



# The Swaffham Crier

Volume 25 Number 3

March 2001



## Editorial

John and Maggie Berry proved a very hard act to follow as hosts at the **Red Lion**. As a result, many locals and previous regulars stopped going altogether, and those that did found the pub a sad remnant of its previous self. But now things are different. As from February 2, the *Red Lion* returned to local management, that of Lorraine and Dave Nichols, and in the words of a regular: "It's so nice to see the Pub busy again. There are lots of friendly faces, and the welcoming atmosphere is evident even before you open the door". Lorraine has a track-record in successful management — for three years she has been helping run the phenomenally successful Swaffham Prior *Playscheme* (who now need more volunteers! See page 10). For the gourmets among us, there is pigeon, pheasant, partridge and Sea Bass on the specials board (so look out, *Dyke's End!*), not to mention a curry night on Friday. Paula is behind the bar again, and we wish them all the best of luck!

Where we came unstuck last month was in not realising that the readership of this magazine is wider than we thought. Not only does it spread to Hexham, Northumberland, but also as far away as the Kingdom of Reach. We have to watch our step. There are positively *no* jokes about Reach in this Editorial. See *Letters* for the reason why.....

But one of the most amusing and, especially given the views of our reader in Hexham, apposite letters this month is the one we can't actually print. Like 'proper' newspapers, we might publish something '**name withheld**', but the Editors have to know who actually wrote it. That way we can get in touch if there are any queries, and things don't get entirely out of hand. So if the 'little old lady' in question would like to drop her (or is it *his*!?) name and address through the letter-box, we will publish it next month.

In fact, the *Letters* page is getting so good, the Editors are thinking about having an Award for Most Amusing Contribution of the Year. Last time we had an Award (3 beans, as I remember) we never paid up, but we promise we will this time.

Meanwhile, **Music on the Move** promises to be an excellent series of concerts, commencing with the Concert for Lady Day on March 23. See you there—or in the Red Lion!

*Caroline Matheson*

**Cover Picture:** The Red Lion, Swaffham Prior



# Letters to the Editors



## Our Man Again!

Dear Editors,

I recently came across the *Crier* and was intrigued and impressed by the quality of literary argument it contained; few, if any, local papers nowadays give space to arguments over the authorship of Shakespeare's plays—I can only assume that the University spreads a benign osmotic influence out into the surrounding fens, an influence which certainly doesn't extend this far north.

I was impressed too by the level of disparagement to which each protagonist descended; here we reserve our passions for football and it is heartening to see that in one quiet corner of rural England, English men still care about Shakespeare (Perhaps they really do still bicycle to morning Communion as I understand to be the case in John Major's Huntingdon, not too far away). I hope you will continue to encourage this, while ensuring as editor that passion does not descend into unseemly vulgar abuse.

**Alex Fotheringham**

East Chesterhope, West Woodburne  
Hexham, Northumberland

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## Out of Reach

Dear Editor

I would like to bring up two points from your last issue of The Swaffham Crier (February 2001).

*"Eric on behalf of Neighbourhood Watch gave details of a large number of recent farm and industrial equipment thefts in Reach. Should this be put in the Crier? — almost unanimously the cry was **"Reach things in the Reach Magazine"***

The neighbourhood watch cluster group have regular meetings in Swaffham Bulbeck, these meetings are to help co-ordinate the watches in this area, allowing us to work together and hopefully to beat the criminals. Over the past two years we have been trying to set up links between all the villages to the extent that if an incident happens in Bottisham then within minutes Burwell will know of the incident and if necessary can take the appropriate action.

I read with disgust that almost unanimously the Parish Council of Swaffham Prior are not willing to put incidents that happen in Reach in the *Crier*. (Thank you Eric for bringing it up) I feel that the last two years have been totally wasted if we can't work together to beat crime then we might as well open our doors, leave for a holiday and let the criminals have a free

hand. If you do not wish to join this scheme then please let me know and I will ensure that when the final communication system is set up we will by pass Swaffham Prior and move immediately on to Swaffham Bulbeck. It is also interesting to note that as of today I still have no individuals from Swaffham Prior who are willing to help with the linking. I have names from Burwell, Reach, Swaffham Bulbeck, Bottisham, Quy, and Lode but no Swaffham Prior!!

Removing my Neighbourhood Watch hat I will move on to my second point. *“Why don’t the monster megatonnes visit Reach first? That tightish corner would wedge anything bigger than a mini car*

I don’t think I really need to say too much about that statement, I see no reason why they need to visit Reach first, however if they do and you live on the corner in question you would prefer these trucks visit the Outer Hebrides first, what is a little bit of churned up grass compared to your house losing it’s side. The grass will re-grow, probably not until after Reach Fair though, when our green and playing field will possibly be churned up but every summer it looks as good as ever. Grass does re-grow honestly!

**Dave Summers**

32 Great Lane, Reach

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## **Litter**

Dear Editors,

I walked to the post box in Greenhead Road today and picked up a plastic carrier bag that was blowing about in the road.

On the way home I used it to house bits of litter I picked up on the left-hand side of the road. By the time I got back to Adams Road that bag was full - of bits of paper, empty crisp packets, plastic food containers, drinks cans etc. etc.

What has happened to Swaffham Prior? I remember how proud we were when we won the Best Kept Village competition. No chance of that now I’m afraid. Don’t people have any pride in where they live these days?

**Betty Prime**

PS. We saw from the graffiti on the brand new map of the Village that ‘Nikki Loves Adam’. Do we really want to know?

*[See the announcement about the Just Bin It campaign on page 21. Eds]*

## **Donations**

Many thanks to the Zion Chapel for their kind donation to the **Crier** this month!

Dear Editors,

## Street Lighting

You don't have to be an astronomer to want to see the stars! Light pollution is a serious problem in **this** country; how many children have never seen the Milky Way and don't even know what it is? It is certainly not visible from Swaffham Prior. A starry or moonlit night in an unlit village or in the countryside is sheer magic.

But I do have sympathy with those who like well-lit streets. A schoolgirl during the war, I remember how pitch dark a night could be in the blackout, with not a chink of light from houses and even bike lamps and torches so dimmed as to be practically useless. It was very exciting at the end of the war when the lights came on again. We children rushed down to the main road on our bikes and cycled in and out of the dotted white line along the middle of the road! No petrol, no cars - we were the only 'traffic'.

But isn't Mr Hewitt perhaps making rather a fuss? The new lights seem adequate to me, though I don't much like the new lamp standards. In fact I wonder whether the ECDC have adapted some standards they already had instead of investing in some specifically designed for 'down-lighting'. The idea of down-lighting is to direct the light from street lamps downwards instead of pouring it wastefully and unnecessarily into the sky. It should be as good from the ground as conventional lighting.

I agree with Mr Hewitt that the village should have been fully consulted before those new lights were installed.

*Meryl Moore*

Rose Cottage, Cage Hill

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Dear Editors

## COUNCIL TAX

Councillor Mrs Cane tells us that the Council tax is going up by 5%, slightly above inflation. The Bank of England reckons inflation is less than 2%. Also, she calmly says that they are taking £677,000 from reserves.

Last year Council Tax went up by 8.9%, about 3 times the rate of inflation, and they took £690,000 from the reserves. Now she complains that they have lost the interest on that money!

The previous independent Council was not only a low taxing authority but managed to build up the reserves as well.

This Council has spent over £1.3 million out of reserves—wait for next year's increase in Council Tax.

*Mike Phillips*

Dear Editors,

**Name Withheld**

Perhaps I might, through your columns, acquaint ‘Name Withheld’ with the information that I have a spare recycling bin which I would be relieved to pass on (ref. letter in Feb. *Crier*). While I am aware that N.W. prefers to live among us incognito, I absolutely decline to meet him/her in the churchyard at midnight. In deference to N.W.’s sensibilities, however, I have no objection to an appearance in disguise.

A character from seafaring fiction would lend an agreeably nautical air to the mystery, and I suggest that Long John Silver, complete with peg-leg and parrot, would be acceptable (as long as the parrot’s vocabulary is limited to such discreet commonplaces as ‘pieces of eight’). Or even Captain Hook would do, but I draw the line at any accompanying reptile whether or not it has swallowed an alarm clock with a very loud tick. (Besides, the acquisition of a crocodile might entail robbing a zoo and then the RSPCA would hear of it.) If interested, N.W. could get in touch with me via this prestigious journal, or in a more direct manner if preferred. Then a secret assignation in broad daylight beside the village sign could be arranged at our mutual convenience. Or, if that won’t do, I could just abandon my bin by the sign (and then keep watch over my garden wall for the furtive approach of a stranger — or maybe someone well known to me!)

***Meryl Moore***

P.S. If N.W. has retrieved his/her own bin, my spare one is on offer (free of charge) to any resident of Swaffham Prior.

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Dear Editors

So let’s get this straight, then. Alistair Everitt says I should withdraw because he wrote a letter in which he mistook me for someone else, or so he thinks; and because I should have replied in - one of the two ways I would have done if I had been the person he had thought I was; which seems to be asking a lot, especially since he has already acknowledged that I did not because I am not. And vice versa: he is convinced I am not because I did not. Or so he thinks. (Like he says, things have been a bit muddled lately).

As regards identity, I should say that for my part I am convinced he is not a persecutor of The Staine Hundred, but he sure as heck argues like one.

***‘Name withheld’***

PS — The other day in my garden I counted thirty blackbirds, eighteen chaffinches, five greenfinches and a couple of long-tailed tits. Is this someone’s idea of a joke?

Dear Editors,

## STAINE HUNDRED

In replying to “Name Withheld” writing in your February issue, it is difficult to ascertain whether he means The Staine Hundred, being an ancient administrative district of which we are a part or a most interesting local history Society run by Peggy Watts of Quy. If the latter she would be most surprised to hear that she is being persecuted, I am sure.

If however he means the former, it will be difficult to treat the subject lightheartedly, so without pontificating too much, here goes:

The Venerable Bede of Monkwearmouth and Yarrow writing his *History* about the year 715 inferred that an Hide was that acreage required to keep a family of the time for all the seasons of the year. Thus this was not a common measurement, since a sheepwalk in the Midland hills would not feed such a family in the same manner as the same acreage of good Fenland soil. It has been calculated that an Hide in Cambridge was 120 acres.

Now we arrive at the Hundred. To achieve an administrative area for legal and fiscal control for court and taxation purposes, a multiple of one hundred was used, which again inferred one hundred families, however extended. The word “Staine” is old English for Stone.

The Staine Hundred includes, according to the Domesday Book of 1086, the villages of Swaffham (Prior and Bulbeck were counted as one before the mid 1300’s), Bottisham, Quy, Horningsea and Wilbraham.

Some of the surrounding Hundreds are, with the main villages in brackets, Staploe (Soham), Flendish (Fulbourn), and Radfield (Dullingham). Ely had two Hundreds, called merely 1 and 2.

Such was the efficiency of this Saxon administrative system, as measured in those times, that William left the whole intact as it gave him the basis for the taxation of the whole of England as well as showing who owned what and the manpower he could call on in times of emergency.

In answer to “Name Withheld” and his query of who persecuted the Staine Hundred, it was the Norman William when he taxed the Hundreds at 70 pence for each Hide later in his reign. This was to pay for the raising of an army to subdue the Fenland rebels, to tackle the Danes who were causing trouble yet again and to curb his son in Normandy who was taking things into his own hands during his father’s absence.

It is said that most Hides were not worth such a large sum in cash over and above that which was already being extracted from them. However to set the record straight, this tax was set for all the Hundreds and was not aimed at the Staine Hundred alone, although its people might have thought so!

***Francis Riggs.***

## **Accommodation Wanted**

Married couple (Retired), seek long term rental accommodation. (unfurnished).

Detached, 2 Bed. Plus garage & outbuilding suitable for hobbies workshop. Rural or semi rural setting preferred.

First class references available!

Please ring 01638-742666

## ***Sponsors Please! For Walk***

Mr Bill Pedley is taking part in a sponsored walk along the full length of the Dyke from Wooditton to Reach in aid of the British Heart Foundation and he would like some sponsors! Forms can be obtained from Bill on 742031 or David Sherman on 721167. The walk will take place on 22 April - participants to meet at Reach for 10am.

# **S A L E**

**TOP QUALITY WHITE CHINA  
FROM VARIOUS FACTORIES**

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March from 2pm to 4pm**

**in the Village Hall**

**plus**

**Exhibition and Sale of work by**

**The China Painting Group**

**oooooooooooooooo**

**Potential gifts for Easter and Mothers' Day**

## From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

I thought I was going to get the chop after the last PC meeting. Instead I have been suspended for two months. The Editors sent me out to get the full story on why the PC was not consulted about the new lights, and I failed. ECDC made no statement and the PC decided to be mature and generous and not to press the point.



But, this could well leave something in the broom cupboard. So I have had to resort to another source of information -- our Unelected Representative of the Village (hereinafter referred to as Urov) who was identified by Margaret Stanier some two months ago. Urov is not 'The Force', but he does have an undeniable presence, does collect a vast store of information from a wide-ranging digit, and is willing to pass most information on to anyone happy to listen.

Urov has long been telling me that it is the PC's own fault it had not been consulted, that it had never taken much interest in the scheme, and that it had delegated the whole matter to Peter Mengham. Peter has now left the village but in his time he did sterling work for the PC and volunteered to get involved with almost everything. He was especially proud of his inside track to certain members of the ECDC and the police and at times offered to use this facility. Urov also thought the plans of the new lighting scheme had been sent to Peter. At the time I gave this little credence. But Urov could well be right, because it ties in with a singular event which happened a year and a bit ago.

Now to a brief, and miniaturised, account of some of the recent 'light' events. **Tues, 30 Jan.** Man came to repair the defective new light. He had the wrong tools and went away. **Thurs, 2 Feb.** Mr Hewitt was right about the potential accidents and at 6.50am a milk lorry skidded and demolished his neighbour's double gates and a good part of his wall. Those awake at the time thought the crash was Mr Hewitt demolishing the new lamppost. **Fri, 3 Feb.** The defective new light is repaired and an extra lamp standard is put at the other end of Anglesey House, because, according to the erector, "complaints from them" pointing at the cottages opposite. I told him the complaints had come from someone 40 yards up the road. **Thurs, 8 Feb.** As part of the enhancement scheme all posts with 'no parking' signs were taken up with the notices being fixed to the nearest post or building.

Meanwhile the Parish Council had at last got into the action - **by chance**. A landscape architect had phoned the Chairman of the PC to say that she could not get hold of Urov to tell him the date of the next meeting and would our Chairman mind putting a note through Urov's door telling him about the meeting. Trevor asked if anyone could attend the meeting and was told that anyone interested could turn up. So Trevor did on Wednesday 1 February. But of course this is all too late for the Parish Council to make any real



contribution or in fact to have any say at all. It is like being told to do something about it when someone has taken out and thrown overboard the bung of a boat.

The situation at present is that, following Mr Hewitt's letter, Charlotte is very anxious to have an early meeting to examine the lighting on a moonless night. The PC rightly said that this is pointless until all the lighting is in place, which will not be until the arch lighting the church steps has been erected. But the arch cannot be put up until a faculty has been granted which may not be until May or June. Notice of this faculty has to be posted on the church notice board and objections can be made - such as an inappropriate design (when do we see this?), inadequate lighting for the path leading round the church on the left, or for any other reason. If there are a number of objections the matter may end up in a Consistory Court, of which one of the few remaining original courts is in Chester Cathedral (if anyone is interested). Objections could cause a delay of months, if not years, before the arch is erected, and before a true test of the lighting can be made. Meanwhile the original motorway lights may have been taken down.

Charlotte has a problem. She cannot ask the help of our PC because they were never consulted and the only letter she has is strongly opposed and claims to represent the views of many people. At present she has to take Mr Hewitt's views as those representing the views of the village. So, if anyone thinks the reduced lighting is a great improvement they ought to write to Charlotte, especially as it is possible to insert more powerful bulbs if the objectors carry the day. The next few weeks may see Mandelson come or go, and may see whether the Conservatives follow Francis Maude's advice to have a gayer leader, but this enhancement lighting project will certainly continue to be at the centre of news, and could even be a key issue at the forthcoming elections.

Alas, there is no space to report the other important work of the PC. James Fitch was at his best in the information and advice he gave about any speeding control on Mill Hill, Charlotte Cane was brilliant as our caring ECDC representative and we had no coffee or biscuits because Elaine was away.

*Alastair Everitt*

### **Urgently Required**

Person to deliver Swaffham Crier each month in Lower End, from Stocks Farm House to the Manor House, including the Beeches. If you are able to help please contact Ruth Stinton on 742641.

# Playscheme 2001!!!

## **YOUR PLAYScheme NEEDS YOU!!**

At the first meeting a small number of enthusiastic volunteers agreed to organise Playscheme for the week starting 30 July. All primary school aged children in Swaffham Prior and Reach or who have previously attended Swaffham Prior School will be eligible to come along. It is hoped to be able to offer a range of musical, dramatic, craft and sporting activities as well as all sorts of trips and visits during the week. Good progress has already been made in putting together the programme, but more input into the planning stage would be very welcome.

The next meeting will be held on:

**Monday 12 March at 8pm in the Red Lion, Swaffham Prior.**

Please come along with any ideas for activities or offers of help. You will not be over-burdened — but a few more people to make phone calls, write a few letters or take on the arranging of one particular activity would make all the difference and contribute greatly to the overall success of Playscheme.

Or get in touch with one of the following:

Ruth Dalton; Tracey Jeacock; Mandy Kingsmill; Dee Noyes;  
or Jo Pumfrey, via a note left at the school office.

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## **ADeC Arts and Disability Working Group**

Are you interested in the Arts? Do you have a disability? Have you a little time to spare? We are looking for local representation in our working group which meets 3 to 4 times a year over a working lunch to research, discuss, plan and implement arts activities to the local community throughout East Cambridgeshire.

If you are interested or wish to know more:  
Please contact Susan Owen on 01638 508430.



# COFFEE MORNING & SPRING BULB WALK

at

The Manor † Lower End † Swaffham Prior

(by kind invitation of Mrs Rosalind Wood)



Thursday, 8th March  
10.30 am – 12.00 noon



Bring and Buy



Cake and Produce Stall



Quality Brk-a-Brax



Raffle

*Proceeds towards St Mary's vestry refurbishment*

# **GRAND JUMBLE & NEARLY NEW SALE IN AID OF THE VILLAGE HALL**

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 2.30PM**

## **FUND RAISING EVENT**

# **Urgently Required!!**

**We are having a JUMBLE & NEARLY NEW SALE in order to raise funds in aid of the Village Hall and require jumble, nearly new items, toys, bric-a-brac, books - in fact, anything saleable.**

**We would very much appreciate your help.**

**Items can be collected or left with:**

**Alternatively items can be delivered to the Village Hall on**

**Elaine Malster  
28 Fairview Grove  
Tel: 743894**

**Trevor Jones  
Sheldricks Cottage  
Lower End  
Tel: 741197**

**Alastair Everitt  
Anglesey House  
High Street  
Tel: 742974**

**2<sup>nd</sup> March, 7.30 - 9pm and 3<sup>rd</sup> March 10.30am - 1pm.**



### **Aromatherapy & Reflexology**

**Headaches? IBS? Aches and pains?**

**All this and much more can be caused by stress.**

**Help is at hand!**

**10% of all aromatherapy and Reflexology treatments until end of March 2001 at Aromatherapy World, Natural Health, Ely. Tel: 01353 665499**

## Easter Lilies

**E**ach year we have had lilies in St Mary's Church at Easter time and, recently, many people have contributed to these in memory of a loved one.

Donations can be made anonymously or with your name and the name of your loved one. A list will then be compiled and placed in church for Easter Sunday. As a guide the Easter lilies cost £2.50 per stem last year. All contributions will be *very* welcome and will enable us to have a beautiful display.

If you would like to make a donation please put it through Sue Rust's door at 23 Greenhead Road or Ruth Scovil's door at The Oaks, Manor Farm Court, Lower End (the letterbox is in the door at the back of the house!). Please include the name of your loved one and your own unless, of course, you wish to make your gift anonymously.



*Ruth Scovil*

## THE CHURCH OF SAINT MARY THE VIRGIN

Swaffham Prior

Friday March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 8.00 p.m

### Concert for Lady Day

*St Mary's is the Parish Church of Swaffham Prior and has a history reaching back to at least the 12<sup>th</sup> century. To herald one of the festivals of the Virgin Mary, the Feast of the Annunciation, known also as Lady Day, **Cambridge Voices** will sing music on a Marian theme drawn from settings of the Roman Catholic mass that would have been sung in the century before the English Reformation*

**Tickets £5 (children under 17 £2.50)** available at the door

Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> of April 2001  
19.30 for 20.00

# YEW

## TIME PAST & TIME PRESENT

An Evening of Poetry and Music  
Celebrating the Meaning of Yew

With Poetry by T.S.Elliot,  
Jehanne Mehta, Malcolm Jamieson and  
Sheila Wild and A Capella Singing  
By Women of Note

In the Beautiful Ambience  
of St Cyriac's in  
Swaffham Prior - Cambridge  
Amongst an Exhibition by photographer and  
Naturalist Andy McGeeney  
And Sculpture in Yew Wood

Tickets £6 to £4. Concessions.

For Further Information and booking  
Contact:

Nicole Buijsse — The Mill House—  
Bottisham Park — Bottisham — Cambridge  
CB5 9ED

Tel 01223 812363  
Nicolebuijsse@hotmail.com

## YEW Time Past & Time Present

The Yew has the ability to live through millennia and its amazing powers of renewal in the face of death, to rejuvenate itself when damaged, have made it a symbol of endurance and transcendence through time.

### *Sacred Tree of Europe*

Its evergreen canopy meant it was the only tree that would provide shelter in winter to tribal folk living in the large forests of Britain and Ireland. And it became a tree, like the oak, to be revered. For most people nowadays the yew is associated with death and burial; it is seen in churchyards and its dark foliage is frequently used by poets to signify loss. However even before the arrival of Christianity the yew was already connected with spirituality, and not only was it to signify death, but also birth and resurrection.

### *Millennial Trees*

The oldest living yew trees may stretch back in time to the Bronze Age. The yew tree at Fortingall is thought to be about 8000 years old, and legend has it that Pontius Pilate played amongst its branches. Recently, to celebrate the Millennium, many churches planted a Millennium Yew, taken from a cutting of an old yew tree which would have been growing at the time of the birth of Jesus.

### *Photographic Exhibition*

The exhibition by naturalist and photographer Andy McGeeney displays the beauty and wonder of ancient yews. The images are supported by

fascinating accounts of their unusual ecology, mythic status and historical significance.

### *Performance*

The Performance of Yew — Time Past & Time Present will celebrate and explore the multiple meanings of yew through live poetry and a cappella singing. Themes embedded in the images of yew; our place in time in the face of eternity, our connection with nature, transformation of loss, spirituality. And also that of relationship, that what transpires between self and other, I and Thou.

Working with the images through poetry, song, sculpture and photography, the exhibition and performance aim to open up perspectives on nature and humanity's relationship to it. It is one way to connect with how our ancestors may have understood the world at the time they planted our oldest yew trees. As T.S. Eliot said:

Time present and time past  
Are both perhaps present in time  
future,  
And time future contained in time  
past.  
If all time is eternally present  
All time is unredeemable.  
What might have been is an  
abstraction  
Remaining a perpetual possibility  
Only in a world of speculation.  
What might have been and what has  
been  
Point to one end, which is always  
present.

For more information contact Nicole Buijsse (01223 812363)-

*Friends of Bottisham Village  
College*

## **LINEDANCE** (some tuition given for beginners)

IN THE HALL  
AT  
BOTTISHAM VILLAGE  
COLLEGE  
ON

SAT 10<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2001  
7.30pm to 11.30pm  
£4 Adults £2 Child [11-16yrs]

**BAR AVAILABLE**

*DANCING TO THE  
DELIGHTFUL  
NEON MOON DISCO*

*COME AND JOIN US FOR A FUN  
NIGHT OUT*

TICKETS FROM LUSHERS  
NEWSAGENTS BOTTISHAM  
OR CONTACT CAROLYN ON  
**01223 812542**

**Bottisham, Burwell, Linton Village Colleges**  
***Lifelong Learning***  
**Day and Weekend Courses**

***Saturday 3rd March***

Calligraphy Workshop: Death in Art: Flowers for Easter

Photoshop — A Basic Guide: Wine Appreciation

***Saturday/Sunday 3rd/4th March***

Excel for All: Counselling Adolescents & Their Families

***Saturday 10th March***

Chair Caning & Upholstery: Design Your Own Garden Pond

Feng Shui & the Garden: Flower Arranging

Healing Touch Workshop for Domestic & Farm Animals

Introduction to Sign Language: Italian Panel Beating

Playing Games for Positive Behaviour

***Saturday/Sunday 10th/11th March***

First Aid for Childcarers

***Saturday 17th March***

Colour & style — Your Personal Wardrobe: Life Drawing

Love in Art: RYA VHF GMDSS System: Wood Turning

NVQ Amenity Horticulture Open Day 10.00 - 1.00

***Saturday/Sunday 17th/18th March***

PowerPoint

***Sunday 18th March***

Orchestral Play In

***Saturday 24th March***

Basic Food Hygiene for the Early Years: Creative Fun

Creative Mirror Making: Introduction to Shiatsu

Lebanese Cookery: Neurolinguistic Programming

RYA VHF GMDSS System Update Course

***Saturday/Sunday 24th/25th March***

A Busy Person's Guide to Word, Excel, PowerPoint & More

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





## **STUDY DAY AT BURWELL VILLAGE COLLEGE**

### **ITALIAN PANEL PAINTINGS**



Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2001, 10 - 4

Enrol by 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Details from  
Burwell Village College 01638 741901  
Tutor: Ann Hollingsworth

Discover the history of the painted panel from 1250-1500: its changing shape and frame, production techniques, subject matter, artists and patrons. Known as altarpieces, these panels were intended to stand on an altar and form part of the decoration of a church or chapel. Today they form the backbone of Italian art collections in our galleries. The course will be illustrated with examples from Giotto, Duccio, Lippi, Fra Angelico, Botticelli and others.

### **The Easter Sepulchre in Eastern England**

**An illustrated talk** by  
Ann Hollingsworth  
Swaffham Prior Village Hall  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2001 7.30 p.m.  
Entrance £2

At Easter time every church in medieval England had to set up an Easter Sepulchre to represent the Tomb of Christ. Tonight you can discover what they looked like and the rituals surrounding them. Unique slides will be shown of some fine examples from churches in the East of England.

Enquiries to Ann Hollingsworth 01638 741613

**Cleaner Required! For Swaffham Prior household  
Tel: 741613.**



## LADIES CIRCLE

First of all Happy New Year to all Crier readers from the Ladies Circle.

With all the hustle and bustle of Christmas preparations it was decided that we would all go out for a meal **after** the festive season, so on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2001 we all met at the Wheatsheaf Public House at Stow cum Quy. The meal was superb and we all had a very enjoyable evening.

For your diary forthcoming meetings are:

26<sup>th</sup> March - Chris Clarke - Makeup

23<sup>rd</sup> April - Gill Davies - Flower Arranging

Any new members would be very welcome. Please ring either Mary Cook on 742945 or myself on 742585 who will be willing to pick you up if you are interested in joining us.

*Sandra Butcher*



## STAINED HUNDRED

The February Meeting of the Staine Hundred Local History Society was well attended. Peter Norman gave a slide show entitled "Newmarket, Old and New" in which he contrasted modern photographs with those taken at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> or beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He began with Egerton House and took us along the Cambridge Road past the July Course and the Golf Links which in 1895 was a jumping course and the grandstands were changed into houses which are still there. At one time some of the holes of the golf course were in the ditch of Devil's Dyke. The large memorial at the entrance to Newmarket was put up in memory of Sir Daniel Cooper of Warren House by his wife. From there on the old pictures of the Terrace and the High Street showed racehorses walking down the middle of the road and a good variety of old carts and carriages. Mr Norman gave the history of almost every building in the High Street, with pictures of the past and present use. The stick of bombs which fell in 1941 devastated some six or so buildings and killed over 20 people. Even more demolition took place when the Rookery was built in 1971. A Zeppelin dropped a bomb in WWI and the boys dug up the shrapnel and sold it at a piece - supplementing the supply when the original ran out. At the Kingsway Cinema in the 1950s part was curtained off and couples entering were asked if they were snogging or watching! An amazing number of pubs have disappeared. The slides were fascinating and as shown by someone with so much local knowledge made a

most interesting evening.

The next meeting will be on March 14<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 pm in the Lecture Room at Bottisham Village College, when Mrs Rachel Wroth will be talking about “Cambridge College Servants in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.” Visitors are welcome, admission £1.50.

The outing on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> June will leave at 9.15 am and be home around 5.30 pm. This will include a stop at March with coffee and a tour of the church with its famous hammerbeam roof of 120 angels, followed by lunch and a tour of Deene Park in Northants. If interested, please contact Stewart Bell, 811570

*Peggy Day*



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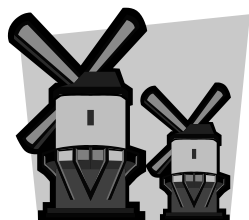
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## **Little Windmills Playgroup**

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)

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# Just Bin It



Tidy Britain Group's new campaign 'Just Bin It' replaces the well-known National Spring Clean and urges people not to drop litter in the first place as well as encouraging clean ups. 'Just Bin It' will be underpinned by a concerted drive by Tidy Britain Group to reduce rubbish in the UK and improve the quality of local environments. The coming months will see a whole raft of studies and surveys to find out who drops litter and why, how much rubbish is being dumped and where and when people litter.

## Event Organisation

Just Bin It' can help you to tackle an environmental problem in your area. With the help and commitment of others, the litter problem can be tackled long-term and a solution reached. The 'Just Bin It' campaign will:

- help you recruit volunteers;
- give advice on fundraising;
- advise on how to reach others via the media;
- help you to provide a cleaner environment for everyone to enjoy.

Follow these step-by-step guidelines and you will be assured of holding a well-organised, successful and enjoyable event. Comments and requests for further information can be e-mailed to [alisonm@tidybritain.org.uk](mailto:alisonm@tidybritain.org.uk)

## Pinpointing your clean up

Find a piece of land or an area you wish to clean up. Then check with your local council to determine who owns the land or has responsibility for the area.

## Community Involvement

A clean up, to be successful, needs to involve as many different sectors of the community as possible.

- Approach local residents either by leafleting, calling at homes, or through a residents group. Put up posters in local shops and supermarkets, in libraries, community and leisure centres and on church notice boards.

- Contact your local council to see if they have a volunteer bureau or your local Community Volunteer Service who can help find volunteers and offer advice.

- Contact your local Tidy Britain Group office (01603 766559) to let them know what you are planning to do. They may be able to put you in touch with other local volunteers.

## Further Information

Is available on the Tidy Britain Web site [www.tidybritain.org.uk](http://www.tidybritain.org.uk)

## Notes from the Parish Council February Meeting

Mr T Jones chaired the meeting with 5 members and 2 members of the Public.

Councillor Fitch reported to the meeting for CCC.

Councillor Cane reported to the meeting for ECDC.

### **Matters Arising:**

Subscriptions: Cambridgeshire ACRE, Wildlife Trusts & Society of Local Council Clerks. These were agreed.

**Request for Donation - Bottisham V.C:** A donation of £50 was agreed towards two projects at B.V.C. - "New course for school leavers" and "Turning the Red Lights Green".

**Grasscutting Services:** Estimates for this year's grasscutting season are to be obtained ready for discussion at next month's meeting.

**Additional Lighting & Hardstanding for Car Parking at St Cyriac's:** A letter had been sent to PCC asking for more information and a reply was awaited. Members had been to look at the site and after discussion it was decided to wait until a reply had been received from the PCC before any decision was made.

**Village Enhancement Scheme:** The Contractors have returned and repaired the new lamp that had failed and another lamp has been installed outside Anglesey House. This at the time of the meeting was not yet working. The archway and lighting for the Church steps is still awaited. After discussion between members and with Councillor Cane, it was agreed to wait until all lights were in place and working before assessing their effectiveness. At this time a meeting on site is to be arranged between ECDC, CCC and interested parties.

**Correspondence Received:** The Clerk reported correspondence.

**Accounts for Payment:** These were agreed.

### **Planning Approvals Received:**

2A Green Head Road.

Lower End House, 39 Lower End.

**Any Other Business:** It was reported to the meeting that vandalism was becoming an increasing problem in the village. The Clerk is to write to the Police and seek their advice and assistance.

The Clerk is to obtain prices for the taking down of two large trees on the allotments. One of the seats outside the Village Hall is damaged. This is to be repaired.

New flat swing seats to replace the tyre swings have been received for the

play area and will be installed in the near future.

### **Open Question Time:**

Mr Limb asked for clarification of the above subscriptions.

**The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday, 8th March 2001 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**

*Karen King*



## **CONTACTING THE POLICE WHEN URGENT**

If life or property is at immediate risk, an offender or a suspicious person is still in the vicinity or a crime is in progress or has just happened, e.g. in last few minutes: **DIAL 999**. At the end of your call ask for an Incident Number or Crime Number. This will help if you need to call the Police again.

## **TO REPORT A CRIME**

Reporting a crime that happened some time ago e.g. several hours; to find out how an investigation is going or to provide further information about a previous crime: **DIAL 01223 358966 and ask for the CRIME MANAGEMENT UNIT for your area**. If you do not know the Division you are in, ask the operator for guidance. Always tell your neighbourhood watch co-ordinator what you have reported.

## **REPORTING A SUSPICIOUS INCIDENT**

**Dial 01223 358966 and ask for the Force Control Room**

## **CONTACTING THE POLICE WHEN NOT URGENT**

To speak to your local Police Officer or local Police Station call **01223 358966 and ask for the Station required**. REMEMBER though, that your Local Community Beat Officer is not on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If you need your query to be dealt with as soon as possible speak to whoever answers the telephone at the local station. If you need to leave a message for a particular Officer you can do so by this method.

**REMEMBER WE ARE ALL WORKING TOGETHER— THE MORE HELP WE GIVE THE POLICE, THE EASIER IT IS FOR THEM TO HELP US. PLEASE DO NOT ABUSE THE SYSTEM.**



The next edition of Connexions will be delivered during March. Please let me know if your copy does not arrive. The Newspaper is available on tape for people who cannot read it – if you know someone who would find a tape version useful please let me know their name and address and I'll get a taped version to them.

This edition of Connexions will contain a questionnaire asking you how you would like the Council to be run. The Government has said that we must introduce new ways of working and making decisions. Initially they said we had to choose from three options. So last year we sought your views on which of the three options you preferred. The options were a Directly Elected Mayor and Cabinet, a Leader of the Council and Executive Cabinet or a Directly Elected Mayor and Council Manager. From these 3 you chose the Leader of the Council and Executive Cabinet. But people we spoke to, notably the Parish Councils, told us that they wanted us to retain the committee structure. This was not an option allowed by the Government at the time, but we continued to argue that it should be an option. At the final stage of the Bill the Government accepted a Liberal Democrat amendment in the House of Lords which allowed smaller Councils, like East Cambridgeshire, to retain a committee structure – this is called Alternative Arrangements. We would still have to change how the committees operated and could not have as many committees as we have now, but decisions would be taken by committees on which all parties were represented within a policy framework set by the full council. The government requires us now to consult on all four options before setting out the detail for the successful option. It is vitally important that as many people as possible give us their views so that we choose the option which most people want. Please do let us know your views, either by completing the ballot paper in Connexions or by voting on-line at [www.eastcambs.gov.uk](http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk).

And finally – the lights in the High Street. East Cambs has paid for the new lights as part of our conservation areas enhancement scheme. Under this scheme Parish Councils can ask for improvements within conservation areas. Many, like Swaffham Prior, have asked for lights that are more in keeping with a village setting. There is still one more light to come in Swaffham Prior – the one over the church gate. Once that is installed John Selby, our Conservation Officer, will arrange a meeting with Chris Sproston, the County lighting engineer and the Parish Council to measure light levels. If this meeting decides that there is insufficient light, the light can be increased on these new lamps.

***Charlotte Cane***





Inevitably, the highlight for this month is the level of **Council Tax** we shall have to pay for April. As far as the County is concerned their share will rise by 8%, so that, for instance, a Band D property will rise to £668.07 for year 2001/2. This is much the largest share of the whole Council Tax, but remember, to get the exact figure you need to add the Police, Parish and District portions. At this moment the final charge is not yet certain, but I'll give details next month.

You will wonder why the total rise will be more than inflation. The short over-simple answer, in my opinion, is that the Government wants to raise more money locally to pay for local services and to do that they have cut grants to all Counties, Districts and Police authorities. As a result we pay more locally but the Government has the opportunity of national tax cutting; using their local grant savings so that overall there is not much change to total tax charged in the U.K. This does not mean that everyone ends up all square. We all have different personal circumstances such as the wide difference between the value of our houses.

If it is any comfort, last April we found ourselves with the 3rd lowest Council Tax of all counties and we expect to remain within the last few this coming year. It is also worth noting that two thirds of the County Citizen's Panel voted for an increase of 8% or more in order to maintain and improve existing services.

Turning to **Fire Service** matters, last month I was involved in the selection of a new Chief Fire Officer (CFO) to replace Alan Gray who has had to retire for health reasons. We chose Tom Carroll who was CFO for Oxfordshire. Tom is in his mid-40s and earlier in his career served with us for 14 years in the Peterborough area. Tom starts work with us next month.

While on the subject of fire protection, we are beginning a recruitment drive for more fire fighters, either full-time or part-time (called "retained"). As you know, we have two fire stations in our area at **Burwell** and **Swaffham Bulbeck**. If you are interested in finding out more, ring 01480 - 444529. The basic qualification is that you live or work within 5 minutes travelling time of either station. Women are welcome and everyone must have good eyesight, hearing and be physically fit. Retained fire fighters are paid an annual fee and have to attend weekly drill nights (paid). There is also payment for attending fire calls.

Lastly, it has become obvious that a lot of drivers are overtaking illegally at the junction of **Bell Road, Bottisham**, with the A1303. The junction was altered for safety reasons and I have asked officers to see how we can improve on the existing arrangement. We need to make it safer by discouraging drivers from Cambridge from overtaking cars turning left into Bell Road. More on this later, as test data is interpreted.

*James Fitch*

**SWAFFHAM PRIOR WITH REACH**  
**EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH**  
**COUNCIL MEETING AT SWAFFHAM PRIOR VILLAGE HALL.**  
**MONDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> JANUARY 2001**

**1. Fabric Working Groups Reports**

**Reach**

John Holmwood had, with help from Glenn Newman and Robert Wood, moved the font from the back of Reach church, thus saving a huge amount of money. The Secretary would write to thank him. More voluntary labour was needed to complete the refurbishment of the church.

**Swaffham Prior**

John Norris presented the architect's new plans for the alterations to the vestry. It was proposed by Michael Cazenove, seconded by Rosalind Wood, that we should instruct the architect to proceed and to go to tender.

The arch-light over the gateway would have to be free-standing, and may or not need a Faculty. The Faculty had been granted for the light opposite the tower buttress of St Cyriac's. The Secretary had written to the Parish Council to ask if they would consider putting a light matching it at the cemetery gate, and also put in some hard-standing for parking, given the amount of use there and the resultant mud.

The Washtell organ was not functioning properly, but, if it did not work any more, there were no plans to replace it. We were still waiting for ECDC to build up the walls in the churchyard.

**2. Social Working Groups' Reports**

Dates of various events were discussed. [Those for this month are listed elsewhere in the *Crier* and others have been listed in a previously published PCC Report.] **Reach** Recipe books would be ready for sale by the second week in February. **Swaffham Prior** Christmas Market on November 24<sup>th</sup> would be a joint effort between church and village, sharing the profits 50/50.

**3. Vicar**

a) Advent and Christmas retrospect: the Vicar floated the idea of having the First Communion of Christmas in one of the churches earlier in the evening, so that he could celebrate on Christmas Eve in both churches. No-one seemed to be in favour. He also suggested that Swaffham Prior Carol Service should be at 11.00 on Advent 3. At Reach he did not know what to decide about Christingle and Carol Service, which had been combined last year, rather unsuccessfully. He suggested a mid-week Christingle service after school as a possibility.

b) Comments were invited from the PCC about 'Common Worship'

c) Proposed arrangements for Lent, Holy Week and Easter were distributed for consideration. Lent Group of 14<sup>th</sup> March would be at Reach Village Centre: all others c/o chapels. On Maundy Thursday the watch would be kept at Swaffham Bulbeck after the 7.00 p.m. service until 10.00 p.m. The Good Friday Cambridge Voices concert had been moved to 7.00 pm (there would be no Compline at Reach).

The Easter Eve Vigil would be at Swaffham Bulbeck at 7.00 p.m.

d) It was agreed that the **Annual Vestry and Parochial Church Meeting would be in the School Hall on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April at 7.30 p.m.** (Officials needed to prepare reports and get them to the Vicar no later than 1<sup>st</sup> April, please).

It was agreed that the provisional PCC meeting booked for 26<sup>th</sup> February was not now needed, though we might need to meet on March — if there is sufficient business, given that the next PCC meeting would not be until May.

**MUSIC ON THE MOVE**  
**SWAFFHAM PRIOR & REACH**  
**2001**  
**A Celebration of Churches and Chapels**

*Saint Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior - Friday March 23, 8.00pm*  
*Concert for Lady Day with Cambridge Voices*

*Fair Green, Reach - Sunday May 6, 6.00pm*  
*Hymns on the Green with Cambridge Soft Drinks Brass Band*

*Saint Cyriac's Church, Swaffham Prior - Sunday June 24, 6.00pm*  
*18th Century Music with Cambridge Voices and The St Mary's Players*

*Zoar Chapel, Rogers Road, Swaffham Prior - Saturday Sept 1, 8.00pm*  
*Unaccompanied Singing by Cambridge Voices*

*Little Chapel in the Fen, Upware Road - Sunday October 7, 3.00pm*  
*Annual Harvest Thanksgiving Service*

*Zion Chapel, High St, Swaffham Prior - Sunday October 14, 6.30pm*  
*Singing with The Salvation Army Band and Songsters*

*Saint Etheldreda's Church, Reach - Sunday November 4, 6.00pm*  
*19th Century Music Cambridge Voices with organ accompaniment*

For more information please telephone  
01638 -742974 or 01638- 741409

**A full explanatory Programme is available (price £1)**



## Church Services

### March 2001

#### ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck

#### ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior

#### ST ETHELREDA & THE HOLY TRINITY

*LENT 1*

**8:00am**  
**Sun** Holy Communion<sup>†</sup>  
**4** **9:30am**  
Family Service

**11:00am**  
Parish Communion<sup>CW</sup>  
**6:00pm**  
Evensong<sup>†</sup> and Sermon

*LENT 2*

**9:30am**  
**Sun** Parish Communion<sup>CW</sup>  
**11**

**11:00am**  
Village Communion<sup>CW</sup>  
**6:00pm**  
Evensong<sup>†</sup> and Sermon

**8:00am**  
Holy Communion<sup>†</sup>

*LENT 3*

**9:30am**  
**Sun** Village Communion<sup>CW</sup>  
**18**

**11:00am**  
Parish Communion<sup>CW</sup>  
**6:00pm**  
Evensong<sup>†</sup> and Sermon

**8:00am**  
Holy Communion<sup>†</sup>

*MOTHER  
ING*

**9:30am**  
**Sun** Family Service<sup>CW</sup>  
**25**

**8:00am**  
Holy Communion<sup>†</sup>  
**11:00am**  
Morning Service

**3:30pm**  
Family Service

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

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

### From the Parish Registers for January 2000

In Memoriam: Harriet Jane Swain (86) [B]  
Harry James Robert (Bob) Sheldrick (87) [SP]

### Growing Up

Writing this on the eve of Education Sunday leads to a number of important things that need to be said about education in this month of March:

The 5 weekly **Lent Groups** begin on Wednesday evenings this month @ 7.30pm, and this year we are following another of the 'York' tape & booklet courses - 'Faith in the Fire', with contributions by David Hope (Archbishop of York), Rabbi Lionel Blue, Steve Chalke (Baptist minister & broadcaster and friend of Cliff Richard), Dr Leslie Griffiths (leading Methodist & broadcaster) and Ann Widdecombe MP who needs no further introduction. The sessions are Faith facing Facts, Doubt, & Disaster and Faith fuelling Prayer & Action. Do come (venues are noted in the Church Diary).

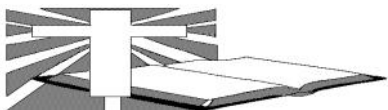
The Parish Day at **Hengrave Hall**, between Icklingham and Bury St Edmunds, on **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>** (10.00am-4.00pm) is intended as a forum for open discussion about the life of the Church in this 3-church benefice; it is open to *anyone* and certainly not just church-wardens and PCC members. Above all it is an audit, which strictly means a chance to listen to each other, and to lay plans for the future.

'**Lift high the Cross**' is the title of deanery devotional concert on the eve of Passion Sunday (**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup>**) 7.00pm in Burwell Church, and as with the **Cambridge Voices Concert for Lady Day on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> in St Mary's Swaffham Prior**, at 8.00pm there should be ample scope to stretch your hearts and minds, engaging with words and music in sacred surroundings.

By now it looks as if there are to be no **Confirmation** candidates to be presented to the Bishop on May 5<sup>th</sup>. My sadness in this is to do with the lack of a teaching opportunity for adults and/or young people, and at a time when we have no Sunday School, I do urge parents to try and encourage children and young people to worship with them (NB 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays 9.30am Benefice Family Service at Swaffham Bulbeck), and to foster their spiritual life at home, so that the good work begun in our Church of England village schools, and elsewhere, begins to blossom.. Speaking of family worship, you might like to note that Mothering Sunday falls on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month (25<sup>th</sup> March), and there are special services that day in all 3 churches (see service plan).

The season of Lent is a time to put away childish things, and to mature and grow into the full stature of Christ, who was known as "Rabbi" or Teacher, and who has taught us not only a code for living, but a living example of how to face the difficult questions of life. As he faced his ultimate destiny in Passiontide, so must we, in all our difficulties, draw on his example of sacrificial love; ..... and that really is growing up.

**Mark**



## Zion Baptist Chapel

### Services for March:

Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am 6:30pm	No service D.Bousfield - Communion
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm	D.Bousfield
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm	No Service . (Instead please join us for a service of Songs of Praise at Swaffham Bulbeck Free Church)
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm	J,Martin

### ***Walking with God***

*“Dear God, So far today I’ve done alright. I haven’t gossiped, lost my temper, been greedy or grumpy, been nasty, selfish or overly indulgent. I’m very thankful for that. But in a few minutes, God, I’m going to get out of bed. And from then on, I’m probably going to need a lot more help. Amen.”*

In our busy lives it is easy to squash, squeeze or simply forget prayer. If I stopped talking to my family, we’d have problems. If we stopped talking to God, we’ll have spiritual problems. One of the first casualties will be our peace of heart and mind. Prayer is a necessary and vital aspect of our walk with God.

If we want to know God’s peace then we need to walk with him, side by side. In Philippians 4:6 we read ‘*Do not be anxious about anything but in everything, by prayer, petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God.*’ Part of our walk with God is prayer. If we have a good prayer life then God promises peace.

If you would like someone to pray for you about anything at all, Zion Chapel will gladly do that. If you post your prayer request in the Chapel letterbox then one of our regular prayer groups will pray for your concern. Your request can be made anonymously and in the confidence that no-one will contact you unless you specifically ask. If you prefer to speak to someone, then please do get in touch with me on the number below, or simply come along on a Sunday morning before, during or after our service.

*Dear God...*

Prayer makes peace in an ‘unpeaceful’ world a real possibility, even after we have got out of bed!



*David Bousfield*

# 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

I have become a convert to Mission Statements, and in fact I seem to remember writing about the St Louis School Mission statement a few months ago. I think they only work when a whole community has had a hand in forming it. Our parish mission statement took six months and goodness knows how many meetings to evolve. But it does get to the essence of what we seek to be. It is "Partners in Jesus Christ for others". From that statement we derive a number of short, medium and long-term objectives. The statement was blessed by the Bishop on his Visitation and is prominently displayed in the church. It reads: We seek to be a welcoming community of faith and active love, working as a partnership of clergy and lay-people in order to deepen our faith in Jesus Christ. We strive to be a visible and active presence in our local town and its surrounding area, committed to working with other churches and the local community in caring service of others. And the short summary, in the masthead of all our weekly newsletters etc. is Partners in Jesus Christ for others. This statement has led us on to many initiatives. So I am a convert to Mission Statements, even a fan.

Recently I went down to hand out the prizes for achievement and effort at St Alban's Catholic High School in Ipswich. It is good to affirm the accomplishments of any group, but what goes with the pleasure of giving out prizes is the pain of having to make a speech. And what speeches are less memorable than those given on school prize-evenings?! I attended seven as a school-boy and about fifteen as a parent, and I can honestly say that I cannot remember anything about what any of them said. I remember seeing some thoroughly nice and concerned - and some manifestly pompous and self-important - people; but I cannot put names to any of them (except that we once had a very minor royal on the occasion of my school's golden jubilee) and I certainly cannot remember a word any of them said. So I was desperate to find something that might stick in the mind.

To find out more about St Alban's school, I looked up their website. Their mission statement was quite a long one; but it focused on two things: the first was that the school aimed to awaken members to the presence of God in one another, and the second that it aimed to be a place where members of its community 'learned effectively'. But as I explored on, I found that the mission statement had been copied into other web pages and that by a small electronic blip, it had been changed. For it now said that the school was a place where all its members 'learned to beam effectively'!

What a lovely thought! How's that as a motto for Swaffham Prior? We are a community that has learned to beam effectively. That is, a community where the sense of well-being, of being at peace with oneself, with neighbour and with the world, shines out from us and lights up other people's day. There can be no community of which that is really true. But could it be our mission to make it more true than it was, more and more true than it is? A community at peace with itself because it recognises need in others and does not rest content until that need is satisfied. I told the parents and students at St Albans that I wanted one or two of them to send me a postcard in 10 years time which reads: I am beaming effectively. Can I set the same challenge to readers of the *Crier*?

## ***Dates for Your Diary - March 2001***

Thu	1	
Fri	2	
Sat	3	Grand Jumble and Nearly New Sale, Village Hall, 2:30pm Music Hall, 7.30pm Swaffham Bulbeck School Hall
Sun	4	
Mon	5	
Tue	6	
Wed	7	
Thu	8	Coffee Morning & Bulb Walk, The Manor House, 10am-12noon China Sale and Exhibition, Village Hall, 2pm-4pm Cambridgeshire Acre, 6th Rural Forum, The Maltings, Ely, 9:30 Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall, 7:30pm
Fri	9	
Sat	10	Linedance, Bottisham Village College, 7:30pm
Sun	11	
Mon	12	Playscheme 2001 Planning Meeting, Red Lion, 8:00pm
Tue	13	
Wed	14	<b><i>Crier Copy Deadline</i></b> Staine Hundred, Bottisham Village College, 7:30pm
Thu	15	
Fri	16	
Sat	17	
Sun	18	
Mon	19	
Tue	20	
Wed	21	
Thu	22	
Fri	23	Music on the Move, Cambridge Voices, St Mary's, 8:00pm
Sat	24	Parish Day, Hengrave Hall, 10:00am-4:00pm
Sun	25	Mothering Sunday
Mon	26	Ladies Circle, Chris Clarke on Makeup
Tues	27	
Wed	28	
Thu	29	<b><i>Crier</i></b> Collating, Village Hall, 2:30pm
Fri	30	
Sat	31	'Lift High the Cross', Deanery Concert, Burwell Ch, 7:00pm