approving the original planning application for those houses, we had specified that priority of letting should be given to local people; and the Swaffham Prior Charities, who had also been concerned, had made the same point. Why *South* Cambridgeshire? It was very regrettable that Councillor Cane of ECDC was not present at this particular PC meeting, to see the strength of feeling generated by this outrageous treatment of a local person's application. Letters were to be sent to the Charities, and to the planning committees of both local authorities. [Addendum: A day or two after the meeting, the Parish Council took up the matter of letting with the Housing Association. They said that the letter sent to Mr. Cutting was quite inaccurate. The Association in fact would *welcome* any local applicants. So anybody interested: apply soon!]

A current planning application related to 2A Greenhead Road, the plot at the junction of Cage Hill and Greenhead: the present house to be removed and 2 new houses to be built. But we had not received plans for the proposed houses; the planning application was really just for the demolition of the present structure. It was noted that any new dwellings would have to be bungalows, as a 2-storey house would overshadow Cage Hill houses. In any case the ground could hardly bear so much weight. Eric read a geologist's report on that plot: it had been a clunch quarry, and after removal of the clunch the infill had been rubble and loose chalk which had not yet settled and was still subsiding; and that was why the existing house had cracked. In view of this, one wonders who will buy either of the proposed bungalows.

At this point Mr. Mundin left the meeting, not excusing himself to all those present but making some remark to the Chairman which the Chairman pointedly did not pass on. The meeting then discussed a *retrospective* planning application made by Mr. Mundin for a garage, already built, to a height of 10 feet, replacing a garage of a height of 6 foot 6"; this structure, surprisingly, has cavity walls. The PC objected very strongly to this building, and so did Mr. Mundin's next door neighbour, who was not pleased to find her sitting-room windows and garden overshadowed by the garage. All members present agreed that this *retrospective* application was preposterous; the only disagreement was between those who thought that the garage should be entirely removed (as it was an illegal structure,) and a proper planning application then submitted in due form; and those who considered that the existing garage could simply be reduced in height to 6' 6". Once again we regretted the absence of anyone from the ECDC who could have observed and advised; and we hoped that the forthcoming Planning Meeting will result in a sensible solution. The Chairman's reaction was one of dismay at finding himself presiding over a Parish Council which included a member who had behaved in a fashion inappropriate to anyone in public office. The PC thought that anybody who could take such an action should "consider his position" on the Council..

As I walked home after listening to these goings-on, it crossed my mind that though ministers in Her Majesty's Government could sometimes Get Away With It, members of Swaffham Prior Parish Council could not. And quite right too.

Margaret Stanier



The 800th Anniversary of

REACH FAIR

Declared open by the Mayor of Cambridge at 12 Noon.

Come and join the celebrations, with fun and entertainment for all.

Enlarged for this special occasion with extra activities and food, the fair includes:

FUNFAIR, GAMES, STALLS, JUGGLING, PUPPET SHOWS, DANCING,
HISTORICAL DISPLAYS & RE-ENACTMENTS WITH KNIGHTS IN ARMOUR,
ARCHERY, FOLK SINGING, BRASS BAND, CRAFTS, CUBKARTS,
HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN, REFRESHMENT & BEER TENT,
ROASTS, BAR-B-Q, SALADS, CREAM TEAS, And lots more!

Most activities will have wound down by 5.15. Then from 6 till dusk there will be:
FUNFAIR, TUG-OF-WAR CONTEST, BEER TENT, SNACKS & LIVE MUSIC

Entrance to the Fair is free. Parking (inc. Programme) £1. Programme raffle First Prize £50.

Reach Fair is a fund-raising event and is a Registered Charity.

BARROW OF BOOZE

The Friends of Swaffham Prior School are again organising the hugely successful 'Barrow of Booze' fund-raiser, which will take place at this year's Reach Fair on Monday 1st May. Tickets will be sold during the fair and at the end of the day, the Wheelbarrow filled with its wonderful selection of bottles will be raffled.



Last year the Barrow raised the magnificent sum of £906, it would be lovely to do the same again. It was only with the support of the parents and local businesses that we are able to fill the wheelbarrow full of bottles. Once again, we are asking if they would very kindly help us fill up the barrow. Bottles of spirits, wine, or beer would be very much appreciated.

If you are unable to go to the fair and would like a chance at winning this fabulous prize, please contact Claudine Bateman 01638 742317 for tickets. Cost of the tickets are £1 each or 5 for £4.00.

Once again many thanks for your support with all the events, it is very much appreciated.

Claudine Bateman

Swimming, bowling, horse-riding, football, visits, crafts, dance, drama, fishing, magic, animals..... just some of the ideas under discussion for

PLAYSCHEME 2000!!

Yes, planning has begun for this year~ summer Playscheme. It will take place from 31 July to 4 August, daily 9:30 - 12 noon. All primary school aged' children in Swaffham Prior and Reach, or who have attended Swaffham Prior School, are welcome to attend. The cost will be £2.50 per day, or £6 for a family ticket, with some subsidised places available. Application forms will be issued through school in the summer term; please get in touch on the number below if you will not be included in this circulation.

Last year we received valuable in put from many local residents, especially Pat Cunningham who kindly supervised essential mid-morning refreshments. Please do call if you have any skills or hobbies that may interest our children — anything from a whole hour session to a few minutes “filler” as other activities are coming to an end, would be most welcome. Or just come along to help — it really is a very enjoyable week and we have all learned new craft skills or activities over the years. We will be looking to recruit reliable teenagers again, but all helpers are welcome.

Our next meeting is on 3 April — do come along. Call me for details.
We'll keep you posted as planning progresses.

Dee Noyes — 743864
on behalf of Playscheme 2000

A WEEKEND OF LOCAL ART IN SWAFFHAM PRIOR September 23rd and 24th

Plans are going ahead to hold a Weekend of Local Art in St. Cyriac's Church and a display of flowers and plants in St. Mary's Church on September 23rd and 24th. There will also be cream teas, with live music, on both afternoons in the Village Hall.

So, if you paint or draw, embroider or knit, work in clay, wood or stone, take photographs, arrange flowers, grow plants or do anything else you would like to show people, and if you live in Swaffham Prior or Reach, please contact one of us to arrange for your work to be put on display.

Items can be either for exhibition only or for sale, as you wish.

Betty Prime (741221); **Barbara Jones** (Crafts - 741197); **Ruth Scovill** (Flowers and Plants - 743720); **Elisabeth Everitt** (Painting, Drawing, Sculpture - 742974)

Our Man of the Millennium - VII

So, who did write the plays? Marlowe? Bacon? Nope! The evidence now points to Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford. His life is pretty well documented and what follows is but a sketch. Since I started this series of articles rumours have circulated that the person who wrote the plays was born in Swaffham Prior, possibly in Anglesey House. There is no truth in these rumours.

But, Oxford was almost a local lad, born in 1550 about 24 miles south of Newmarket at Castle Hedingham. And he did own lands in Swaffham Bulbeck. When he was 12 his father died and he was sent to London, as a Royal Ward, to live in the household of William Cecil, Lord Treasurer.

There, and at Cambridge (graduated when he was 14) and Gray's Inn, he received an excellent education. He was proficient in Latin, Greek, French and Italian, as well in aristocratic pastimes. He was a leading courtier and a favourite of Queen Elizabeth. He saw some military service and in 1575 spent 16 months travelling on the Continent, including several months in Venice and Northern Italy.

In 1571 William Cecil was created Lord Burghley and his daughter Anne Cecil (then 14) married Oxford. The marriage was not entirely successful, Oxford was deceived into doubting the legitimacy of his eldest daughter Elizabeth, and separated from his wife for 5 years. After a reconciliation in 1580 there were two other daughters who reached maturity. Anne died in 1588.

He was a great patron of writers and the theatre and constantly needed money to support what Burghley called his "lewd friends". Between 1576 and 1580 he sold 28 estates, including the one at Swaffham Bulbeck, and became relatively impoverished. Oxford acquired companies of actors and, in spite of his disapproval, Burghley wrote to the Vice Chancellor of Oxford University in 1580 commending "my Lord Oxford his players, that they might show their cunning in certain plays already practised by them before the Queen's Majesty."

In 1586 Oxford was given a pension of £1000 a year by the usually tight-fisted queen. This was for unspecified services. In 1591, at the age of 41, he married Elizabeth Trentham, retired from court and went to live in King's Place, Hackney where he died in 1604.

Parallels between Oxford's life and the plays are too numerous, complex and intimate to be coincidences. Most often cited are *Hamlet* and the Sonnets. The parallels between characters and actual Court personages were widely recognised at the time, and still are today. The most often cited are Polonius/Burghley, Ophelia/Anne Cecil, Titania/Queen Elizabeth. Oxford, who knew all these people intimately, seems not to have suffered directly as a result of his effrontery.

Oxford held the title of Lord Great Chamberlain. He was an active patron of several companies of players and numerous writers. He was known as a poet and a leading, but anonymous, writer of comedies which were performed at Court. Thirty works, nearly all literary, were dedicated to him.

I select three of the many contemporary quotes which illustrate the esteem in which Oxford was held. The first is taken from an extraordinary address in 1578

before the Queen by Gabriel Harvey, then a fellow at Trinity College, Cambridge. After eulogising in turn the three most powerful people in the realm -- Elizabeth, Leicester and Burghley -- Harvey turned to Oxford and, versifying in Latin as before, proclaimed:

"For a long time Phoebus Apollo has cultivated thy mind in the arts. English poetical measures have been sung by thee long enough....how greatly thou dost excel in letters. I have seen many Latin verses of thine, yea, even more English verses are extant; thou hast not only drunk deep draughts of the Muses of France and Italy, but thou has learned the manners of many men and the arts of foreign countries."

In 1589, in *The Arte of English Poesie*, George Puttenham wrote: *I know very many noble gentlemen in the Court that have written commendably, and suppressed it again, or else suffered it to be published without their names to it ... of which number is first that noble gentleman Edward Earl of Oxford."*

Henry Peacham wrote a work on education in 1622 and in the chapter on Poetry he calls the reign of Elizabeth "a golden age (for such a world of refined wits and excellent spirits it produced whose like are hardly to be hoped for in any succeeding age)". A remarkably accurate comment. He then lists by rank those "who honoured poesie with their pen and practice", putting "Edward Earl of Oxford" in first place, and not making one mention of "Shake-speare".

From this very brief sketch it is seen that Oxford was a real man, a "renaissance man", an established writer, with the background, education, interests, experience and opportunity to be able to write the plays. The supporters of the Stratford fellow have no such evidence.

Next month: Does it matter who wrote the plays and sonnets?

Alastair Everitt



LADIES CIRCLE COFFEE MORNING

ZION BAPTIST CHAPEL
SWAFFHAM PRIOR

SATURDAY 15th APRIL 10.30 am - 12.00 pm

Cake stall - bring and buy - etc

The money raised will help fund a child's
visit to this Country from Chernobyl

The AGM of the VHMC

The Village Hall Management Committee is holding its open Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, 26th April at 7.30 in the Village Hall.

All are cordially welcome to attend and to express their views before the election of officers.

The VHMC is very active and alive, but it would like to see one or two extra young people on the Committee to introduce new ideas and experience. If interested please speak to a member of the Committee, or just turn up to the Meeting.

Janet Cooper

Secretary - Village Hall Management Committee



CAMBRIDGE VOICES

On Good Friday (April 21st) there will be a special concert given in St. Cyriac and St. Julitta's Church, Swaffham Prior by the combined forces of *Cambridge Voices* and *Prime Brass*, the Cambridge's finest brass ensemble. In the first half of the concert will be a chance to hear one of the most famous and beautiful of all choral pieces, Allegri's *Miserere*. For years this work was only allowed to be sung by the Choir of the Sistine Chapel on Good Friday, appropriately enough, with the high-flying soloists being encouraged to embellish their music according to the tastes of the day. Over the years several visiting composers to the chapel managed to write down these ornaments, enabling *Cambridge Voices* at this Swaffham Prior concert to present some of the most mellifluous examples. This will be followed by more Italian choral music, this time by Lotti, his 8-part *Crucifixus* sung in a circle around the audience, leading to a sequence of powerful American Spirituals. With the sound of trumpets, horn, trombone and drums, the first half of the concert will culminate in the wondrous and plangent setting of the *Funeral Sentences for Queen Mary* by Henry Purcell, sung in procession.

The second half of the concert is dedicated to Ian de Massini's latest work, *The Seven Last Words*. Based on the gospels' dramatic account of Christ's Crucifixion and the various personalities involved, this large- scale work for choir, brass and narrator should prove a

major contribution to the music of the new millennium, going by the excellent reviews recently awarded *Cambridge Voices*' latest recording of De Massini's sacred music.

The concert begins at 7.30pm and admission is by programme at the door (£5, or £10 for a family)

If you're curious about this new work, but at the same time rather sceptical of modern music, you might like to visit the website www.trumpet.ch where you can sample De Massini's music. On the other hand you could simply leave the concert in the interval!

Ian de Massini

**DISCOVER RURAL CAMBRIDGESHIRE
AND BREAK FOR LUNCH IN THE LOCAL PUB
LIKE THE IDEA?
COME AND ACT AS A JUDGE FOR
THE VILLAGE OF THE YEAR COMPETITION**

Cambridgeshire ACRE are about to launch the 'Village of the Year 2000' Competition, and are on the lookout for local people from local villages, in and around Cambridgeshire, to act as volunteer judges. Cambridgeshire ACRE are the county organisers for this competition which is nationally sponsored by CALOR Gas and the Daily Telegraph.

The competition runs approximately from April to September, covering 275 villages. Our volunteer judges are asked to visit a set group of villages (usually 4-5 small ones or 3- 4 larger ones) and return their comments to us. Visits are made at the judge's convenience within a pre-set timetable. The only thing we ask for, is that results are returned to the office by the date given, in order for the winning village to go forward to the next round.

Many of the long established judges look on it as a day out giving them the opportunity to visit villages that they may not even know exist, lunch in the local pub is an added bonus! Judges are asked to look out for things such as recycling facilities, tidiness, conservation areas etc. There is no remuneration for this, but 25p per mile is payable as a contribution towards fuel costs.

If you think you would like to volunteer as a judge for this years competition, please contact Di Smith for more details. She can be contacted at the ACRE offices at 218 High Street, Cottenham, Cambridge. Telephone 01954 250144, during main office hours.

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 cost £2.50 per stem last 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 Ruth Scovil's door at The Oaks, Manor Farm Court, Lower End (the letterbox is in the door at the back of the house!). Please include the name of your loved one and your own unless, of course, you wish to make your gift anonymously.



Ruth Scovil



STAINED HUNDRED

Mrs Iris Mayo of Pampisford gave an interesting talk about her village, illustrated with slides taken from photos almost 100 years old which she compared with modern Pampisford. The original Vicarage had only one room and one down which was so small that Vicars refused the living on that account, and this was replaced by a large Victorian vicarage in 1847 which was so big that vicars could not afford the upkeep and it was sold in 1960. In the late 1930s it was the temporary refuge for Basque children who were bombed out of their homes, two of whom went on to become footballers for Cambridge. William Parker Hammond built Pampisford Hall around 1830 and lived there until 1893 when it was sold to the Binney family who are still there. An orangery was added to the hall and the collection of conifers was second only to Kew Garden. The village school was Church of England but arguments between squire and vicar led to James Binney building his own school. This is now the Village Hall but needs modernisation. James Binney insisted that the village was kept spick and span and if there was litter lying round would pay the boys to pick it up which led to them creating litter when he was known to be approaching! A number of old thatched properties were burnt down in the first half of the century - said to be because the firemen couldn't catch the horse which pulled the fire-engine! We heard about the terrible tragedy in September 1944 when a Halifax bomber on its way to Holland with a full load of bombs crashed, killing most of its crew and loosening the trees so that people coming to the rescue were killed by falling trees. We saw the changes which had taken place in farms and methods of farming, and in the Eastern Counties Leather Factory which was set up because of the tyranny of the owner of the Sawston factory. The Brewery, now mostly demolished, once won international fame for the beer brewed because of the quality of the water. The Pampisford Mill was used for paper making but the business was later moved to Sawston and the changes in water level made the building unsafe, though it is hoped that it will be restored as a private dwelling soon. Five pumps were put up in Pampisford, following an outbreak of cholera, which were in use until the late 1950s when piped water arrived.

Mrs Mayo was thanked by the Chairman, Robert Hill. The next meeting will be on 12th April at 7.30 at BVC when Lyn Hopwood will be showing her collection of "Costumes 1920-1950s." Details of the Outing to Eltham Palace on May 31st are available from Eric Jennett, 1 Arber Close, Bottisham.

Peggy Day



WI Notes

On Monday 21st February Mr. Mike Pike gave the W.I. a most interesting talk on the History of Burwell Museum.

A group of Trustees was formed and they purchased a derelict barn for £50. This was carefully dismantled, each piece being numbered, and was re-erected on a chosen site next to the Burwell windmill.

The operation and rebuilding was well illustrated with slides. All the exhibits in the Museum had been voluntarily donated and were beautifully arranged, and we were shown how the latest acquisition, a Nissen hut, was erected and stocked with wartime memorabilia.

The Trustees hope to acquire more land on which to build a store to house exhibits they have insufficient room for in the Museum itself.

Mr. Pike told us how he delighted in taking school children around and listening to their comments, and he read us some of their letters of appreciation.

A most interesting evening, and all credit to the people of Burwell who had the foresight and vision for such a remarkable achievement.

AGM

The A.G.M. of the Swaffham Prior W.I. was held on 20th March. The Treasurer reported a healthy balance and the Secretary remarked on the excellent speakers and happy meetings we had enjoyed during the past year. The President, in her address, thanked all the committee members for the efficient way the branch had been run.

Margaret Phillips was elected President again for the forthcoming year and Margaret Joyce was welcomed as a new committee member.

The Manageress from the Newmarket branch of Thornton's Chocolates was welcomed as our speaker. She showed us a photo of Thornton's sweet shop opened in Sheffield in 1911 by Joseph William Thornton whose two grandsons were still employed in the business. There are now over 500 shops. We learned how chocolates are made and where all the ingredients come from. The speaker also handed round several tasters for us to try, all excellent, even the toffee which was inclined to stick to our teeth!

As the meeting was the A.G.M. the committee had provided sandwiches and savouries and cakes, so what with those and the chocolates we went home well satisfied!

Next month, on 17th April, Miss J. Oldman will be giving us a travel talk with slides on India.

The WI are organising a coach trip to see the Flower Parade at Spalding on Saturday, 29th April. Seats are available and anyone wishing to come should contact Betty Fox on 742000. The coach will leave Swaffham Prior at 10am and return from Spalding at 4-4.30pm. Cost is £9 payable on booking. It is advised that you take a packed lunch.

Betty Prime



April 2000 Wildlife Snippets

RESCUING RATTY

Once a common waterside resident, the water vole is now one listed as one of most rapidly declining mammals. Ratty, from Wind-in-the-Willows is a water vole though many, without thinking, would mistakenly declare him a rat.

The water vole (*Arvicola terrestris*) is the largest British vole and they measure between 25 –35 cm from head to tail~tip. They live at the water's edge in dense vegetation along canals, ditches and streams. Spending eight hours of everyday patrolling the riverbank outside their burrows, they consume over three times their body weight in food, any vegetation they can find.

April is a good month to spot a water vole along the riverbank as the weather gets warmer although they do not hibernate but are not so active and therefore less likely to be seen in winter.

Their decline has been caused by destruction of their habitat, disturbance and river pollution. One of its biggest predators is the non-native American mink together with weasel, stoat, otter, fox, barn owl, heron and pike.

The Wildlife Trust needs to find out more about the distribution of water voles in your local area. If you would like to help by becoming a water vole warden and supply The Wildlife Trust with useful information, then please get in touch on 01223 712400.

Why not help protect local wildlife and become a member of
The Wildlife Trust?

To join over the phone or ask for a membership leaflet, simply ring the
Membership Secretary on 01234 364213.

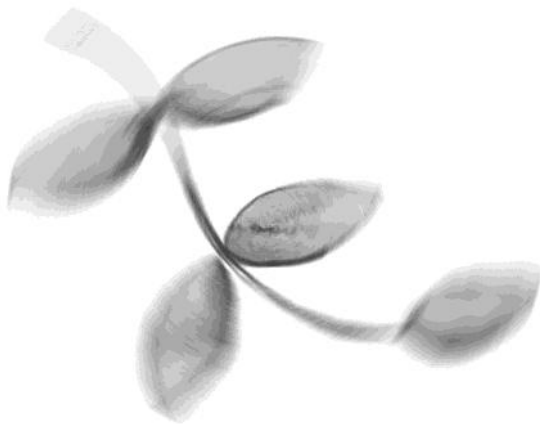
Congratulations

To Anne-marie and Rob McCubbin on the birth of their son Thomas
on March 9th 2000, a brother for James.

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- Information & advice * Home Help Service * Village Link Scheme *
* Day Centres *



A rumour apparently started in a Sunday tabloid is being circulated to Parish Councils warning them that the Government is considering abolishing them! The Deputy Prime Minister has responded by saying that Parish Councils “are an essential part of the structure of local democracy in our country and they will continue to play a vital in the life of our towns, villages and rural communities.” I would rather believe the Government in this matter than the rumour-mongers. Newmarket and Exning councils recent arrival seem to me to add strength to Mr Prescott’s stated attitude.

Rather more to the point is the undoubted potential threat to local **Sub-Post Offices**. We know the Government intends to change the payment of pensions and benefits to an automatic credit transfer system in the year 2003. This change would mean payments through a bank at the expense of a local post office for those people like me who draw pensions or benefits at our village shop. You can imagine the storm of protest this has already raised among those people who are aware of these plans.

Over the last years an average of 200 Post Offices have closed each year. You have only to remember Reach and Swaffham Prior to recognise what I mean. Credit transfer could mean significant loss of business to those remaining round here - that is Burwell, Swaffham Bulbeck, Lode and Bottisham. My elected colleagues and I are mounting a campaign to save our Post Offices and we hope we will get your support by signing petitions to this effect coming through your door or at the Post Office nearest to you.

I hope to get support at Shire Hall soon and at ECDC we have already passed through a resolution on the 29th Feb. The Regional Lib-Dem conference at Ely took similar action a couple of weeks ago. Saving Post Offices is not a party political issue for only one party but will be universally supported. Nevertheless, the Labour Government has been put under strong pressure by the opposition parties to think out the consequences of their plans and put forward additional measures to counter the bad effects so far foreseen. More news in the near future.

The quarter million pounds to start the planning and design stage of the **Fordham by-pass** is most welcome. When built [2—3 years?] it will run from south of Fordham to the south end of the Soham by-pass running alongside the rail crossing the Burwell-Fordham road.

The new **cycle/footpath** from the S.Cambs E.Cambs border beyond Douglas’s car sales on the A1303 to the bottom of Bell Rd on the west side will now at last be built this year starting very soon. The rest of the path to Quy should follow before long just as soon as SCDC can make the money available. At Lode we shall get a proper path to connect Lode crossroads with Anglesea Abbey. Lastly in this report, Swaffham Prior will get its path behind the lay-by on Mill Hill this year.

James Fitch



You will all be aware of the forthcoming elections for a Mayor of London. This is just a part of the Government's plans to change the way local government works. They have already set up Regional Agencies, but these are QUANGOs, with no accountability to you the electorate. We are in the East of England Region, which covers Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. The local authorities in these six Counties have joined together into a Regional Assembly to work with the Government's Agency, which is called Go-East. I represent East Cambridgeshire District Council on this body. As well as seeking to bring some democratic accountability to Go-East we also lobby for the Region within the European Union. It is generally thought that the Government will eventually re-organise Counties and Districts into a single level of Government, similar to the Unitary authority in Peterborough with a Regional level. The big question is whether that Regional level will be elected by local people or appointed by Central government as it is at the moment. Meanwhile, the Government has told us to re-organise how we run the District Council. They have given us just three options for the new structure. Under all three options, Councillors would be elected to represent wards, as happens at the moment. The options are:

1. A directly elected Mayor with a Manager. The Mayor would be elected by everyone across East Cambs and would appoint a professional manager to run the Council. The Mayor would decide the policy of the Council, with the Councillors scrutinising the Mayor's decisions.
2. A directly elected Mayor with a Cabinet. The Mayor would be elected by everyone across East Cambs and would appoint about 5 Councillors to serve in the Cabinet. The Mayor and the Cabinet would decide the policy of the Council. The other Councillors would scrutinise the Cabinet's decisions.
3. A Council Leader and Cabinet. Councillors would elect a Leader from amongst themselves. Then either the Council would elect the Cabinet or the Leader would select their Cabinet of about 5 people. The Leader and the Cabinet would decide the policy of the Council. The other Councillors would scrutinise the Cabinet's decisions.

The Council is consulting widely on which of the three options local people want. I would be interested to hear your views.

Charlotte Cane

Notes from the Parish Council March Meeting

Mr Andrew Badcock chaired the meeting with 7 members and 3 members of the Public.

Matters Arising

Grasscutting: After discussion of estimates received, it was agreed to instruct Mr Shreeve to carry out the grasscutting for the 2000 season. It was also agreed that the Clerk ask Mr Shreeve to carry out an early cut in certain areas.

Recreation Ground: Reports of fly-tipping had been received by the PC. The Clerk contacted ECDC and the Environment Agency. ECDC agreed to clear away the rubbish. The possibility of some form of barrier across the opening to the Recreation Ground was discussed but it was felt to be unnecessary at this time.

Lower End - Ditch: It was agreed to ask Mr Shreeve to provide an estimate for cutting and clearing this ditch.

Cemetery Matters: A Yew tree donated by ECDC had been planted in the cemetery. After discussion, the Clerk was instructed to seek estimates for the necessary work to cut back and shape the trees, etc., that were beginning to overhang.

Exclusive Grants of Burial: These were agreed.

Reports

Councillor Fitch & Councillor Cane had tendered their apologies and were not present to report. Councillor Fitch asked the Clerk to report to the meeting that the much needed footpath at the lay-by on Mill Hill is to go ahead.

Correspondence Received

A letter had been received from CCC noting that some repair work will be carried out to the **footpath at the Beeches** sometime in April.

Acknowledgment had been received from CCC - "Parish Path Partnership 2000/2001" of the PC's application for possible funding towards the **footpath at Camping Close**.

Hereward Housing wrote asking about the possibility of attending some of the P.C. meetings to maintain close links and good relations with the Village. It was agreed that Hereward Housing should be invited to attend the Annual General Meeting.

A letter had been received from Reach P.C. asking about the possibility of **directional signs** at the Junction of Station Road & High Street and on the main Swaffham Bulbeck/Burwell Road pointing down the slip road into Swaffham Prior to help with the problem of lorries getting lost and ending up trying to navigate the bend at the bottom of Fair Green in Reach. The PC will investigate further.

Accounts for Payment: These were agreed.

Planning Matters

Windmill Cottage, 34 Mill Hill: Replacement Garage (retrospective). A letter had been received from ECDC noting that this matter was to go to the Planning Committee in April for consideration.

Application: 2A Green Head Road. Demolition of existing dwelling and outline

application for two dwellings. This application was discussed and the Clerk was instructed to write to ECDC to ask for more detailed information on the type of dwelling that might be erected.

Approval: Upware. Certificate of Lawfulness of Existing Use of Development.

Any Other Business

The Youth Club had contacted the P.C. about the problems of **dog fouling** on Town Close, asking about the possibility of a sign to ban dogs from the area, The Clerk was asked to refer this matter to the Parochial Charities for consideration at their next meeting.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday, 13th April 2000 at the Village Hall.

Karen King
Clerk of the Parish Council

What's On—in Neighbouring Villages

Arts in Cambridge on Tour: *Respectable Groove*

Fri 7th, 7.45pm: Sawston Villlage College 01223 834678

Sat 8th, 7.30pm: Wimblington Parish Hall 01354 741538

Bottisham Swimming Pool

Reopens Saturday 15th April with Free Swimming Weekend.

Sat 15th: 10am-12 noon 2pm-4pm

Sun 16th: 10am-12 noon 2pm-4pm 4pm-6pm

Full programme starts Monday 17th April

Friends of Bottisham Village College

Fashion Show and Sale at Bottisham Village College

Friday 7th April 7.30pm, £2 entry. Tickets from Sue on 01223 812194.

May 10, 11, 12 — **Bikeshead Theatre Company** present *Julie's Café*
2000, 8pm at the Drama Studio, Bottisham Village College. Tel: 01223 812176.

SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION CUTS INJURIES

The number of injury accidents in Suffolk has been cut by a fifth on roads with a new 30 mph speed limit, according to a study by Suffolk County Council. Statistical analysis shows there to have been 30 fewer accidents than would have occurred without the new limits since they were introduced on 60 mph and 40 mph roads through villages three years ago.

(Source: *Local Transport Today*, Issue 276, 4 November 1999)

PCC Meeting, WEDNESDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2000

1. Matters Arising

a) Lambeth Palace visit: only half the numbers needed to fill the coach had booked places. The trip would be advertised in The Crier and then a decision would be made about whether to order a smaller coach.

b) Sacred Music: Ian de Massini had offered the services of 'Cambridge Voices' to sing in the various chapels and churches of the parish during the year.

c) Church Finance: a draft letter of appeal to specific people was discussed and amended accordingly by the PCC. This would be sent out as soon as possible.

d) Soham and Wicken: the new priest-in-charge of Soham and Vicar designate of Wicken is the Rev. Timothy Alban-Jones, to be licensed by the Bishop of Huntingdon on Friday, 19th May at 7.30 p.m. He will be assisted by a newly ordained Peter-tide Deacon, the Revd Brin Singleton.

e) Reach recipe book: it had been decided to postpone publication until October 14th (St Etheldreda's Fair), so that an enlarged, illustrated edition could be prepared.

f) Parish Mission Statement: Alasdair Coles read out a draft Mission Statement for the united parish of Swaffham Prior and Reach, and Specific Objectives for the next twelve months. The PCC heartily approved, in principle, to be ratified at the next meeting with the tabled version. The Mission Statement will have to be sent to Rev. Malcolm Raby, the Diocesan adviser in mission and evangelism at Ely by May 2000.

2. Future dates decided at the meeting of Feb 9th

Church Fete and Draw: June 24

Carl Rutti; Piano recital: July 18

Musical event; the Manor: September 3

Macmillan Coffee Morning; Ruth Scovil: September 29th

3. Fabric Reports

(SP) The Centenary Restoration Appeal leaflet was discussed, and amendments suggested. It was decided that the leaflet should be on glossy paper, perhaps with a photograph of St Mary's, so that it would be more eye-catching. This needs to go out as soon as possible.

The hand-rope up the staircase of St Cyriac's, in memory of Sylvia Butcher, would soon be in place. However, there was still some debate about who should finance the automatic winding of the clock. The Parochial Charities had given £1000, but the PCC and the Parish Council would probably have to contribute something in addition to prospective ECDC grant-aid (John Norris to progress)

Another meeting had been held on Saturday 12th in Reach Church. Ranald Scott had offered to paint the front door and help with woodwork, and local builders and craftsmen would be tendering to the architect for building work like moving the font. Volunteers would help demolish the lobby, but professional work must be done on the glazing. It was hoped that costs would be much less than had been anticipated at first. Faculties had now gone to the Diocesan Registrar, and an appeal for money

would be launched in Reach soon. The Historic Churches Trust would also be appealed to for a grant.

4. Annual Vestry and Parochial Church Meeting

This would take place in Swaffham Prior School at 7.30 p.m. on Monday April 10th. The Vicar proposed that, in accordance with the Bridge Report, the new PCC should not exceed 15. There should be 2 Churchwardens and one Deputy, of which one would represent Reach in particular; not more than 7 members representing Swaffham Prior and not more than 4 representing Reach, out of which will be elected 2 Treasurers, 1 PCC Secretary, and 2 Deanery Synod representatives. There will be vacancies for two churchwardens as Frank Riggs is standing down and Andrew Graham is moving away from the area. Andrew was thanked for all his hard work over the past year, and regret expressed at his leaving. One new Treasurer would have to be elected for Reach. Reports for this meeting from officers to the Vicar by Sunday 26th March at the latest please.

From the Parish Registers for April

Holy Baptism: Edward James Neve (Swaffham Bulbeck)
Freya Beth Thomas

In Memoriam: Reginald Gordon Fisher (90) (formerly of Swaffham Prior)
Arthur Cyril Thompson (80) (formerly of Swaffham Bulbeck)

The queen has approved the nomination of the Right Reverend Anthony John Russel BA DPhil for election as Bishop of Ely in succession to the Right Reverend Stephen Sykes.

Dr Russel is currently Area Bishop of Dorchester within the Diocese of Oxford; he is 57.

Former Swaffham Prior residents who have died recently:

Bob Riley (formerly of Adams Rd)

Reg Fisher (formerly of the Beeches)

Percy (Verdun) Fendick (formerly of Green Head Rd - Cecily Watson's father)

Eileen Wilson (formerly of Fair View Grove)

Zion Baptist Chapel funeral

Donald Flack of Mill Hill

Swaffham Bulbeck Church funeral

Sylvia Woolley of Tothill Road



Church Services

April 2000

ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck

ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior

ST ETHELREDA & THE HOLY TRINITY

MOTHERIN
G SUNDAY/
LENT 4

5

8:00am
Holy Communion[†]
9:30am
Family Service + Holy
Baptism of William
Jacobs

11:00am
Family Service
6:00pm
Holy Communion

3:30pm
Family Service

LENT 5

Sun
9

9:30am
Parish Communion
12:15pm
Holy Baptism of
Lucca Clark

11:00am
Parish Communion
6:00pm
Evensong[†] and Sermon

8:00am
Holy Communion[†]

PALM
SUNDAY

Sun
16

9:30am
Village Communion
and Dramatised
Gospel

8:00am
Holy Communion[†]
11:00pm
Mattins[†] and Dramatised
Gospel

6:00pm
Evensong[†] and
Sermon

Palm crosses will be blessed and distributed at every service

HOLY
WEEK

Mon
17

7:00pm
Compline (Night
Prayer)

Tue 18

7:00pm Compline

Wed 19

7:00pm Compline

MAUNDAY
THURSDAY

20

6:30am
Commemoration of
the Late Supper

9:00am—Midnight
Night Watch



Church Services—Continued

April 2000

	ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck	ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior	ST ETHELREDA & THE HOLY TRINITY
<i>GOOD FRIDAY</i>	10:00am Young People's Workshop 11:30am Family Service	1:30-3:00pm Devotional Service 7:30pm Music for Holy Week <i>Cambridge Voices in St. Cyriacs</i>	
<i>HOLY SATURDAY</i>	3:00pm Holy Matrimony Ackroyd +Martinson (Swaffham Prior)	7:00pm Easter Eve Vigil Readings, Paschal Fire and Renewal of Baptismal Vows	
<i>EASTER DAY</i>	9:30am Parish Communion	11:00am Parish Communion 6:00pm Easter Evensong [†] and Sermon	8:00am Holy Communion [†]
<i>LOW SUNDAY</i>	8:00am Holy Communion [†]	10:00am United Parish Communion 12.00 noon Holy Baptism of Lucy+Gemma Menzies-Kitchin	3:00am Holy Baptism of Danny Withal 6.30pm Songs of Praise
Sun 30			
Holy Communion	1 st Thursdays 10am, Swaffham Bulbeck Church		
Evening Prayer	Tuesdays, 5:30pm, Swaffham Bulbeck		
	Wednesdays, 5:30pm, Reach		
	Thursdays, 5:30pm, Swaffham Prior		
Sunday School	Not meeting this term. Creche facilities available as required.		
Bellringing	Tuesdays, fortnightly 8pm. St. Cyriacs. Contact: Dr Margaret Stanier on 741328.		
Housegroup	Tuesdays, 8pm, fortnightly in Reach.		
	Contact Olivia Cole 743434, Juliet Vickery 742676		
Mothers Union	1 st Mondays, 2:15pm, c/o Free Church, Commercial End.		
	Contact Win Norton on 01223 811509		
Toddlers Service	3rd Thursdays @ 11:30am for 15 minutes in Reach Church or Centre		

Dear Friends,

The two villages have 1 school, 1 playgroup, 1 mother-and-toddler group, 1 gardening club, 1 parochial charity, and though we have 2 churches, 1 parochial church council for the ecclesiastical parish of Swaffham Prior with Reach. Thus, restating the legality, St Mary's Swaffham Prior is the parish church; St Etheldreda & The Holy Trinity is the *chapel-of-ease* (= makes it easier for people in Reach to go to church). For this reason, people from Reach *may* be baptised, married or buried at/ from St Mary's, as of right.

The **Annual Vestry & Parochial Church Meeting** for the parish is therefore for both villages, and this year is being held on ***Monday 10th April in the School Hall, Swaffham Prior @ 7.30pm***. The Vestry Meeting, as usual, will elect 2 churchwardens, (and a deputy warden), and all those on the civil electoral registers are eligible to vote. The Parochial Church Meeting then hears officers reports, and reports from the working groups, before electing a new parochial church council for the ensuing year. An *annual meeting pack*, containing written reports and the 1999 accounts, will be available from both churches from Mothering Sunday 2nd April; do please take a copy to peruse ahead of 10th April.

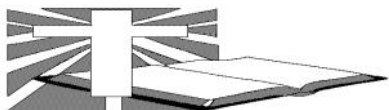
Under 'Vicar's Report', I would like to take the opportunity to hear **"views from the floor"** about our monthly worship pattern. I am particularly concerned to meet peoples needs in this area, commensurate with what is possible, bearing in mind my other Sunday services at Swaffham Bulbeck. In particular the 2nd (Swaffham Prior) & 3rd (Reach) Sunday 11.00am Family Services, though well-advertised, planned, and dare I say executed, are indifferently attended away from the major festivals. If you are unable to come to the meeting, and have something helpful to say on this subject, I would be glad of a note from you please.

You will soon be receiving through your letter-box a St Mary's Swaffham Prior's **Centenary Restoration Appeal** leaflet. This invites your financial support for improvements to the parish church viz, hand-rails (already installed), refurbished kitchen and vestry, installation of a sound reinforcement system and loop for the hard-of-hearing, and improved lighting and electrics, a new altar and new speakers for the electronic organ. The **target is £10,000; please help us achieve** this after you have seen the details in the leaflet.

As Easter falls very late this year, April contains the last 2 weeks of Lent plus Holy Week, thus, this month, I offer the church's **Sacrament of Reconciliation**, privately, to anyone seeking forgiveness of sins, in this particular season of self-examination and spiritual growth.

Carolyn, Sarah, Lucy, & Oliver join me in wishing you a happy and blessed Eastertide.

***Your Parish Priest,
Mark***



Zion Baptist Chapel

Services for April:

Sunday	2 nd	10.30am	No Service
		6.30pm	David Bousfield (Communion)
Sunday	9 th	6.00pm	David Bousfield
Sunday	16 th	6.30pm	Gordon Dann
Friday	21 st	3.30pm	Open Air Service - followed by tea at 5pm
		6.30pm	Evening Worship - David Bousfield
Sunday	23 rd	10.30am	Easter Family Service
		6.30pm	David Bousfield
Sunday	30 th	6.30pm	No Service (instead join Reach Songs of Praise)

A New Start...

Living in Britain there is much to be grateful for - a tradition of political freedom, relative prosperity for many, opportunities for education, travel and leisure. But there is much that gives cause for concern. There is the increasing breakdown of family life, a rising prison population, widespread drug and alcohol abuse, institutional racism.

This year marks a unique time in Christian history. Opinion polls tell us that the Millennium is seen as a significant opportunity for change and a new start. The Millennium celebrations at the turn of the year were the start of celebrations to mark this moment in history. I don't know about you, but at midnight December 31st 1999 my wife and I were talking about people and events we remembered from our lives together. We also thought about the future and our hopes for our children. Our hope was that the millennium could mark a new start for them.

Our nation is proud of its heritage. Yet many recognise that it has lost its spiritual heritage and memory. Consequently it has lost its sense of direction for the future. Perhaps, if nothing else, the Millennium can point us to what we have forgotten. The millennium celebrates the arrival of God on earth in Jesus. We may debate the exact time of his arrival, but we have chosen to celebrate his coming according to our modern calendar by turning the clock from BC to AD and this year celebrating 2000 years of AD time.

With Easter 2000 AD on the horizon it is an appropriate time to make a new start. It is the time we remember that Jesus came to earth to offer us real hope despite our many causes for concern. He came to tell us that God loves us and wants us to know him. But so often we want to do things our own way rather than God's way. This selfishness and sin separates us from God. However by giving his life for us, as he did that first Easter, Jesus opened up the only way to restore our friendship with God. As we remember this and as we recognise our need to accept Jesus, we can know God's forgiveness for the wrong things we have done. We can make a new start and regain his friendship.

Why don't you plan to make a new start this year? There's no better time than at Easter. There's no better place than at church. Come along and find out more.

David Bousfield

Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish

Masses: Newmarket: Sat 1830; Sun 0900,1030,1700;

Kirtling: Sun 0945; Soham 1700

In Bottisham Parish Church, Sun 0900 (Served from Cambridge).

From John Morrill, Deacon to the Roman Catholic Community

In July 1653 Oliver Cromwell pleaded with a Parliament to give the widest measure of religious freedom to 'all species of Protestants'. And he said: "*I confess in my pilgrimage I did read that scripture often in Isaiah 41:19 when God gave me and my fellows some encouragement he would be there...And what would he do? And to what end? That he might plant in the wilderness the cedar and the shittah tree [the acacia], and the myrtle and the palm tree together. To what end? That they might know and consider, and understand together that the hand of the Lord hath done this; and that the Lord hath created it, and that he hath wrought all salvation and deliverance which he hath wrought, for the good of the whole flock. Therefore I beseech you have a care of the whole flock. Love all the sheep, love the lambs, love all and tender all, and cherish all, and countenance all. And if the poorest Christian, the most mistaken Christian, should desire to live peaceably and quietly under you, soberly and humbly desire to lead a life in godliness and honesty, let him be protected.*" It was 200 years before all Christians in Britain had complete freedom of religion and something approximating to equal rights (eg to education and access to public office) so his words have great prophetic power. Those poetic words of the various trees recognising in one another's beauty and dignity the grandeur of God's design struck me with new force last week during which I encountered two equally impressive and powerful manifestations of the human response to God. I spent three days in the West of Ireland, one of them in the great (Catholic) Marian shrine of Knock. There, in 1879, sixteen people in different places around the village church saw a vision of the Virgin Mary, St Joseph and the Apostle John on the gable of the church. Many came out of their homes and surveyed the scene in wonder. Subsequent cross-examination failed to shake the firmness and unity of their testimony. I accept it. Whether you do or not, I defy anyone to go to that place and not feel the profound peace instilled into the fabric of the shrine by more than a century of prayer and devotion. Here millions of people have come as pilgrims to share their deepest hopes and fears, suffering and joy, with God. The forms of devotion are utterly Catholic, the result a place of holy-ness. I came back from Knock and attended, as chair of Churches Together in Burwell, the induction of Kevin Burdett as minister of the Burwell Baptist Church. This too was a powerful and moving occasion. There was deep joy in the service, a shining honesty in the statements made about what led the fellowship to invite Kevin to be their minister and about what led him to accept. Praises were sung and prayers iterated in a way that was utterly Baptist and utterly un-Roman Catholic. But the same God was palpably present, the same peace and joy that I had felt at Knock. As Cromwell might say: God has planted in the wilderness the cedar and the acacia tree, and the myrtle and the palm tree together. To what end? That we might know and consider, and understand together, that the hand of the Lord hath done this.

Dates for Your Diary - April 2000

Sat	1	
Sun	2	
Mon	3	Mothers Union, Swaffham Bulbeck, 2:15pm Playscheme 2000 Meeting (contact Dee Noyes, 743864)
Tue	4	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Wed	5	Cubs, Village School, 6.30-8:00pm.
Thu	6	
Fri	7	Fashion Show and Sale, BVC, 7:30pm
Sat	8	Stanier's Crucifixion, St Andrew's, Isleham, 7:00pm
Sun	9	
Mon	10	Annual Vestry & PCC Meeting, School Hall, 7:30pm
Tue	11	
Wed	12	"Costumes 1920-1950s", Staine Hundred, BVC, 7:30pm
Thu	13	PC Meeting, Village Hall
Fri	14	Crier Copy Deadline
Sat	15	Annual Church Spring-clean (with coffee!), 9:30am Ladies Circle Coffee Morning, 10:30am-Noon
Sun	16	
Mon	17	WI, Travel talk by Miss J. Oldman
Tue	18	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Wed	19	
Thu	20	
Fri	21	Good Friday Cambridge Voices Concert, St Cyriac's, 7:30pm
Sat	22	
Sun	23	Easter Sunday
Mon	24	
Tue	25	
Wed	26	VHMC AGM, Village Hall, 7:30pm
Thu	27	Crier Collating, Village Hall, 2:30pm
Fri	28	
Sat	29	WI outing to Spalding Flower Parade, leaving at 10:00am
Sun	30	

Future Dates:

Sat 13th May - Village Feast

Sun 18th June - Open Gardens