



The Swaffham Crier

Volume 25 Number 1

January 2001



Editorial

Happy New Year and, to all those of you who don't believe that there was a Zero AD, happy New Millennium! We start the New Year much as normal. "*Name Withheld*" returns to the the *Letters* page, in conciliatory mood, only to be 'unmasked' by Alastair Everitt. But is this just a masterly piece of double-bluff on Alastair's part? And who ate walnuts in church?

Meanwhile, we have received a note from the Parochial Church Council on the subject of our editing their minutes: "Please will you print all this, including Reach material which has been left out recently. We have a united parish now and their Fabric and Finance and Social reports should also be included". This is clearly a difficult area. We do normally print copy in its entirety but the PCC Minutes as supplied are usually long but do appear in the *Crier* titled as "extracts". We've done our best this month by including Reach but we've had to amalgamate the list of dates from the minutes with those separately supplied by the Vicar, and keep the type size down, to stay within an affordable number of pages.

Some light is now shone on, if not yet by, the new street lights. Following the comments on these in the press (last month's *Crier* Editorial!), they were discussed at the recent Parish Council Meeting. Margaret Stanier reports on this not entirely conclusive discussion on pages 4 and 5. Partly so that we could include this, and partly because we didn't have as much time as we'd hoped just after the 10th, the copy deadline got extended a bit. This has meant that we have not been able to meet our normal printer's deadlines (The Burwell Print Centre) and have had to go elsewhere for this edition.

Margaret also is in apologetic mood, over a mistake in her article last month about the hand-bells. This led to the Prestons wrongly being identified as those trying to sell them some years ago. It does however provide a welcome opportunity for us to find out more of the history (page 8). Finally, we are asked by Cambridgeshire Acre to draw the attention of anyone involved in voluntary organisations and community groups to their article on page 10. This probably applies to the majority of our regular contributors!

James Matheson

Cover Picture: Janus - Looking Both Ways, Bridge to the Future
by *Brenda Wilson*



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors

The Man with No Name

I shared John Norris' moral outrage when I first read "Name Withheld" in the November *Crier*. But the letter was so funny that all was soon forgiven. It so very gently mocked the village and its magazine, and might have been even more amusing if it had been signed "Go Bo-peep", "Miss Flagstaff", or similar. The only thing to guess then would have been whether the writer was male, female, or transvestite.

But John is not quite right when he says it is the first anonymous contribution for 25 years. What about "Urbs Cambritum" (sounds like a johnny foreigner to me) in the December issue, what about "Kate Shadie" who reported the hockey match, and what about "Jack in the Corner" who wrote about five years ago.

Now we are getting to it. "Jack" at the time put many Red Lion customers into a right tizz. There was a lot of aggro and at least one threatened to punch the author on the nose if he could be found. But "Jack" was very elusive and must have chuckled away as innocent people protested their innocence when challenged. I am not sure if he was ever identified.

But "Jack" has now blown it—he's given himself away with this latest letter. By comparing its style with that of the original piece and then with a named letter about two years ago it is now possible to identify the "Elusive Horsefly" as he has come to be known. And he is *not* a transvestite - as far as is known. I will not name him but he is easily identifiable. His top lip overhangs the lower one by an inch, one eye has a serious problem and knows not whether to meet or dash away from the other, and there is a general unshaven dishevelled appearance, with dirty shoes.

Visit the Red Lion and you will be able to pick him out. If there are several matching the description, select the worst, slap him on the back, and say "Hallo Jack". You'll soon know if you have the right one.

Alastair Everitt
Anglesey House

Donations!

Many thanks to Ivy Jackson for her kind donation to the *Crier*.

Dear Editors

Thanks to John Norris for being the lone respondent to the list of possible letter titles, and to the editors for clarification. As a set of titles it was not intended to set forth views but to encourage future writers. Dencora's field can spark interesting responses, such as his — let's hope that 'increased population equals increased order and benefit to the community' will be - the motto for the global population in the new millenium?

I hope he will be further reassured to know that if the list had been one of complaints, this writer would have to stand as one of the defendants.

'Name withheld'

Dear Editors,

Where are they now?

Whilst sorting through some old papers recently I came across a cutting from the Cambridge Independent dated 17th October, 1958, which I give below.

“Conduct in Church A correspondent complains of the conduct of certain young persons at Swaffham Prior Parish Church on Sunday afternoons. He says the noise and confusion is painful to witness For the last few Sundays the occupation of these idle boys in service time has been eating walnuts, thereby disturbing the attention of those who go to pray and hear, besides littering with shells the floor of the church. Surely the strong arm of the law might be invoked to put an end to such profanations.”

Janet Cooper

BELLRINGING

We will ring-in the New Year...31 December, 2000, at 11.45 p.m.

We will ring-in the New Millennium...1 January 2001, at 12 noon.

Bellringers can COUNT! They do it all the time: counting up to 6, to 40, to 120; and when a full peal is rung,--- up to 5040 changes. (It takes 3 hours of non-stop ringing).

So bellringers know that Jesus Christ, born A.D.1, would reach the 2000th birthday in the year A.D. 2001.

Any bellringers who would like to come to help us celebrate at Swaffham Prior on 31st Dec or 1st Jan will be very welcome. No, we will not be ringing a full peal.

*M.S.
aka Peggy*

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

Put your left post in, take your left post out, and shake them all about. No, it's not a Christmas party game., it's the activity of the ECDC at the top end of the High Street over the last three months. And it's all part the Millennium "Village Enhancement Scheme". At last something has happened.

On Tuesday 20th of October 1998 Peter Mengham and Eric Day, on behalf of the Parish Council and the village, walked round the village with John Selby and Douglas Rule of the ECDC to discuss village enhancements. It was agreed that money should be spent only on the conservation area from Station Rd up to the Chapel. In this area, lamp-posts would be changed to a more suitable style, telephone wires would be placed underground and the church and chapel railings would be painted. Thereafter from time to time the PC asked if there was news of the scheme and was told that Swaffham Prior was slowly moving up the list. The painting was not too complicated and has been done; the second appears very unlikely as no-one asked BT, who promptly put up a new telegraph pole and later used it for existing phones. This just left the new lights.



In September, contractors, without telling the PC, started digging holes and putting in new lamp-posts. Whoever made the positional decisions must have been a chump because he/she did not intend to have a light near the church steps. Who made such a decision, you may ask? Was the Parish Council consulted? Was anyone consulted? It seems we are not the only village to have suffered. At a Parish Forum in October, attended by all Parish chairmen and vice-chairmen, there were many complaints from villages which had thoughtless schemes imposed without consultation.

Since the digging started, the PC has heard nothing from ECDC. It seems that an ECDC representative has chosen to discuss the matter only with John Norris. Now if an un-elected individual has to be selected to represent the village then I suppose John is as good as any. He is a church warden and regularly appears in the church yard. Some may find that acceptable, others may not [*we don't mind John appearing in the churchyard!—Eds*]. And it was only through a letter from the secretary of the Parochial Church Council that the PC heard that an arch with a light will replace the current street light at the church steps and that this will light the way up the gravel path past the corner of St. Mary's.

One might have thought that this and other questions would have been discussed and agreed with the Parish Council. But, having settled on the general decision in 1998 the PC has since been left in the dark regarding the

details. As far as the enhancement scheme is concerned, the PC might just as well be the Youth Club. To whom do people write if they wish to comment and complain — to Mr Norris?, to ECDC, to the PC?, to the PCC?, to the *Crier*?, or to the Youth Club? Comments there certainly will be when the lights eventually go out, and then come on again.

Prior to this item on the agenda, there had been an extensive and extended discussion of the Cremation and Burial Plots in the cemetery. I cannot give you any idea of the time and relish spent on the subject but the plots are now to be carefully separated like sheep and goats to avoid a higgledy-piggledy mish-mash. Cremation plots will be on the Vicarage side to the path, with burial plots on the other side. So that's all very neat and tidy! Cremation plots will in future be two feet by one and a half feet, and the line of them will be marked by engineering bricks. The bricks cost about £1 each, but large numbers will not be needed since they can be recycled. This is the real stuff of parish politics.

The most interesting item among the planning applications was the proposed house (not two bungalows as originally agreed) at the corner of Greenhead Road to replace Cathy Manning's house. The steep bank is to be excavated and a large proportion of the new house was to be underground on one side. The PC looked very carefully at the plans and in the end raised no objection.

Poor old Reach PC is still suffering from huge farm lorries, mostly driven by Spaniards as clumsily as the vessels of the Armada Fleet, which get stuck at the bottle-neck at the bottom of Fair Green on the way to Lord's Ground Farm. Please could we put up more signposts to prevent them getting into Reach? The PC pointed out that many of the lorries do not come through Swaffham Prior anyway, but enter Reach via Exning and Burwell via Felixstowe. In spite of this our PC are going to ask CCC to add the name "Upware" to the signposts at the top and bottom of Cage Hill. We must hope Swaffham Prior does not have to pay for it, because with the final payments for the Village Map having been approved, no Spanish lorry driver has any excuse for not knowing the way.

The main news-item was that by 2002 Karen King will be on the Internet, thanks to the Rural White Paper. And with this happy news, the chairman closed the meeting and we all enjoyed the Christmas Feast provided by Elaine; red and white wine (John Colvil was handy with the corkscrew), mince pies and home-made Christmas cake. So ended the final PC meeting of the year 2000.

Margaret Stanier

GRAND JUMBLE & NEARLY NEW SALE

IN AID OF THE VILLAGE HALL

on 3rd of March 2001

Full details in the next Crier

Don't throw it away—save it for the jumble sale

Swaffham Bulbeck and Swaffham Prior

Royal British Legion

Final Details of Poppy Appeal 2000

Swaffham Bulbeck House Collection	£341
Swaffham Prior House Collection	£278
United Church Service Collection	£182
Whist Drive	£77
Wreaths	£50
S.P Red Lion	£6
Other amounts	<u>£34</u>
Grand Total	£ 968

We sincerely thank all who gave so generously to our appeal.

J. Chalkin, Chairman; RH Butler, Local Organiser

Mexico comes to Cambridge

In Mexico during the season of Advent, the Christmas Story is relived through the tradition of the 'Travelling Crib'. The custom is for people to dress up as Mary and Joseph and travel around the village calling at homes to see who gives them hospitality.

In Cambridgeshire, people found wandering around late at night dressed as Mary and Joseph are more likely to be arrested than invited in for a drink! Nevertheless, the people of Burwell, Swaffham Bulbeck, Swaffham Prior and Reach have introduced the 'Travelling Crib' - but with a twist.

On Advent Sunday, two small figures of Mary and Joseph were blessed by Mark Howarth at the service in Swaffham Bulbeck. Each night during Advent, the figures had travelled with a family to the home of one of their neighbours. On arrival, special words are said, the figures are handed over for safe-keeping for the night and the visitors invited in for some

refreshment. The next night, the figures travel on with the new family to another home until Christmas Eve where Mary and Joseph are returned for a special Crib Service at which the arrival of the Christ Child is celebrated.

The figures have travelled a long way, covering the villages of Swaffham Bulbeck, Swaffham Prior, Reach and Burwell.

Those who have taken part have found this to be a great way to bring the Christmas Story to life and a good excuse for some pre-Christmas cheer!

The 'Travelling Crib' looks set to become an old Cambridgeshire tradition before too long.

Silke Telzlaff

European Language Directives

The European Union commissioners have announced that agreement has been reached to adopt English as the preferred language for communications, rather than German, which was the other possibility.

As part of the negotiations, Her Majesty's Government conceded that English spelling had some room for improvement and has accepted a five-year phased plan for what will be known as EuroEnglish (Euro for short).

In the first year, "s" will be used instead of the soft "c". Certainly, sivil servants will reseive this news svith joy. Also, the hard "c" will be replaced with "k". Not only will this klear up konfusion, but typewriters kan have one less letter.

There will be growing publik enthusiasm in the sekond year, when the troublesome "ph" will be replaced by "f". This will make words like "fotograf" 20 per sent shorter.

In the third year, publik akseptanse of the new spelling kan be expekted to reach the stage where more komplikated changes are possible. Governments will enkourage the removal of double letters, which have always ben a deterrent to akurate speling. Also, al wil agre that the horrible mes of silent "e"s in the languag is disgrasful, and they would go.

By the fourth year, peopl wil be reseptiv to steps such as replasing "th" and "w" by "v".

During ze fifz yer; ze unesesary "o" kan be dropd from vords kontaining "ou", and similar changes vud of kors be aplid to ozer kombinations of letters.

After zis fifz yer, ve vil hav a reli sensibl ritcn styl. Zer wil be no mor trubls or difikultis and evrivun vil find it ezi tu understand ech ozer.

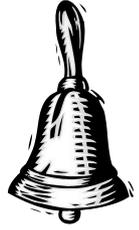
Ze drem vil finali kum tru.

Found by *Margaret Stanier*

More on the Handbells



I am grateful for Sheila Preston, of Adams Road Swaffham Prior, for supplying corrections and extensions of the Story of the Handbells. The story starts with a couple named Pledger and Eliza Preston. Pledger was a ringer, and he kept the handbells at his



house (close to the Old Vicarage) where he and the other ringers used them for practice. Anyone who made a mistake was required to put a coin in the collecting box; but whether the box subsequently went to the church, or to the pub for the bellringers' beer, is not known. Pledger was also a tower-bell ringer, and managed pull three bellropes at the same time: one with each arm and one with a foot

After the death of Pledger Preston, the handbells came into the care of one of his sons, Joe Preston, who lived elsewhere in Swaffham Prior, opposite to the present water-tower. Joe made a special shelf for the bells (in his outside loo). It is not clear how much they were used, while in Joe's care. At some stage they were given over to a certain Mr. Sargeant of Swaffham Prior, but when Mr. Sargeant went to live in Reach the bells came back into the care of Joe and May Preston.

Later, Joe decided to give them to the Church, where they would be available for everyone to use. The bells were therefore handed over to the Vicar, Rev. Thornton. Joe's daughter recalls being told that the bells were brought to the church and left for the Vicar, on the steps of the font.

It is not clear who had advertised the bells for sale, at the time when Philip Sheldrick and his father made their gallant rescue-and-restoration. Perhaps it was the Vicar. It was certainly not any member of the Preston family. (I apologise to the Prestons, and to readers for misleading them about this in the previous article.)

My earlier article mentioned that the handbells were not of the type used for change-ringing. Those who ring changes on handbells use two bells, one in each hand. Probably Pledger Preston and his band used one bell each, and practised the changes which they would later ring on the tower bells.

Margaret Stanier

(with thanks to
Sheila Preston)

Relaxed
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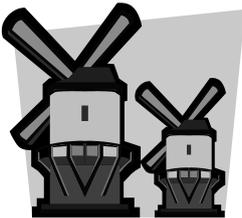
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Little Windmills Playgroup

Reach Village Centre
Monday to Thursday
9.00—11.45 am

Little Windmills Playgroup has places for
2½ to 5 year olds.

Come and visit one of our friendly sessions or for more
information contact Brenda Doe (01223 860680)

Calling all Community Groups.....

Earlier this year Cambridgeshire ACRE received funding from the National Lotteries Charities Board to deliver a unique and important programme entitled “*Our Communities Our Future* “. The programme will survey Cambridgeshire’s rural-based voluntary organisations and community groups, develop a series of training programmes and provide a range of advice and support mechanisms for Cambridgeshire’s voluntary sector.

The initial phase of the project is being launched in January 2001. This involves a questionnaire will be sent to each voluntary organisation and community group situated within rural Cambridgeshire. Given the survey is just the start of this exciting project, Cambridgeshire ACRE is keen to ensure all voluntary organisations and community groups ‘have their say’ and are

able to benefit from the project's longer-term objectives.

For clarification, voluntary organisations and community groups are: not for profit organisations (eg Playgroups); run by volunteers (eg Meals on wheels, Womens Institute); registered charities; working for local communities (eg Village Hall Committees, Village Appraisal Groups); dedicated to particular issues (eg Sports / Hobby Clubs).

East Cambridgeshire District will be the first area to be surveyed, therefore, if you represent a voluntary organisation or community group within that area, please contact me as soon as possible and I will ensure you receive a copy of our questionnaire.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Teresa Jones (teresa.jones@cambsacre.org.uk)

Community Outreach Worker. Tel / Fax: 01223 297664



ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT

Dear resident,

You may remember one of last month's seasonal events in the village, **Advent by Candlelight**, which combined the vocal talents of *Cambridge Voices*, the instrumental forces of *The Orchestra of the Age of Reason*, the oratorical presentation of the village residents, the organisational wizardry of the village social committee and the musical mayhem of the *Classic Buskers*. Once again, we achieved an almost capacity audience and, as well as having a good time making music, raised a substantial amount of money for charity, this time for Children with Special Needs in Bosnia. An innovation this year, suggested by our traditional concert pattern of Good Friday, was to repeat the concert that same day in St Columba's Church, Cambridge. Despite this being the first time Swaffham Prior's annual *Advent by Candlelight* had stretched its wings to embrace the big city we got a good house and have been asked to consider the event a tradition that must be repeated in Cambridge each year!

There had been reservations that the timings of the concerts was detrimental and that the presentation two performances within 10 miles of each other and on the same day would split the audience. Indeed, when the mulled wine and mince pie makers had asked me for a predicted size of audience, I predicted only 100 people all told (inclusive of the 30-odd performers). In the end all our fears were unfounded. as these excerpts from the event's accounts bear witness:

Grand Total to be given to Children with special needs in Bosnia as

of December 12th: £ 1,485.25

Swaffham Prior income:	£ 984.00
(Door takings: £600.00 - 120 paying adults. Retiring collection: £384.00 - c. £3.20 per paying adult)	
Swaffham Prior expenses:	£ 205.00
Swaffham Prior surplus:	£ 779.00

St. Columba's Church, Cambridge income:	£ 876.35
(Door takings: £ 520.00 - 104 paying adults. Retiring collection: £356.25 - c. £ 3.40 per paying adult)	

St. Columba's Church, Cambridge expenses:	£ 40.00
Cambridge surplus:	£ 836.25
Choir (includes deputy singer) fee + expenses:	£ 200.00
Choir (includes deputy singer) donation:	£ 200.00
Choir surplus:	£0.00

Orchestral fees + expenses:	£ 675.00
Orchestra donations:	£ 230.00

Orchestra deficit: £(445.00)

Additional miscellaneous expenses:	£ 45.00
Additional donations (as of 5th Dec.):	£ 360.00
Additional misc. surplus	£ 315.00

As you can see, Swaffham Prior had the greater paying attendance, not surprisingly as the event has been staged annually here for several years now. But Cambridge produced the greater net income due to lower expenses (no mulled wine or mince pies was included and the host church waived all the fees for heating, lighting, candles and hire of halls as it was for charity).

There is still money coming in each day through the post so we shall soon easily clear £1,500.

Clearly the day was highly successful and enjoyable, though not perfect. I should have included another hymn for audience participation during the middle of Bach's *Magnificat*, and I accidentally reversed the order of two pieces, plus I forget to prime the electric organ! Nevertheless I've received very many letters from newcomers who thoroughly enjoyed the atmosphere, content and presentation of both events.

Here's to next year, for which I have already commissioned twelve of Europe's leading composers to write a new work for choir, brass, organ and orchestra, as next year is the *Cambridge Voices*' 10th anniversary.

Ian de Massini, Director of Cambridge Voices

PANTOMIME 2001

It's that time again, boys and girls of all ages. "Oh yes it is". Don't miss the fun down at Bottisham Village College Hall on the 18th, 19th, and twice on the 20th January 2001. "Aladdin" is the treat in store for children of all ages. This rendition is written by "Please Sir" star Peter Denyer and has on the professional stage included such stars as Barbara Windsor.

We have our own stars of Panto to entertain you. The musical director is Mark Aldous who is with us for the third occasion. The choreography is being expertly organised by Jan Wilson who is with us for the second time.

You all know the story: poor boy makes good and then is robbed of his new wealth and bride. He travels to Africa to rescue his princess and take her hand in marriage. He is supported by the Dame (Widow Twankey), Wishee washee, a pair of hopeless Policemen, and the Genie. The evil Abenarzar hounds him.

Come and join in the fantasy. Tickets will be available from Lushers in Bottisham and The Fireplace shop North Street Burwell. Prices: Adults £6.00 Concessionaries £4.00 (Thursday, Friday, and Saturday afternoon). Telephone bookings: 01223 012911.

Performances will be 7.20pm Thursday Friday and Saturday and also 2.30pm on Saturday.

AGE
Concern

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Age Concern Cambridgeshire exists to improve the quality of life for older people across Cambridgeshire.

Can you help us: Could you be a Home Help (paid) or visitor (volunteer) for an older person in their own home. Could you help at one of our day centres, or

work in an office providing information and advice?

We provide services for older people such as: Home Help Services, Visiting Schemes, Older Carers Support, Information & Advice, Day Centres.

Whether we can help you or you can help us, please call our County Office on 01354 696677.

ART HISTORY

Medieval and Renaissance Art in Italy 1300-1550



10 week course
Burwell Village College
Thursdays 7.30 - 9.30 p.m.
Commences 18th January

Tutor: Ann Hollingsworth

Details from the College
01638 741901 or
Ann Hollingsworth
01638 741613

The Construction of Woman in Florentine Monumental Painting

Swaffham Prior Village Hall, Monday 5th February 2001 7.30 p.m.
Entrance £2

Using Ghirlandaio's frescoes in the Tornabuoni and Sassetti Chapels as a focus, what can we learn about women in Italian Renaissance society from contemporary art and texts?

Next talk 2 April 'The Easter Sepulchre in Eastern England'

STUDY DAY AT BURWELL VILLAGE COLLEGE

ITALIAN FRESCOES

Saturday 10th February 2001 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Enrol by 3rd February. Details from Burwell Village College 01638 741901
An illustrated course studying some of the beautiful fresco cycles to be found in Florence and other Italian cities.

All enquiries to Anne Hollingsworth 01638 741613



Jazz Work Out

Starting again soon in

Reach Village Hall

Thursday January 4th 2001

7.30 pm until 8.30 pm

£30.00 for 10 week course

All very welcome

Please contact Sue

Summers

on 01638 742884 for more

details

FRIENDS OF BOTTISHAM VILLAGE COLLEGE

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please Support All These Functions

CEILIDH Saturday 3rd February 2001 7.30 pm

Contact Sue Kempster 01223 812194

QUIZ NIGHT Friday 2nd March 2001 7.30 pm

Contact Sue Kempster 01223 812194

LINE DANCING Saturday 10th March 2001 7.30 pm

Contact Carolyn Browne 01223 812542

SPRING FAIR Saturday 14th May 2001 2.30 pm

Contact Sally Hames 01223 882556

Also, we look forward to bringing you news later in the year of our other forthcoming events.

Bottisham, Burwell, Linton Village Colleges *Lifelong Learning*

New Courses for the New Year

Free Taster Courses

A Taste of the Internet

Monday 8th January 18.00-21.00 — Linton VC

Tuesday 9th January 18.00-21.00 — Bottisham VC

Thursday 11th January 18.00-21.00 — Burwell VC

Computers Don't Bite

Wednesday 10th January 18.00-21.00 — Linton VC

Wednesday 10th January 18.00-21.00 — Burwell VC

Thursday 11th January 18.00-21.00 — Bottisham VC

Accounting NVQ Levels 2&3: Administration NVQ Levels 1,2&3

Computer Courses at All Levels: English & Maths Workshop

French for Beginners: Italian for Beginners

Early Years Care & Education NVQ Levels 2&3

Making Choices — for those considering working in Early Years

Education, Childcare and Playwork: Support Your Child with

Homework

Everyday Psychology: Medieval Renaissance Art in Italy (1300-1 500)

First Aid One Day Appointed Persons Course

HSE 4 day First Aid at Work Course

Many existing classes welcome new members

Spring Term starts Monday 15th January 2001

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





WI Notes

The WI began their Christmas party with a delicious meal provided by members of the committee. After several glasses of wine we were in the mood to play some hilarious games organised by Pat Airey, and all agreed we'd had a thoroughly enjoyable time.

Next month we shall be in more serious mood to hear Sister Sue Evans talk to us about Primary Care. This will be on Monday, 15th January at 7.30 in Swaffham Prior Village Hall. Anyone who is interested in this subject and would like to join us will be most welcome.

Betty Prime



VILLAGE GARDENERS

Visit to Barnsdale Gardens (Geoff Hamilton)

For members and friends

Sunday, 20th May, 2001

The coach will leave Swaffham Prior Village Hall at 9.00am. There will be a coffee stop at Barnsdale Lodge Hotel. The coach will leave Barnsdale at 4.00pm, arriving back at 5.30 pm approximately. Watch this space for further details.



LADIES CIRCLE

Although some of our members were unable to attend our November meeting those who did enjoyed an interesting talk by Mr Cunningham from the St. John Ambulance.

He told us that a lot of the work they do is alongside the Ambulance Service. They teach 1 staid to all ages starting from 6 year olds and carry out lots of community work all over the country. The St. John Ambulance are the people who bring us home from abroad should we be taken ill on holiday. They also transport kidneys and hearts etc., for transplants (Air Medical Service). We were all surprised when he told us they operate under slightly different titles in over 40 countries. They are always having to raise funds to carry on with their work as they are a charity and expenses are always increasing, each ambulance costs approximately £3 8.000 to buy and equip.

Mary Cook



STAINED HUNDRED

Just over 30 members of the Staine Hundred gathered in the Lecture Room at Bottisham Village College for the December Meeting at which wine and mincepies were served during the interval. The speaker was Margaret Haynes who is a Blue Badge Guide and who lives in an old haled-house in Ely where some of the original paintings are still on the walls. She began by showing a picture of St. Mary Street, Ely, painted in 1858 by Henry Baines of which the original is now in the Museum. Baines had also made a number of drawings of Ely in the middle of the 19th century. She then gave the history of Ely Cathedral from its establishment as a monastery and nunnery by Etheldreda whose hand is still in a London Catholic church, right up to the visit of Prince Charles a short time ago to unveil a statue in the Lady Chapel. After the interval she talked about some of the older secular buildings in Ely, including Oliver Cromwell's House which had or~ been a public house, Sir Thomas Parsons Almshouses with the same architect as the Fitzwilliam Museum, the Old Fire Engine House and finally her own house. Margaret Haynes is a very good speaker who kept the audience both interested and entertained.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 10th at 7.30 pm when Peter Roberts will be talking about "Bassingbourn Airfield

Peggy Day

Notes from the Parish Council December Meeting

Mr T Jones chaired the meeting with 7 members and 2 members of the Public.

Transfers to/from Reserves: These were agreed.

Traffic Barrier for Recreation Ground: One price had been received for the supply and erection of the barrier. One was awaited. After discussion, the Clerk was asked to obtain a third quote. This will be further discussed at the next meeting.

Playground Matters: The Clerk was instructed to put in hand the work needed to strengthen the 'baby' swings. The surface underneath the swings will be levelled off. Ways on strengthening the gate are to be investigated. The two tyre swings will be replaced with flat seats.

Cemetery Planning: This was further discussed. The new area is to be marked out using engineering bricks.

Village Enhancement Scheme: The Clerk was asked to write to East

Cambridgeshire District Council and ask them to clarify the current position of work started and not finished and future plans.

Reports:

Councillor Fitch reported to the meeting.

Correspondence Received:

CCC: "Surface water, Rogers Road". This problem had been investigated and it is proposed that a kerb along the section of road near the houses should be installed. Unfortunately funding is not available at present. It is hoped the works might go ahead early Spring.

ECDC: The Draft Electoral Register has been received. There are currently copies at the Village Hall and held by the Clerk for anyone wishing to check their entry.

General: A Camps had contacted Hereward Housing about the Sycamore tree at The Beeches. Hereward replied stating that they would instruct their Grounds Maintenance Contractors to give priority to this.

"Lighting in St Mary's Churchyard". A letter had been received from the P.C.C. asking if the P.C. would be prepared to put a light at the back of St Cyriac's and to put down some hardstanding for cars to be parked at the back of the Church. This is to be included on January's Agenda for discussion.

Accounts for Payment: These were agreed.

Planning Applications Received: Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of one new building. *2A Green Head Road.*

Single storey extension forming link walkway between side entrance of main dwelling and garage. *Lower End House, 39 Lower End.*

There were no objections to the above applications.

Planning Approval Received: Two storey end & rear extension with single storey front extension. *12 Mill Hill.*

Any Other Business: Reach P.C. had again contacted the Clerk with reference to the problem of lorries getting stuck in Reach. The Clerk is to look into this further.

It was noted that a considerable amount of dumping was going on down Station Road & further on. This is to be reported to ECDC.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thurs, 11th January 2001 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The Parish Council would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!

Karen King, Clerk of the Parish Council



County Council Notes Early December 2000

The first priority is to wish all readers a happy and rewarding mid-winter break. It has started early in our family with two separate in-laws already fasting under Ramadan rules. During that time we have to ensure food is available in quantity after sundown, or else.....!

Much goes on at this time in Cambridgeshire, what with maturing studies of the A14 corridor, the first stages of the new Structure Plan serious budget concerns overall and its direct effect on financing schools, Social Services inspection reports, and so on—the list is endless. Let's look at one or two.

First news about **Government Grant**. Cambridgeshire has once again been severely disappointed at the early news from Whitehall. On the preliminary figures it looks as if we shall be the lowest funded county once again. To add insult to injury we are not to receive any allowance for the high cost of living in this and all other counties near London. Some people may remember Mr Blair gave a commitment to review the so-called **Area Cost Adjustment (ACA)** days before the 1997 Election. We are still waiting.

Meanwhile, our schools in the south of the county see neighbouring schools in Herts, Beds and Essex receiving up to £200 per pupil more than Cambridgeshire. It is galling for all three parties and we are united in our disappointment and indignation at the way we have been treated. On a like-for-like basis had we been given a grant equivalent to Bedfordshire we should have another £20m to spread around our services with the lion's share going to schools.

The effect of all this short change is a probable increase of around 8% in the County share of **Council Tax**. I'll keep you informed.

In spite of all the financial bad news our schools continue to do us proud. The latest is **Bottisham Primary** which has a clean bill of health from OFSTED who highlight the standard of teaching, the behaviour of pupils and the leadership of the Head well supported by the governors. With one grandson there and another in the wings I was particularly pleased to read that OFSTED finds a strong moral code in the school with pupils having a clear sense of right and wrong. Where improvement is sought the team picks out provision for reception year pupils and assessment.

There are now **75,000 vehicles per day** travelling on **A14** (at Swavesey). As the theoretical capacity of the road is only 68,000, you will recognise the problem. Add to that 1240 casualties (27 killed) from 1995 to now between Quy and Ellington in the west. Everybody now recognises something must be done.

A lot of local consultation is now going on with the study group Cambridge to Huntingdon Multi-Modal Study (CHUMMS), suggesting at least four possible solutions, not all mutually exclusive. Most pick on the need to use the potential of

the old Cambridge — St. Ives railway line for either rail or guided bus.. Widening the A14 and building a new road either north of the existing road or south via Cambourne are other possibilities. I have maps and descriptions if anyone wants to come round and see them. Otherwise ask Mark Vigor at Shire Hall (tel. 01223 717605).

James Fitch



**EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

From our District
Councillor

Happy New Year, I hope you all had a good Christmas holiday.

East Cambridgeshire District Council has joined with Forest Heath District Council to provide a community bus service, called the Community Buzz. It is based in Newmarket and serves the villages around Newmarket including Swaffham Prior. At the moment it is a pilot scheme travelling to and from local hospitals so that you can visit friends or family. The Buzz visits Addenbrookes on Wednesdays and the West Suffolk Hospital on Fridays. They aim to give 2 hours visiting time at the hospital. There is also a door-to-door service, providing transport links between the villages and Newmarket during the week. Passengers will be able to dial-a-ride along any of the three bus routes, which will be serviced by three minibuses that have been adapted for wheelchair use. The pilot scheme will be flexible, routes being developed or modified according to passenger need. Passengers will have to be members of the scheme, paying an annual £5. Most return fares to Newmarket will cost £4.50. It is more expensive than Cambus, but it provides a door-to-door service at a time to suit you. If you want to use this service, please 'phone 01638 608080. The more people in Swaffham Prior who use this service the more services will be offered locally. The scheme depends on volunteer drivers. If you think you could help by driving a Community Buzz please 'phone Belinda Metson, the co-ordinator on 01638 608080.

The District Council's web site will be launched on 2nd January. The address is <http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk>. This will allow you to access information about Council services. It is part of our general improvement of information technology at the Council, which should allow us to provide a better service to local people.

Charlotte Cane

SWAFFHAM PRIOR WITH REACH. EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING AT REACH VILLAGE CENTRE., WED 22nd NOVEMBER 2000

1. Matters Arising from the Minutes:

- (a) Holy Land: The Vicar said that, owing to the international situation, he might not be going to the Holy Land in Jan. 2001, but would still progress the Parish Visit in 2002.
- (b) The Vicar said that he may not be taking the parishes on a trip to Clare Priory, but was considering Hengrave Hall instead, on February 24th.
- (c) Elizabeth Everitt was acting as project officer with the WI on the Millennium Scrapbook - Vicar to liaise.
- (d) The Stewardship updated list was circulated, but still needed a few amendments.
- (e) The Secretary had sent in a nil return for the Lay Odyssey weekend. The Church in Community Working Group had considered the leaflet The Challenge to the Parish. It was felt that this parish had met its requirements.
- (f) The Vicar said that Churches Together in Burwell was prospectively running a 'Sunday' School at Burwell Village College on Tuesdays.

2. Treasurers' and Gift Officers' Reports

Swaffham Prior

The Treasurer presented the Receipts and Payments account for Jan 1st to November 16th. Comparisons were made between this year and last year. The deficit looked likely to remain about the same, covenants and tax recoveries were almost identical, but FWO has, thankfully, doubled. The Parish Share has gone up under 1% to £9,300. The Charity money had not yet been paid, and the vestry chimney repair had still to be paid for (approx £3500). It was decided to distribute the old-style FWO envelopes to regular givers, and to make another envelope with a Gift-Aid form attached for casual giving.

3. Social Working Groups' Reports

Reach

St Etheldreda's Fair had raised about £160. The Recipe Book was being printed ready for Christmas. It would sell for £3.50. The next meeting of the Working Group would be Wednesday Dec 13th @ 4.00 p.m.

4. Fabric Working groups' Reports

Reach

Doreen Robinson had sent a paper in her absence. It was noted with joy and much thanks that John Holmwood would complete the work on the font free of charge, except for cost of materials. At the last meeting of the Village Hall Committee they had said that they were not against Reach Church connecting to their water supply, with a "Tick" meter to record church usage.

Swaffham Prior

John Norris reported on the following Fabric matters:

- (a) The vestry chimney repairs had been completed by Hardiments
- (b) The boiler had been cleaned and serviced
- (c) The new safe had been built in
- (d) A new catch had been put on the glass door.
- (e) Sidney Hewitt had done a few repairs to the Washtell organ: secretary would write and thank him.
- (f) In the churchyard, the laburnum trees had been removed, a weeping ash tree had been planted and the paths had been gravelled.

(g) The new lighting in the High Street would mean that there was no light at the foot of the church steps. E.C.D.C. had agreed to put a lighting ‘throw’ over the gateway, comprising an arch with two lights. Secretary would write to say that the PCC agreed.

(h) The seat in memory of 6. Lewis had been approved in principle, subject to Faculty.

(i) Henry Freeland had still not sent plans for the Vestry improvement.

(j) We await news from the Houses Committee on providing an extended study and toilet at the Vicarage. Various other suggestions were made for a toilet in the churchyard.

Jenny Moseley
PCC Secretary

Advance Dates for the Diary

Feb 27th	Shrove Tuesday Pancake & Games Party VH 7.30 (provisional)
Feb 8th	Ash Wednesday Cambridge Voices @ St Cyriac’s 7.30
Mar 8th Thu	Bulb Walk, Coffee Morning & Bring-and-Buy, @ The Manor House, Lower End 1000am onwards
Mar 24th Sat	Cambridge Voices ‘Music on the Move’ concert on the Eve of Lady Day @ St Mary’s 7.30pm
Apr 7th Sat	‘Time present; time past - transformation of loss’ an evening of music and poetry with ‘Women of Note’ @ St Cyriac’s 7pm
Apr 13th	Good Friday Cambridge Voices Devotional Concert @ St Cyriac’s 4.00pm
May 26th? Sat	Feast Karaoke Evening @ Village Hall 7pm
Jun 16th Sat	Moveable Feast 7pm.
Jun 17th Sun	Cambridge Voices Choral Evensong @ St Cyriac’s 6pm
Jun 24th Sun	Cambridge Voices Concert
July	Summer Drama
Sep 8th Sat	Cambridge Voices ‘Music on the Move’ concert @ Zion Baptist Chapel
Sep 29th Sat	Village Harvest Supper @ St Cyriac’s 7pm
Oct 7th Sun	‘Music on the Move’ Harvest Festival @ The Little Chapel in the Fen, Nr. Upware 3pm
Oct 14th Sun	Salvation Army Band & Songsters @ Zion Baptist 6.30pm
Nov 4th Sun	Cambridge Voices All Souls @ St Cyriac’s 6.00pm
Nov 11th	Remembrance Sunday Cambridge Voices Requiem @ St Cyriac’s 6.pm
Nov 17th Sat	Winter Quiz @ Village Hall 7.30pm
Nov 24	Village Christmas Bazaar (50/50) @ Village Hall 2pm
Dec 2	Advent by Candlelight with Cambridge Voices @ both churches 4pm



Church Services January 2001

ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck

ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior

ST ETHELREDA & THE HOLY TRINITY Reach

EPIPHANY
1

Sun
7

8:00am
Holy Communion[†]
9:30am
Family Service

11:00am
Parish Communion

6:00pm
Taizé Service
Burwell

3:30pm
Evensong[†] and
Sermon

EPIPHANY
2

Sun
14

9:30am
Parish Communion

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

8:00am
Holy Communion[†]

EPIPHANY
3

Sun
21

9:30am
Village Communion

11:00am
Parish Communion
6:30pm
Ecumenical Service
At Zion Baptist Chapel

8:00am
Holy Communion[†]

EPIPHANY
4

Sun
28

9:30am
Parish Communion
6:00pm
Ecumenical Service
At Free Church

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

[†] indicates 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
Creche	3 rd Sunday 9.30am Swaffham Bulbeck

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

Dear Friends,

GOD'S NEW YEAR RESOLUTION (AGAIN)

No doubt on these dark evenings you might have watched the latest BBC quiz-show offering called 'The Weakest Link'; its presenter is Anne Robinson (of 'Watchdog' fame). On the face of it, the aim is for the winner to take home as much cash as possible, but it doesn't take long to realise that the real purpose is to see who loses. At the end of each round, the surviving contestants vote off the colleague they believe is responsible for impeding their progress - viz, the one who got the most wrong answers or banked the least cash. Not only does the loser have to endure Ms Robinson's caustic wit, they have to be interviewed to say how it feels to be the weakest link (rather like those intrusive sports interviews straight after the event).

Together with 'Big Brother', which I personally found loathsome for its passion for focussing on peoples negative qualities and then voting to evict them, 'The Weakest Link' is all part of our fascination with ritual humiliation. We live in an age marked by insecurity international unease (or worse), jobs, finance, health, weather, fleeting happiness (never mind "till death do us part", it's more often a promise to love as long as the 'feel-good' factor lasts or the pre-nuptial agreement's clauses bind). All of which makes me glad that I'm a Christian with the privilege of working away at Gospel values in today's world.

Why?, because Scripture tells us that God longs to create in each one of us a massive sense of identity and self-worth; we are...children of adoption into his world-wide family, in which we can rest secure. If you know your Bible, Romans 8 is about as good as it gets. St Paul's letter is one of the most powerful passages in the whole Bible about the security God wants Christian people to feel as his children, and it ends with Paul scanning the whole cosmos: heaven and earth ... life and death ... past, present and future. He's looking for something ... anything, that might just wreck our relationship with God. What does he find? - a magnificent blank!

There are no weak links, no threats of eviction, 'for *I am convinced that nothing will be able to separate us from the love that God has for us in Christ Jesus our Lord*' (Romans 8:38,39). In a world dominated by insecurity, I hope you feel like I do, that those words are a massive reassurance. Might our new year resolution be to learn more about that love?

Your parish priest,

Mark

A Journey from here to where?

During January an opportunity will be offered to join an “Emmaus Group” linked to St Mary’s church, Swaffham Bulbeck. Emmaus is a method of small group learning that has been used in a number of Parishes over the last few years. The name comes from an incident recorded in the Bible, when following His resurrection, Jesus joined the disciples as they walked along the Emmaus road, and explained the truth about himself using the scriptures. Interestingly, the disciple did not recognise Jesus until he shared a meal with them.

Some of the principles of that journey will be reflected in the small group times. We believe that everyone is on a spiritual journey, and as we join together, one of the important things to do will be to get to know and support each other. If we are to understand anything of what Christ is saying to us today, we need to seek His presence, and so we will be spending time in worship and prayer. Our first topic will be “the Church” and we will be using the Bible to discover what the earliest churches - were like and imagining what a church should be like today. There will be opportunity to eat together and it is possible that we will begin to recognise something of Christ in each other as the course progresses. Finally our efforts will be pointless unless a change results, maybe that will be in us, or in a fresh vision for what the Church should be in the community.

Our first group will start during the week beginning January 15th and will meet for around five weeks. An invitation to join the course will be distributed to all those in church on Sundays the 7th and 14th January.

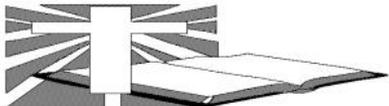
Finally..... Two theologians disagreed about what a verse of Isaiah meant, they discussed, wrote books etc. for years and years. Finally, God got fed up with their arguing and when they were meeting together he appeared and said, “Let me tell you what the verse really means”. Agreeing for the first time in many years they replied in unison “Who asked you to join the discussion?”! Hopefully this demonstrates the opposite of an Emmaus group.

Jonathan Strickland, Mark Howarth

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).

John Morrill will be back next month.



Zion Baptist Chapel

Services for January:

Sunday 7 th	10:30am	No Service
	6:30pm	Communion - D.Bousfield
Sunday 14 th	6:30pm	C.Nash
Sunday 21 st	6:30pm	Ecumenical Service - D.Bousfield
		Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Sunday 28 th	6:30pm	A.Jacobs

The author of these words may be unknown but s/he knows what's in the name of Jesus. Do you?

David Bousfield

What's in a name?

To the artist He is the One Altogether Lovely
To the architect He is the Chief Cornerstone
To the astronomer He is the Sun of Righteousness
To the baker He is the Living Bread
To the banker He is the Hidden Treasure
To the biologist He is the Life
To the carpenter He is the Sure Foundation
To the doctor He is the Great Physician
To the educator He is the Great Teacher
To the farmer He is the Sower and Lord of the Harvest
To the florist He is the Lily of the Valley and the Rose of Sharon
To the geologist He is the Rock of Ages
To the horticulturist He is the True Vine

To the judge He is the Righteous Judge
To the juror He is the True Witness
To the jeweller He is the Pearl of Great Price
To the editor He is the Good Tidings of Great Joy
To the oculist He is the Light of the Eyes
To the philosopher He is the Wisdom of God
To the printer He is the True Type
To the servant He is the Good Master
To the student He is the Incarnate Truth
To the toiler He is the Giver of Rest
To the sinner He is the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world
To the Christian He is the Son of the Living God, the Saviour, the Redeemer and Lord

Author Unknown

Dates for Your Diary - January 2001

Mon	1	Bell Ringing 12 noon
Tue	2	
Wed	3	
Thu	4	Jazz Work Out, Reach VH, 7.30
Fri	5	
Sat	6	
Sun	7	
Mon	8	
Tue	9	
Wed	10	Staine Hundred, 7.30 BVC
Thu	11	PC Meeting 7.30, VH
Fri	12	
Sat	13	
Sun	14	<i>Crier Copy Deadline</i>
Mon	15	WI, 7.30 VH
Tue	16	
Wed	17	
Thu	18	Aladdin, 7:20 Bottisham VCH,. Continued 19th and 20th. Art History, Burwell Village College, 7.30
Fri	19	
Sat	20	Aladdin 2.30 & 7.30
Sun	21	
Mon	22	
Tue	23	
Wed	24	
Thu	25	<i>Crier</i> Collating, Village Hall, 2:30pm
Fri	26	
Sat	27	
Sun	28	
Mon	29	
Tues	30	
Wed	31	
Feb	5	Art History, VH, 7.30
Feb	8	Cambridge Voices, St Cyriac's