



The Swaffham Crier

Volume 24 Number 9

September 2000



All quiet on the clock front this month, save for Margaret Stanier's pithy translation from Seneca (our one contribution to the Letters page in this issue). Suspiciously quiet, in fact, but we understand that the Churches Conservation Trust has written to the Parish Council Chairman setting out in detail the various options (all of them needing more money from the village!) which could be pursued. Expect more news next month when the Parish Council meet again.

Actually, there is a problem that *no-one has thought of yet!* Well, except Seneca. We shall have two chiming clocks in the village and we can't have them chiming together — that would mess up the sound. One of them will have to agree to be wrong. This reminds me of a holiday stay a few years ago in La Pera, a little Spanish village built as ever on a near vertical drop, which did indeed have two chiming clocks which chimed right outside our window, with one chiming 3 minutes before the other.

Charlotte Cane provides us with a timely reminder that we must fill in our Electoral Register Forms this month if we want to be able to vote next year in local elections, and possibly a national election or referendum. If we don't, we won't get a vote. See last month's *Crier* (page 16) for more details.

James Fitch wants to know what we would think about the introduction of a 20 mile speed limit into our village. I would certainly agree with this. This last year has shown a happy increase (well, I think so, anyway) in the number of village children who are coming out to play instead of sitting at home, presumably hunched over a television or computer game. It would be good to give them a safer environment. Considering the amount of fuss that is made over the installation of 'safe' play-equipment, this is a long over-due measure.

Many thanks to all those contributors who sent in their copy on time this month. Quite *remarkably*, *markedly* few missed the copy date on the 14th! And I'm sure we've forgotten who they were. Perhaps ...

Don't forget to submit an entry for the Harvest Produce Show on the 16th of this month (there's an enclosed leaflet giving details). And see the Diary! There's a lot going on this September, including that Red Letter day for all parents: BACK-TO-SCHOOL on the 5th.

Caroline Matheson

Cover Picture: by Gloria Fidoe



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

THE VILLAGE CLOCK

Everyone in Swaffham Prior is pleased to see the clock back again and functioning perfectly.

I check it against my watch whenever I pass - correct to the minute. So perhaps Seneca was wrong when he wrote: 'Facilius inter philosophos quam inter horologia conveniet'—which might be translated 'It is easier to gain agreement among philosophers than among clocks or villagers.'

Margaret Stanier

Has anyone lost a very young, very friendly female cat?
Call 741876 for details.

Harvest Time is Here Again

Yes, with this copy of the *Crier*, you will find a full list of the classes and your usual entry form for the '**Harvest Produce Show**'. There is no entry fee, you can enter as many classes as you want, **nor** do you have to live in the village to exhibit or join us for the show. There are no prizes (except for the children's classes) but the prestige of showing your vegetables, fruits, flowers, jams and pickles, your cakes, bread, scones and 'vintage' wines in a friendly yet competitive spirit is rewarding and **fun**. All you have to do is pop your exhibits to the Village Hall any time between 8.30am and 11.30am and we do the rest. Judging and allocation of prize cards takes place behind closed doors, then promptly at 3.00pm the doors will be re-opened for you all to come and look round, enjoy a cream tea then join in the fierce, fast and furious bidding of the **Grand Auction starting at 4.00pm**. It's all great fun so do come along and join the grand gathering of the village at Harvest Time.

Janet Cooper



Congratulations to Justeen and James Lankfer on the birth of their son, Jonathan James, on June 26th; a brother for Jemma.



The Swaffham Prior
HARVEST PRODUCE
SHOW

SATURDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER
FROM 3.00 PM

SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS INCLUDE:


- *CREAM TEAS * *CHILDRENS REFRESHMENTS***
FUN COMPETITION
FOSTERS MILL STALL

GRAND AUCTION OF
PRODUCE
4.00PM

And Classes this year for the children:

- *HAPPY FACES BISCUITS* *A VEGETABLE OR FRUIT ANIMAL***
***AN ORIGINAL**
LEGO/KNEX (OR
SIMILAR) MODEL*



 Mike and Jane Blanks happily announce the safe arrival home of their second beautiful daughter: Mia Elizabeth Wanlan, born 4th May, 1998, Guangdong Province, China. A sister for Christopher, Andrew, Mark and Ayshea

Jane Blanks

World's Biggest
Coffee Morning
in aid of
Macmillan
cancer relief

FRIDAY, 29th SEPTEMBER

The Macmillan Cancer Relief Coffee Mornings will be held throughout the country on this day. The Swaffham Prior event may not be the largest but maybe it will be the friendliest and we shall raise plenty of money for this cause. Do please come and support this very worthwhile (and necessary) charity by enjoying a cup of coffee and meeting friends, old and new.

The coffee morning and raffle will take place at Ruth and Robin Scovil's house:-

**The Oaks, Manor Farm Court, Lower End,
Swaffham Prior from 10.30 am to 12.00 noon.**

Everybody will be most welcome, even if you can only stay for a short time.

Ruth Scovil

WANTED!

HENRY OR SIMILAR CYLINDER VACUUM CLEANER

The mill vacuum has died. Does anyone have a large cylinder vacuum suitable for semi-industrial use that they would like to sell to the Mill?

Please contact Jonathan Cook on 01638 741009



Cambridge Historic Churches Trust



Sponsored Bicycle Ride

Saturday 9th Sept 2000

Cycle around our churches to raise money for
the Church or Chapel of your choice and for the Trust.

For your Sponsorship form and further details,
please contact Jenny Brand 01638 742161

Swaffham Prior & Reach

Exhibition of Local Art & Crafts and Flower Festival

Cream Teas with Live Music

Saturday and Sunday 23rd - 24th September
11am to 6pm

St. Mary's & St.Cyriac's Churches
and the Village Hall
Swaffham Prior

HOME-START - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Home-Start is a support scheme for families with young children. Support is offered by volunteers to families with children under five in their own home. Potential volunteers attend a ten-week preparation course which provides the background to Home-Start volunteering, covering practical skills, ideas for children's activities, information about families and how to support them.

If you have had parenting experience and would be interested in

becoming involved in this interesting and rewarding voluntary work we would be pleased to hear from you.

Please contact:

Jo Sollars or Michelle Holman on 01353 663158

ART HISTORY



Inside and Outside Italian Renaissance Palaces

An illustrated talk by Ann Hollingsworth

Swaffham Prior Village Hall

Monday 11th September 2000, 7.30 p.m.

Entrance £2 (includes refreshments)

The wealthy elite of Renaissance Florence built grand palaces. We will look at architecture and some of the art that decorated the palaces.

The next Art History talk will be 'Nineteenth Century French Painting' on Monday 13th November, 7.30 p.m.

Enquiries to Ann Hollingsworth (01638 741613)

Do you know about ...

The Doorstep Service

Can you, or someone you know, no longer use your local library because of mobility problems, ill health or caring responsibilities. If so, The Doorstep Service could help. A free home delivery service of books and spoken word cassettes, it is run by Cambridgeshire Libraries and Heritage in partnership with volunteer library visitors. They provide a friendly and personal service every month.

We are also looking for anyone interested in sharing their love of books and libraries to help provide a small amount of spare time monthly.

If you would like to either receive this service or help to provide it, then Jenni Johns, Area Coordinator Cambridgeshire would like to hear from you. She can be contacted at Ely Library on 01353 662350.

Jenni Johns

ZION BAPTIST CHAPEL

SWAFFHAM PRIOR

SUNDAY 24th SEPTEMBER

6.30 pm

FOUR POINT TURN

(Christian Musical Group)

Everyone welcome

Brass Band Concert

By the Cambridge Soft Drinks Band

Saturday 16th Sept. At 7pm

In Quay Church



Tickets £4 including glass of wine



Quay Art Exhibition

The Quay and Bottisham Art Groups are holding their annual exhibition in Quay Village hall.

Friday 6th October from 7.30 pm. to 9.30pm.

Saturday 7th October from 10.30 am. to 4.30 pm.

Sunday 8th October from 10.30 am. to 4.30 pm.

There will be a special Millennium exhibition as well as a stall, raffle tombola and refreshments with all pictures for sale to raise money for Alzheimer's disease society. Entrance is free and everyone is welcome.

PICNIC SUPPER

WITH FOLK MUSIC BY

JANCIS HARVEY

Sunday, 3rd September • 7.00 pm
at the MANOR HOUSE marquee
Lower End, Swaffham Prior
by kind invitation of Mrs Rosalind Wood

Tickets (including glass of wine): £6.00 • Children: £3.00
available from Marion Norris 741465
(BRING YOUR OWN PICNIC • WINES AVAILABLE)

Jancis' style is a simple one accompanying herself on the guitar and blending songs and stories to provide a most entertaining evening. She has many TV and radio broadcasts to her credit and we are indeed fortunate to have her perform here in Swaffham Prior. She has her own following so, to avoid disappointment, get your tickets early.

Ample parking
Gracious, warm, dry surroundings in marquee

PROGRAMME

7.00 for 7.30 pm:	Welcome and glass of wine
7.30 pm:	Concert
8.30 pm:	Picnic supper time
9.00 pm:	Raffle draw and departure

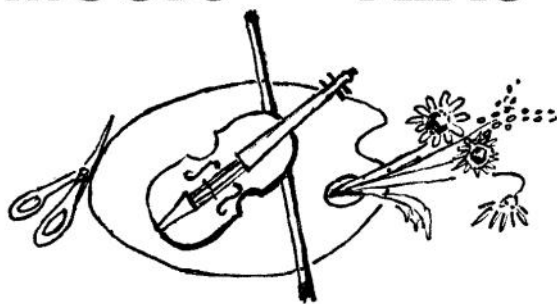
Proceeds to St Mary's Church Restoration Fund

SWAFFHAM PRIOR *and* REACH

SUMMER FESTIVAL

ART • CRAFT • FLOWERS

MUSIC • TEAS



September 23rd and 24th
11.00am to 6.00pm

Swaffham Prior Churches and Village Hall

PLAYSCHEME 2000!!

...is over and was a great success. Very many thanks to all involved for giving their time and expertise to make this work so well again this year. There are too many people to thank individually, but a glance at some of the activities on offer shows just how much preparation and hands-on help was required to pull it altogether. Out of a long list - football, short tennis, drama, astronomy, story telling, puppet theatre, windmill trip, farm visit, fishing, visits from the fire engine, an owl, numerous snakes and other beasties, rickshaw rides, stilt walking and a wide variety of craft activities - spring to mind. Our week-long project, led by Catherine Clarke, was to revamp the changing huts at the school pool; they are now greatly improved and have really brightened up the corner outside the reception class.

We couldn't have offered this range of activities without generous donations from local parish councils and local businesses, and we are grateful for these. The Red Lion has been especially active in fund-raising; very many thanks to all involved. Fund-raising will be starting in September for Playscheme 2001 - catalogues selling Christmas cards and gifts will be circulated through school; please buy generously!

Grateful thanks go to the band of teenage helpers who turned up regularly to help in all manner of activities and with the clearing up at the end of the week. We could not have managed without you; hope you enjoyed it! And our special thanks to Anne Finch who kindly organised and provided refreshments each morning for children and helpers - a real godsend.

Several of those involved in putting together the programme for Playscheme 2000 wish to step back from the organisation of Playscheme 2001. Please do get in touch if you want to get involved - it is a non-school activity and all input is welcome. We have had a large number of people doing a variety of small tasks this year and it has worked very well - the enjoyment evident among the children is reward enough for the effort invested.

Finally, an apology. I know there were some people trying to contact me about Playscheme in mid-July when my phone was out of action for 10 days (thanks BT!). I hope it won't happen again, but a message can be left for Playscheme at school.

Look out for dates for Playscheme 2001!

Dee Noyes (743864) on behalf of Playscheme - Jo Jones, Kathy Judge, Liz Thompson, Mandy Kingsmill, Lorraine Nichols, Catherine Clarke, Krystyna Boughey, Sharon Griggs, Amanda Askham... and others!



SWAFFHAM BULBECK BRIGHT SPARKS PLAYGROUP



Bright Sparks Playgroup is now accepting reservations for the Autumn Term. If you are looking for a small, friendly group for your child then our playgroup is for you. We offer sessions on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:15 - 11:45 am. We are located in the village hall next to the Primary School. Children are able to attend playgroup age of 2½, if they are potty trained. Fees are £3.50 per session.

The maximum number of children for our playgroup is 12, so make your reservations early! If you would like more information about joining our playgroup please call Sarah Gibb at 01223-811624.

GEOFF BARTON PLUMBING & HEATING

12 Murton Close, Burwell

For all your plumbing and heating needs, large or small ...

Everything from tap washers to full bathroom suites, dish-washer or washing machine installations to power showers, central heating maintenance and boiler servicing.

No call out charge during office hours - 24 HOUR SERVICE

Free no obligation estimates given. Corgi Reg'd Installers used.

☎ (01638) 743407 or MOBILE (0378) 002947

Bottisham, Burwell, Linton Village Colleges

Lifelong Learning

The Autumn programme has over 250 courses to choose from, many leading to nationally recognised qualifications.

General Information Evenings

Monday	11 th September	Linton VC	19.00-21.00
Tuesday	12 th September	Bottisham VC	19.00-21.00
Wednesday	13 th September	Burwell VC	19.00-21.00

Accounting - Adlerian Counselling - Administration Customer Service - Early Years Care & Education NVQ Schools Administration

Tuesday	12 th September	Bottisham VC	19.00
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Computing and Information Technology

Wednesday	6 th September	Linton VC	19.00
Thursday	7 th September	Bottisham VC	19.00
Wednesday	13 th September	Burwell VC	19.00

Person-Centred Counselling

Monday	11 th September	Linton VC	19.00
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Certificate of Professional Cookery

Thursday	14 th September	Bottisham VC	19.00
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Term starts Monday 18th September

Further information and brochures from
the Community Offices at the Village Colleges:
Bottisham: 01223 811372, Burwell: 01638 741901,
Linton: 01223 892400

Full details on www-education-bbl.org



FREE

Concrete coal bunker to take away.
Tel: 01638 742666

NEW COURSE FOR SEPTEMBER 2000

ART AND SOCIETY IN RENAISSANCE ITALY



Tutor: Ann Hollingsworth

Burwell Village College
Tuesdays 7.30 - 9.30 p.m.
Commences 19th September

Details from
Burwell Village College (01638 741901)

Car Boot Sale

At
**Bottisham Village
College**

On
SUNDAY 1st Oct
9.00am — 1.00pm
£6 booked in advance
£7 on the day

Refreshments
Tel: 01223 882556



7.00 for 7.30 pm, Saturday
7th October 2000
St Cyriac's, Swaffham Prior

HARVEST SUPPER

Tickets

Adults: £4.00 each
(children: £2.50)

available from

Ruth Scovil ☎ 743720
Marion Norris ☎ 741465





WI Notes

Mr. Nick Abbey from Hereward Housing will be the speaker at the W.I. meeting on Monday 18th September.

There are still seats available on the coach to Belvoir Castle near Grantham, home of the Duke of Rutland. This trip will be on Saturday, September 30th and Betty Fox, 741000, has

all the information.

Betty Prime



VILLAGE GARDENERS

The next meeting of the Village Gardeners will be on Tuesday 19th September at 8pm in Reach Village Hall. The speaker will be Mr. Barry Gayton giving an illustrated talk on 'Alpines and Rock Plants'.

Why not come and join us? The annual fee is £10 per garden, or £2 per meeting as a visitor. As you can see, it is much better value to take out an annual subscription, and we can promise you interesting and knowledgeable speakers during the winter months and attractive gardens to visit in the summer. Whatever you decide you can be sure of a warm welcome.

Betty Prime



LADIES CIRCLE

On Monday evening 31st July, 15 members went on a Ghost Walk around Ely. Our guide was Margaret Haynes from the Ely Tourist Board and she took us around various parts of Ely which are reported to be haunted. It was most fascinating and Margaret took us to her own house, which she said was haunted by a lady sitting in a chair in her bedroom. She was most convinced that her cat had seen the lady and she explained the cat's reaction one evening when for approximately 10 minutes the cat was mesmerised solidly staring at the corner of the room, hair on end. It was quite chilling to hear her story.

After our tour we finished the evening off with coffee at the Lamb Hotel. The weather was kind to us and we had a very enjoyable evening.

In September we will hear about the work of a schoolmaster from Mr Spencer of Ely.

Please feel free to join us.

Sandra Butcher

Friends of Swaffham Prior School

Summer Fair £1,300 !!!!

Somewhat belatedly - I missed the deadline for the last issue in the whirlwind of events at the end of term - very many thanks to everyone in the village who so magnificently contributed to this year's Summer Fair on 16 July. It was a most enjoyable afternoon, in spite of the overcast weather, with sports, music, country and May Pole dancing, circus workshop and many stalls to entertain the crowds.

Particular thanks go to all those who contributed bottles, jars, tins and other goods for the tombola stall, which alone raised nearly £250. Most of the donations for the tombola come from the village, and we are very grateful for every item. Thank you also to those who give up their evenings to knock on doors and collect these goodies - we couldn't do it without you!

Many thanks again and good wishes

Dee Noyes, for Friends of Swaffham Prior School

QUEENS COURT DAY CENTRE, BOTTISHAM

Our Summer outings are now finished, our fete over, what next? Christmas will soon be upon us. The weather could have been kinder to us, we chose Hunstanton for three of our outings, some of our friends hadn't seen the sea for years, so it was fish & chips all round. The last outing was to Bury St Edmunds we had coffee in the gardens and then went to a pub for lunch. We found the council tea rooms and public house very kind and helpful, well done Bury St Edmunds.

The fete was very successful, we had Mark Peters from Q103 radio station to open it (perhaps you saw us in the Newmarket Journal). Mark was very impressed with us and offered to come and switch on our Christmas lights. We had Roz "The Boss" and Jonathan our Day Centre manager in the stocks, the staff had fun throwing wet sponges and buckets of water at them. We raised £900, which will be shared between the whole home.

Our thanks go to all the villages for their donations and help. Also our special thanks to our volunteers who did a wonderful job serving cream teas, selling cakes and bric-a-brac etc. They come most weeks to visit us, their help is greatly appreciated, thank you all.

Our September activities are: 5th - Folk museum, slides and talk. 1.30pm; 8th - Clothes Sale. 1.30pm; 22nd - Cambridge Collection. Slides and talk about our villages years ago. 1.30pm; 29th - Coffee and bingo morning. 10.30am. Hope to see you soon, drop in for coffee/tea anytime.



CRIME AND POLICE MATTERS

Last month Barry Dowler, Warden of Burwell Village College, and I had a useful exchange of views with Acting Inspector Andy Cordery to do with vandalism at Burwell Village College. We were assured that there would be a greater uniformed police presence at vulnerable times and more effort made to spot the trouble makers and deal with them.

I took the opportunity to ask for more activity on speeding checks which Inspector Cordery agreed should be included in his efforts to have more visible policing. As most of the culprits are local this is an early warning for those travelling the B1102, wherever you join it. Because the restrictions signs either side of Lode Crossroads are in sight of each other, there is an opinion that this encourages motorists to continue at more than 40 mph. Accordingly I have suggested to the Highways Dept. that they might widen the distance between the two signs.

Back to strictly police affairs, it is good to learn that Emergency calls on 999 have produced an officer on the spot within twenty minutes on nine out of ten occasions. Let me know if you are the one out of ten who don't get this response.

Meanwhile, police recruiting continues and we hope the numbers will increase in this sector by numbers greater than the officers we lose through retirement or ill health. If you see two constables patrolling your village, then one is either a Special or a recently trained full time officer.

I am interested in your views on the possible introduction of 20 mph limit within our villages. There would have to be a lot of support from people as well as backing from Parish Councils. Already I can sense interest within Burwell, Swaffham Prior and Bulbeck, and of course, those who live on the High (main) Streets in other villages.

PENSIONS

These days I tend to avoid joining new pressure groups but I was so indignant at the last pension increase of 75p and the further lack of interest in the older members of our communities shown by our Chancellor of the Exchequer that I have paid a £5 life membership of Friends of the Anglian Pensioner which is affiliated to the National Pensioners Convention. This body keeps members in touch with what is happening on the pensions front. For instance, seventy-five MP's (41 Labour, 32 Lib.Dems and 2 others) stood up for the pensioners when they voted for an amendment to the Pensions & Social Security Bill which called for the restoration of the link between the State pension and average earnings. Surprise, surprise, the amendment failed.

I have a feeling that pensioners ought to put more pressure on the Government and I am looking into ways of doing this locally. Every other main section of our population seemed to be recognised in the Chancellor's recent financial statement. I don't see why the older pensioners were left with so little!

Meanwhile, both Cambridgeshire County Council and East Cambs. District Council go out of their way to offer help to people who may not be claiming all their benefits and entitlements. If I can help to obtain advice, let me know.

I hope those who were able to take holidays had a happy time with good weather.

James Fitch



**EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

From our District
Councillor

At the last moment the Government accepted a Liberal Democrat amendment to their Bill setting out how local councils must reorganise. This amendment gives East Cambridgeshire a fourth option – to keep a Committee structure. Our consultation to date has shown that this is the option that most people locally would prefer. We are therefore reviewing our current structure to see how it can be streamlined, and will not set up a Cabinet system, unless further consultation shows that that is what local people do want. Once we have a draft new structure we will consult further on exactly how it will operate and on whether local people prefer it to a Cabinet structure. We will then have to have the structure approved by the Secretary of State.

The first Farmers' Market was an enormous success, with early morning shoppers eagerly snapping up the fresh produce from the 20 farmers' stalls that were clustered around the Market Square in Ely. But you had to arrive early, as by mid-morning several stalls had sold out of their produce. A wide assortment of local produce was on sale, ranging from free range beef and pork, cheeses, pickles and preserves, fruit and vegetables, plants, herbs, smoked meats, through to drinks and home made bread and cakes. The last of the three pilots will be held on 9th September in the Market Place Ely from 8.30-4.30. They will then be evaluated to see if this should become a permanent part of our Local Agenda 21 initiative.

It's the time of year again for East Cambs to put together the new Electoral Register. You should receive your form in September. Please fill in the names of all the people normally resident in your house who are over 18 or who will become 18 by 15th February 2002. Students who live away from home during term time should register at their home address and their college address. If you do not fill out the form, you will lose your vote and the votes of everyone else in your house. There is at least one election next year – for Cambridgeshire County Council. It may well be that the Prime Minister will also call a General Election and possibly hold the referendum on whether or not Britain should join the European Single Currency. So please fill out the form to ensure that you keep your chance to vote.

Charlotte Cane

Extracts from the minutes of the Parochial Church Council Meeting, 15 July, 2000

Treasurers' and Gift Aid Officers' Reports

Michael Cazenove presented the Receipts and Payments account. He said that the deficit was not decreasing. The Gift Day, however, was still to come. The Fete had only raised £323, and more income needed to be generated. There had been enough money to pay the Parish Share, nevertheless.

Gift Aid

John Norris explained that all people who donated money should sign a declaration and put the money in a numbered envelope. The current FWO envelopes could be used for weekly giving, and the parish would print some new envelopes for use for Gift Days and special occasions like weddings. Existing covenants can be left to run their term, but should be converted to Gift Aid when this term is finished. Provided the declarations had been signed and the money put in numbered envelopes, the parish could claim back Income Tax on a quarterly basis, either directly from the Inland Revenue or through the diocese.

Offers of help were needed for distributing the envelopes for Gift Day in August.

Social Working Groups' Reports

Francis Reeks explained that the reason for the shortfall in money raised at the Fete was that there had been no Draw this year. There would be no Draw at the Harvest Supper either, for practical reasons. It was felt that the Church Fete should not continue another year because it competes with Swaffham Feast. Perhaps there should be a Christmas Fair instead.

Francis Reeks had now stepped down as convenor for the Social Working Group, because of business commitments. Kate Child had agreed to step in *pro. tem.* for which much thanks. Francis was warmly thanked for all his good work over the years.

Fabric Working Group

The Restoration Appeal has so far raised £8340. Since it did not look as though the cost of installing a toilet at St Mary's (£40,000 was needed), would be met, the Vicar was exploring the possibility of extending the Vicar's study and installing a toilet with an outside entrance at the Vicarage. This could be paid for by the Diocese's Housing Committee.

It was proposed by John Norris and seconded by Michael Cazenove that the Vicar should proceed with this inquiry. This was carried *nem.con.*

The vestry chimney was now being lined, having been repaired. John

Norris proposed, seconded by Michael Cazenove that, for reasons of greater security, a new safe should be built into the wall of the vestry, for which a Faculty should be sought. This was approved by the PCC *nem. con.*

Clock Bell

There had been complaints from people in the upper village that a chiming bell on the clock would create too much noise. It had been proposed that the clock chime should be rung on one of the bells. The Churches' Conservation Trust would not give approval, however, unless the whole village were in favour. No-one seemed to be able to agree about the matter. The clock is now working on an automatic winding mechanism, so perhaps the matter of the chime could wait a little.

The PCC approved a proposal to trim the laburnums and the lilac near St Cyriacs.

The rear church wall had fallen down into Barbara Ives' garden. E.C.D.C. were seeing to its repair.

Marriage in Church After Divorce

The PCC considered this matter having read the Winchester Report. Some members gave their views which would be reported to the Deanery Synod on 28th September.

Next meeting: Monday 25th Sept at SP Village Hall, 7.30 p.m.

From the Parish Registers for June/July

Holy Baptism: Hamish John Jones {SB}
Elle Cynthia Joyce Purchase-Francis {SB}
William James Black {SP}
Susanna Jill Tucker {R}
Nicholas Alexander Jost {SP}
Christine Anne Jost (adult) {SP}
Maizie Ellen Crossley [SP]

Holy Matrimony: Stephen John Prentice and Nicole Lee
Bridgeman {SP}

Blessing of Marriage: Bruce and Julie Wilson {SP}

In Memoriam: Hilda Hiner (83) {SB}
Gordon Tony Pulford (74) {SP}



Church Services September 2000

ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck

TRINITY
11

8:00am
Holy Communion[†]
9.30am
Family Service + Holy
Baptism of William Jacobs
Preacher: Mike Proctor

Sun
3

TRINITY
12

9:30am
Parish Communion
Preacher: Stephen Brooker

Sun
10

TRINITY
13

9:30am
Village Communion
*Celebrant & Preacher: The
Revd Anne Aldridge [Anne
will speak about Emmaus]*

Sun
17

TRINITY
14

9:30am
Parish Communion
*Preacher: Canon Bill
Loveless*

Sun
24

ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior

11:00am
Parish Communion
*Preacher: Roy Tricker
(Churches Conservation
Trust)*

11:00am
Open-air family service
at the School
6:00pm
Evensong[†] and Sermon

8:00am
Holy Communion[†]
6:00pm
Evensong[†] and Sermon

11:00am
Festival Service
6:00pm
Evensong[†] and Sermon

ST ETHELREDA & THE HOLY TRINITY

6:30pm
Deanery Evensong at
Soham
3:00pm
Holy Baptism
of Thomas Clayden

8:00am
Holy Communion[†]

11:00am
Family Service

8:00am
Holy Communion[†]

† — BCP

Holy Communion	1 st Thursdays 10am, Swaffham Bulbeck Church (followed by Home Communion)
Evening Prayer	Tuesdays, 5:30pm, Swaffham Bulbeck Wednesdays, 5:30pm, Reach Thursdays, 5:30pm, Swaffham Prior
Bellringing	Tuesdays, fortnightly 8pm. St. Cyriacs. Contact: Dr Margaret Stanier on 741328.
Housegroup	Tuesdays, 8pm, fortnightly in Reach. Contact Olivia Cole 743434 or Juliet Vickery 742676
Mothers Union	1 st Mondays, 2:15pm, c/o Free Church, Commercial End. Contact Win Norton on 01223 811509
Toddlers Service	3 rd Thursdays @ 11:30am for 15 minutes in Reach Church or Centre

The vicar is never too busy to **visit** anyone on urgent pastoral or spiritual matters.

Dear Friends,

It is often the case that the annual summer holiday gives some inspiration for the September pastoral letter; this year is no exception, save that due to copy date, it is being written while I am still away!

In the Cumbrian fells, the 7 Fell-top guides of AW, Alfred Wainwright, record 214 distinct summits, ranging from Castle Crag in Borrowdale (985 feet) to Scarfell Pike, England's highest (3206 feet). Over the years I have now climbed nearly 150 of them, and Oliver and I are minded to try and complete all 214. The passion for high places, focused in this way, seems a worthy objective, and it certainly adds a sense of purpose to any day of indifferent weather (which would otherwise rule out old favourites because of low cloud) thus 'bagging' those humbler fells of lesser structure.... which brings me to Bowscale Fell (2306 feet).

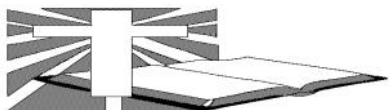
For many years I have wanted to walk a horse shoe from the village of Mungrisdale on the eastern edge of the Lake District, including Bowscale Fell not just for itself, grand though it was, but for the wholly different perspective on 'oh-so-familiar' Blencathra (2847 feet) which on the day obligingly emerged out of the cloud, revealing both the drabness of its Northern slopes, in stark contrast to the 5 ridges on the South, and a video-like ever-changing view of the notorious and well-named arête called Sharp Edge on the Eastern approach above Scales Tarn.

So the message, as we embark upon another Autumn, is this—let us take whatever opportunities we can to review the familiar from fresh vantage points, and be content sometimes with humble objectives. Above all, yet us use these twin thoughts to re-assess priorities and get the balance right—our molehills are rarely mountains, particularly when viewed from a distance.

All such wider perspective is good; we all need to avoid the pitfall of parochialism, which is rarely a healthy focus on its own. Our wisdom and maturity comes from doing some 'fell walking', even in fenland,

Your parish Priest,

Mark



Zion Baptist Chapel

Services for September 2000:

Sunday	3 rd	6.30pm	Communion - David Bousfield
Sunday	10 th	6.00pm	David Bousfield
Sunday	17 th	6.30pm	(no service)
Sunday	24 th	6.30pm	Four Point Turn

Back to school...

The school holidays are over. 'Hooray' say the parents. 'Boo say the children. It's time for the teachers and school staff to begin a new year.

But one small four year old boy was overheard asking his mum 'Why do I have to go to school?' His mother wisely replied 'To be with your friends, and to learn to read and write, to do sums; and to do all your lessons and have playtimes with the teachers, so that one day you will be able to go out to work and make a new home and family of your own.'

Children ask questions endlessly it seems. They want to find out the answers to everything. School is the place where they make a start to find some of the answers to their questions. As we grow up, though, the questions we ask get harder. 'When will the world end?' 'What will happen to me when I die?' 'Is God real?'

Just because God is God, he can cope with all our questioning, unlike the way parents feel after a day of bombardment from a three year old! No question is too hard for him.

Some answers can be found in books. Sometimes if we just sit and think, God will use friends or our own common sense to give us the answer. Some "why" questions however only God has the answer to, and in his wisdom, may keep us waiting for the answer. That's when we need to learn patience, and to trust in God.

It's at times like these that we need the help of friends who care and understand and can help us learn these difficult lessons from the school of life. I have discovered that the best colleges for learning these lessons can be found in a local church. For it is there that people can share their experiences and the lessons they have learnt from God about living.

If you have children who constantly ask questions, then they would be made very welcome at the Sunday school & crèche of our sister church at Lode Chapel on Sunday mornings at 10:30am.

And if *you* want to find answers to your questions then try a local church classroom. You may find going back to school is more educational than you think!

David Bousfield

For further information, transport, or a home visit please call
David & Janet Bousfield on 01223-563307.

Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish

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

Kirtling: Sun 0945;

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

From John Morrill, Deacon to the Roman Catholic Community

Frances and I have just had a wonderful holiday in the most unspoilt part of the British Isles, in Donegal in the far north west of Ireland. Here were remote and lonely lochs and glens, walks that went on for miles during which you can be sure of meeting no-one else and seeing no human habitation. Here was true wilderness and the opportunity to commune with the uncultivated majesty of Nature in the raw. And as we travelled and walked around we would seek out from our guide books the picturesque ruins of a medieval friary or a small fortified tower house.

And it is these ruins which gave the clue that we were deluding ourselves. This is far from an unspoilt landscape. It is a very spoiled landscape indeed. The Roman historian Tacitus, speaking of the atrocities of war in (if I remember rightly) Germany, says “they made a desert and they called it peace”. And sometimes a desert can become a place of peace. But it is a desert-ed place, not a natural wilderness. Those ruined friaries were ruined by British armies torturing and killing the residents, those ruined tower-houses were once the centre of thriving rural communities similarly extinguished by brute force. And what war did not spoil, disease saw off. All because of a hitherto unknown virus that turned the potatoes on which millions depended for survival into a stinking inedible pulp. It was a catastrophe beyond the resources and imagination of the British government. They poured in relief on a scale unknown in the world to that point, but it failed to prevent catastrophe.

So we were left feeling very uncomfortable. It is not our fault that these tragedies happened 150 years ago, or 400 hundred years ago. If to be British then was to be found wanting, then that does make me uneasy now. But is that just me? And is there anything I can do about it? Yes.

In one of the remotest places of all, on a remote headland in the remote peninsula (Inishowen) of this remote county we visited the Doagh Visitor Centre dedicated to recalling and describing the Famine years. It is a harrowing place for all its beauty. And it made us realise that mass starvation of the kind we watch helplessly on TV happened in the time of our great grandparents here in these islands. The descendants of the survivors built and run the centre and they wrote the booklet that accompanies the tour. And they write: “By the end of your tour you may be feeling offended, hurt, or maybe feel that something like this should never have happened. Maybe now is a good time to stop and think. Ireland today is among the richest countries in the world. Today, famine is rife in Sudan, Biafra and Ethiopia. We can see by television the problems that exist, yet do we bother to do anything much about it? These places are our Irelands, and we are their landlords.” If the descendants of the victims can think and say that, what should the descendants of the English landlords [that is, you and me] be doing?

Dates for Your Diary - September 1999

Fri	1	
Sat	2	
Sun	3	Picnic Supper, The Manor House, 7:00pm Quy School Reunion, Quy School, 10am-5pm
Mon	4	
Tue	5	BACK-TO-SCHOOL Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Wed	6	
Thu	7	
Fri	8	
Sat	9	10.30am Swaffham Prior Church Gift Day Coffee Morning ,VH Sponsored Bicycle Ride for Cambridge Historic Churches Farmers' Market, Market Place, Ely. 8:30am - 4:30pm
Sun	10	
Mon	11	Art History Lecture, VH, 7:30pm
Tue	12	
Wed	13	
Thu	14	<i>Crier</i> Copy Deadline Parish Council Meeting, VH
Fri	15	
Sat	16	Harvest Produce Show, 3:00pm (exhibits 8:30-11:30am), VH Brass Band Concert, Quy Church, 7:00pm
Sun	17	
Mon	18	WI, guest speaker from Hereward Housing
Tue	19	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm Village Gardeners, Reach Village Hall, 8:00pm
Wed	20	
Thu	21	
Fri	22	
Sat	23	Arts, Crafts & Flower Festival, Churches & VH, 11:00am
Sun	24	Arts, Crafts and Flower Festival continued "Four Point Turn", Zion Baptist Chapel, 6:30pm
Mon	25	PCC Meeting, VH, 7:30pm
Tues	26	
Wed	27	
Thu	28	<i>Crier</i> Collating, Village Hall, 2:30pm
Fri	29	Macmillan Coffee Morning, The Oaks, 10:30am
Sat	30	