

The Swaffham Crier

Volume 26 Number 12 December 2002





Editorial

appy Christmas once more Readers,

nd Correspondents too,

lease forgive our misdemeanours, because

erhaps there's been a few (too many! Eds)

es, in last month's edition,

XVI NOVEMBER, you all shout, there

ore than one omission,

Marcia's Telephone no. (as ever!)

nd some things got left out Karen's PC Report

Clive Riggs (cover artist—thank-you Clive!)

till, let bygones be as bygones

Not to mention the right date on the cover-many thanks to those valiant souls who hand-corrected 400 copies!

nd at the ending of the year,

et's raise another glass to Christmas, and

et's see you all next year!

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FOR SALE Snooker Table ___

Wishing all our Readers a very Happy Christmas!

Mike Phillips, James Matheson, Ruth Stinton, Roger Connan, Caroline Matheson

The Editorial Team would like to thank all the Crier's distributors and collators (old and new!) and invite them to share a glass of wine and the odd mince-pie at January collating in the Village Hall on December 19th.

Cover Picture: Let us sing with one accord, R. Caldecote



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

MILLENNIUM PROJECT 2000

It's there at long last, the Village Cross-stitch Map is now hanging on the wall in the Village Hall. Why has it taken so long to complete you may well ask. Well, at 14 stitches to the inch some of the houses took 10-11 hours concentrated effort, and only one person could work on the project at a time.

The idea for the map as a Millennium Project came from Betty Fox way back in 1998 and cross-stitch was the medium chosen. It was decided that as many old houses and buildings as possible should be included. A coffee morning was held and enough money was raised to cover the cost of the material and the framing.

Sue Jordan from Reach drew the roads on tracing paper which were then transferred to 14 count Aida canvas. These were then embroidered by Lynne Rand and the late Hilary Ranson. The map was then passed around to anyone who was willing and had the ability and time to do the work. Sketches were made and photographs taken of the various buildings and Jenny Brand, Sue Jackson, Lynne Rand, Betty Prime and June Wolfenden transposed these into the embroidery you see today.

The unveiling took place on Thursday, 21st November at the Village 'Tea Club' when instead of tea we enjoyed Bucks Fizz and nibbles to celebrate the occasion.

Betty Prime

Dear Editors.

Heavy Lorries on the High St and Cage Hill

Alastair Everitt has invited us to write about the above (November *Crier*) and the illustrious editor of our journal *(That's me! Ed)* has commented also on these juggernauts that pass our doors at high speeds. Alastair suggests a scientific study needs to be made of this problem. I applaud this!

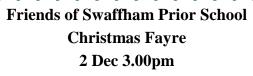
James Chesterman



Community Speed Partnership - CCC

If anyone would like to be part of the working party for the above scheme (outline details in P.C. Notes), please contact the Clerk, Karen King on 742358.

If you do not wish to be involved with a working party but have views on speeding within the Village, please send them, in writing, to the Clerk. These can then be used as part of the monitoring process involved.



Come along to FoSPS Christmas Fayre on Monday, Dec 2 in the School Hall after school.

Cake Stall, Lucky Dip, Cards, Decorations, Toys, Raffle
Mince Pies and Mulled Wine

Contact Jane Blanks on 741558



Service of Carols St. Mary's Church Sunday 22nd December 11:00am



Christmas Holly

Deck your halls again with boughs of Swaffham Prior Holly. Only £2.50 a bunch. All proceeds will go to the Church flower funds.

We shall be selling holly at Anglesey House (white gate next door to the churchyard) on:

Saturday 14th December 12.00-1.00 Sunday 15th December 12.00-1.00

Please telephone 742974 if you would like to buy holly before December 14th



ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT



Sunday December 8th, 4.00pm The two churches of Swaffham Prior

All tickets on the door: £5

(all profits go towards the work of the charity EMMAUS)

For ten years now we have heralded the season of "goodwill and peace to all men" with Swaffham Prior's unique presentation of "Advent by Candlelight" using the twin churches of our village, and to mark this anniversary we have a particularly festive mix of music and readings.

The choral music will once again be presented by Cambridge Voices, this year augmented by the many former members of the choir to create an ensemble of 45 singers, who will present no less than two works written for 40 soloists from the time of Elizabeth I's reign - Tallis's famous "Spem in alium" and the less-known companion work of the same dimensions from the Italian composer Striggio. The latter had brought his huge motet in person to the English court with the aim of obtaining a remunerative position in the royal household. Tallis, Elizabeth's chief composer, saw the score and immediately wrote his own 40-part motet as a rebuttal, incorporating many of the features of the Italian model but superimposing it with dollops of spicy English harmonies and with the ingenious, and daring, displacement of his 40 singers in a complete circle around the listener!

The concert will also include two works from the choir's Director, Ian de Massini plus two works from their President Carl Rütti, well-known in this village for his unforgettable piano recitals here recently. There will also be an hypnotic work for two spatially separated choirs from one of the most celebrated of modern British composers, John Tavener. Finally, the event will be rounded off, with great panache, by Sir David Willcocks' unashamedly populist choral arrangement of Widor's famous Toccata, which should almost (but hopefully, not quite!) bring the roof down on St. Cyriac's church!

The choice of poetry and prose, read by members of the village, will be no less innovative, provocative and exciting. There'll be contributions from the works of D.H Lawrence, Emily Dickinson, Sylvia Plath, Hilaire Belloc and a handful of poems specially commissioned from Maggie Hulyer, a local poet now living in Ely and who will read some of her poems in person.

The event begins in St. Mary's, the lower of the two churches. Don't forget to bring an umbrella and lots of warm clothing for the second part of the concert over in St. Cyriac & St. Julitta's Church. Afterwards, mince pies and mulled wine will be served back in St. Mary's.

Often this event has been a sell-out and, with such a large choir, seating will be limited so you are recommended to arrive early to get a good seat (doors open at 3.30pm).

Ian de Massini

Director of Cambridge Voices Tel: 01638 741366

************ CAROLS AT THE VILLAGE HALL

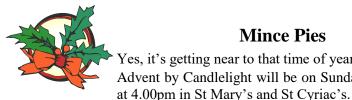


Please come and join us for the traditional singing of carols round the Christmas tree outside the Village Hall (inside if the weather is exceedingly inclement) on Wednesday 18th December at 7.00pm. This year we are being joined by the Cubs.

Make sure you wrap up warmly and please bring a torch. There will be hot mince pies, mulled wine and a delicious fruit cup to follow inside the hall.

We look forward to seeing you.

Secretary, Village Hall Management Committee



Mince Pies

Yes, it's getting near to that time of year again. Advent by Candlelight will be on Sunday 8th December

Cambridge Voices will be in full strength this year — 40 of 'em! So we'll need even more mince-pies, to go with the mulled wine. We don't mind if they're bought ones or home-made, and you might even find some — 2 packets for the price of one!

All contributions gratefully received. Please let me know how many you are able to provide. It would be appreciated if you could ring no later than Friday 6th.

Thank you in anticipation

Kate Child 743983

CLEANER required for house in Swaffham Prior. Phone Ann 741613

Nicknames and Place names

Growing up in Swaffham Prior in the nineteen-forties and fifties I remember that many of the villagers of that era had nicknames by which they were known more commonly than by their Christian or given names.

This custom seems to have largely died out and I wonder if it was peculiar to that particular period in what is now history or if it had also been the practice in previous years.

With the assistance of Shirley and Harold Levitt, Denny Nash and Cohn Lowe I have compiled the following list from our combined memories of that period. Only two nicknames for women were remembered; I have omitted those in order not to cause possible embarrassment to any relations still living.

The list is as follows:

Bill 'Weary' Aldhous, Bill 'Dinger' Ashman, George 'Snatcher' Badcock, Owen 'Doubar' Badcock, Alf 'Teapot' Badcock, ? 'Jabee' Bareford. Ron 'Monk' Benstead. Reg 'Belgium' Benstead, Charlie 'Dusty' Bishop' ? 'Squinker' Clarke, Donald 'Dinky' Flack, ? 'Poddy' Fletcher, George 'Benny' Frost, Bob 'Kusty' Fuller, ? 'Peapod' Goddard, Arthur 'Korky' Hahlett, Fred 'Jumbo' Hallett, ? 'Ducky' Heffer, Fred 'Pincher' Heffer ? 'Cocoa' Johnson, Ray 'Pym' King,

Harold 'Lummy' Levitt, Dick 'Sunshine' Mead, Arthur 'Daddy' Nash, Wilfred 'Pip' Newman, George 'Moggy' Palmer, Maurice 'Moley' Pammenter, Bill 'Bincham' Pammenter, George 'Matey' Prince, Arthur 'Dempsey' Scoff, ? 'Chick' Sheldrick, Les. (?) 'Beacham' Sheldrick, Philip 'Snowy' Tatman, George 'Ninety' Taylor, Ernie 'Brassy' Taylor, ? 'Bowless' Thompson, Clem 'Job' Wadham, John 'Pont' Wartnaby, Ernie 'Honey' Webb, ? 'Wappy' Whitmore, Laurie 'Chuffy' Woollard.

The 1871 Census contains a number of addresses that have, with few exceptions, fallen out of use or become changed. Possibly these were never 'official' addresses and may only have been devised by the enumerator to differentiate between groups of dwellings for the purpose of the census.

They are:Blosses Cottage,
Coopers Lane, (six families),
Vicarage Lane, (seven families),
Willis Row, (four families),
Wrights Row, (three families),
Fen Lane, (five families),

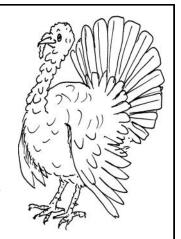
Green's Head, (eleven families) Railroad, (four families), Nevilles Row, (seven families), Blinco Cls., (four families), Almshouse Row, (six families).

If anyone can add to the list of nicknames or explain their origin or can suggest the present day location of the addresses, I shall be pleased if they would contact me directly or if they would reply via the 'Crier'.

Graham Gillson, 01223 812107

PRIME WHITE NORFOLK TURKEYS

'My birds are hand reared and hand-plucked to ensure succulence. They will be available fresh and oven-ready in perfect time for Christmas.'



Weight range about 8lbs to 20lbs +.

Contact Marcia Miller in Swaffham Prior Tel: 01638 741141 to place your order

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting Senior citizen's fairly discriminating account of the Parish Council Meeting -14 Nov. 2002.

Encouraged by the EC/DC Connexxxxions feature about a councillor receiving a discount travel card on her 60th birthday, I asked for one too (cheaper there than elsewhere, but you first have to get to Ely without a card), only to be told that males must wait until their 65th. It's either that, or you have a sex change operation (unappealing, uncomfortable, and it really does not add up financially). Is that ageism or sexism? Most at



the meeting were male too. There's still a big gender divide in the country, very 19th century. The only lady present was just recognisable in hard hat, boots and yellow jacket after her Health & Safety course.

Observing meetings is like train travel. You're not in control, nothing to do, doze off, wake with a jolt without being sure why. We heard all the grass cutting issues again, then the jolt came from Kristina of CCC, promoting action to counter speeding motor vehicles in villages. Those who make complaints had to volunteer for the working group quickly to avoid penetrating stares from the Chairman. It is a good cause though; roads are not really safer today. Highway casualty figures improve only because parents lock up their children to protect them from lumbering 4x4's with all the braking performance of an oil tanker (That's unfair: tankers don't roll over when they go around corners). 70% of speeding offenders are local, but it's no comfort to know the driver who just killed your child. 'Hi! How are you? Oh! Look—a body'. Any more volunteers? There are stickers and posters, and a public meeting. Go on foot!

The other great volunteering event will be close examination of the Recreation Ground on Sunday mornings by the usual suspects (all male and +60) so that the grass can be cut to allow young people to play there again. Perhaps they would like to join in? Wear wellies. Everyone agreed that the Youth Club Leaders do a great job for village kids, and voted cash for a new floor, so at least they won't need wellies inside the hut any more.

Scoop! There's a new dial-a-bus scheme widely advertised with one leaflet per 80,000 people. You read it here first, but don't get excited, because it's only for the elderly and infirm—there's more discrimination for you. Devil's Dyke aroused some passion. Who do these archaeological types think they are, cutting down all the bushes where the birdies live? There will be an open day on 6 July, though it never looks closed to me, and guided walks too, for those unable to walk a straight line unaided. A new mobile library will open at the old P.O. (where's that?) on 26 November. And an

official letter came, about race relations, so if your cousin is a jockey, it's for him.

There was even more passion around the table during talk about the rape of the countryside down on the fen. It is claimed that it's OK to empty skips there because it's been going on for 11 years (Come on! Eleven years? Pull the other one!). It's like saying 65mph along Lower End is OK too, 'I've been doing it for 11 years, and no-one has ever complained before!'. A justification for cluttering up highway verges with clapped out machinery got lost in the hullabaloo. I bet it was good though.

We should all go up to London for the day and wave sticks at city folk. That'll stop it.

Frank Readhead.



HOCKEY ON BOXING DAY MORNING

I have recently spoken to the Swaffham Bulbeck Manager and hear that Bulbeck can hardly wait for the opportunity to avenge their 5-1 defeat last year. Their manager also says that his job is on the

line if they don't get a good result. So we will have to be on our toes as they really mean business this year.

If any hockey players have arrived in the village during the last 12 months or so, or if any of you have lived in the village for longer and hidden your sporting talents, please contact me on 742974. Please also phone if a hockey star is staying with you over Christmas. Do not wait to be asked! Just phone.

As usual the match will take place on Boxing Day Thursday, on the Denny at Swaffham Bulbeck, at 11.00 am. A very good mulled wine is available for a small charge and there will be collection on behalf of Magpas.

Alastair Everitt

C

Competent rider wanted to share exercise and care of 16.2hh gelding.

Please contact 077 8631 8065



Sheep Knitters

THANK YOU SO MUCH all of you wonderful knitters — you know who you are, there are too many to mention by individual



name. We've got a really interesting flock this year, all shapes, sizes and colours, some have even got scarves. The leased last year but I know that will be absolutely delighted

children were pleased last year, but I know they will be absolutely delighted with this lot. Having toured round our village, Bulbeck and Reach, spending a night with each host family, accompanying Joseph and Mary, they will be gathered together after the Crib Service at Swaffham Bulbeck on Christmas Eve at 4pm — it's a lovely service so do come and see them.

If by any chance you still wish to be included, HURRY, there might be a space, ring Mandy Kingsmill on 01638 742482 to find out.

Kate Child



Many thanks to the PCC and PC for their kind donations to the Crier this month!

Poppy Appeal 2002

£248-50 was collected in Swaffham Prior. The Collectors were Mrs Lewis, Mrs Moore, Miss Smith, Mrs Stinton and *The Red Lion*.

This will be my last report of the R.B.L Poppy Appeal. I have been involved in organising the appeal for the last $40\ years$.

I am most grateful to all those who gave so generously, and the band of collectors who gave their time to our most worthy cause.

On BEHALF OF THE LOCAL BRANCH

My sincere thanks

Ron Butter

20 Green Bank Rd, S.B.



Jan Peterson writes.....

Greetings from Ockholm. A place somewhere in the north of Germany right behind the dyke where the dust reigns at this time of the year. It is a little more than half a year ago since



we left Swaffham Prior. I had to give up my work as a curate and we moved back to Germany. So many things happened since we left you that we sometimes think it is ages ago that we lifed in Swaffham Prior. We moved into a big vicarage, I was ordained (I am a proper Pastor now), started my work in Ockholm and we got our daughter Finja. Busy times! On the other hand, the memory of the last year is so deep and very clear, that I think I could walk along High Street and have a chat here and there as if I had just been on holiday.

We got a lot of greeting cards as we moved to Ockholm or cards from people who just said hello. We had no chance to answer them. I apologise for all the letters and welcome cards that we have not replied to. Every single card was a support and a smile over the big water (as Malte calls the North Sea). We still find a lot of unexpected memories in our luggage. Last week I found the key of the vestry door from St. Marys in a most unexpected place. (Sorry John N.! You will get it in the post in the next few days!). Malte still speaks better English than German. Gabi tries to keep his English up. There are situations where I can't understand him and I am not sure, whether his English is already so much better than mine or whether he just pronounces something badly. Whatever - Malte and Gabi look after my English excellently!

It is Christmas time. Last year we discovered that the English people celebrate Christmas on the wrong day - from our point of view. This year we will see, what kind of tradition there is to discover in a small and old village in the north of Germany. I have already had to accept that they are used to sing proper Christmas carols (comparable with "Away in a manger") at the beginning of December. For myself this is as strange as exchanging Christmas presents on the 25th of December.

This is one of the first years that I have looked forward to Advent and Christmas. There are enough reasons to be too busy for advent and Christmas! It looks like that we have mouldy walls in the vicarage and we may have to move. Finja is still sleeping badly and I have no idea which amount of work there is to expect. As usual for a Pastor or Vicar I guess not too little. There are a lot of reasons why I should not look forward to advent and Christmas. Therefore it is strange that I am looking forward to it. But I

do. I guess it is the hope. The hope of quietness and the hope to get a touch of the heavenly peace and freedom. And very "earthly" I love the smell of a mixture of coffee, biscuit and orange in the air. Particularly my hope for quietness and peace might be against better knowledge. I know, I will be very busy. But may be this is the secret of Christmas. A hope against better knowledge.

In a sense, the people who were waiting in Israel for the Messiah, were also full of hope against the visible situation - against better knowledge. And then he came - in an unexpected way, an unexpected figure and an unexpected message. He came against expectations and better knowledge. With him came and comes the possibility of peace between God and man. In an absolutely last (really last) sense this is all what we need.

I don't think Christ will come the same way again. And he might come at another time than Christmas and quite different from the last appearance. But he still comes. I celebrate Christmas because of the hope that I will meet him again and be touched by heavenly peace. And I celebrate Christmas as a reminder of all the moments when I met him and forgot to celebrate it.

Happy Christmas!

Jan Petersen

with greetings from Gabi, Malte and Finja. (Bäderstr. 6, 25842 Ockholm, Germany)



Sole trader, partnership or limited company.....

Have you considered the options?

Do you need tax advice or accountancy help?

- We offer a professional local, friendly service to cover your accountancy and business or personal tax needs
- Advice on incorporating your business
- We can assist with the use of Sage software
- Preparation of your annual accounts and tax returns
- Contact us for an initial consultation 01638 612320
 riches@cta.org.uk 01638 611613

riches £ watts Itd

Chartered accountants



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For reliable, efficient & friendly service Contact: Jim Perry 01638 741432 Mob: 07768 856456

BURWELL SURGERY NEWSLETTER

It is a while since my last newsletter and yes it is that time of year to remind you that flu vaccinations are available. By now most of you who usually have a vaccination have indeed had one or at least made an appointment. However, there are many people who are eligible to receive a free vaccination but do not take up the offer. If you are 65 or over, or at risk, we advise you to be protected against flu, please make your appointment soon.

Telephone System

We have recently installed a new telephone system to improve access and to provide a more comprehensive and efficient service. However, we did experience a few teething problems, which are now resolved. Please accept our apologies for the disruption and inconvenience this caused. If you need a doctor urgently when the surgery is closed (7.00 pm to 8.30 am and weekends), you may call Suffolk Doctors On-Call direct on 01473 299614. Alternatively ring the surgery on 741234 and you will receive a recorded message providing you with the telephone number.

We will be closing at 1.00 pm on Tuesday 24th December and opening as usual on Friday 27th. We will also be closed on Wednesday 1st January.

There will be no Child Health Clinic on Tuesday 24th December. The following clinic will be Tuesday 14th January.

Wishing you all A Happy Christmas and Healthy New Year.

Aileen Allen
Practice Manager

Dr Ridsdill Smith's Retirement

Many of you will know that Dr Ridsdill Smith is retiring from the surgery at the end of March 2003. We know he will be greatly missed and many of you have benefited from his care over the years. Consequently we are having an open afternoon at the surgery on Saturday March 22nd from 3-4.30 pm. This will be an opportunity, over a cup of tea and a slice of cake, for those of you that would like to come to say your goodbyes and wish Dr Ridsdill Smith well for the future.

Anyone that would like to contribute to a retirement gift, please contact Miss Mary Patrick, 5 Hall Lane, Burwell, who has agreed to co-ordinate this on our behalf.

Dr Anne Shneerson, Dr Andrew Wills, Dr Alex Manning.

NEWS FROM BOTTISHAM SURGERY

Just an update on events at the surgery.

It hardly seems possible that we celebrated our first birthday at the new surgery on 22nd October. We feel well "bedded in" and most of the early teething problems (including numerous leaks from the plumbing system!) have been ironed out.

There have been several comings and goings in the last few months. We were very sorry to lose the services of our practice manager, Kate Wright, in October. Kate has worked in the practice for 20 years, 10 of those as practice manager, and was a much valued member of the team. We wish her well in the future. At the time of going to press we are in the process of appointing her successor. We were also sad to say goodbye to Dr John Patterson as this year's GP Registrar, at the completion of his training. John is moving to Manchester where he will continue to work as a GP. We are, however, delighted to welcome his successor, Dr Tim Caroe. Going too is Jane Anwyl, our midwife over many years (also on to pastures new) and welcome to Alison Ryder. We are also delighted to be joined by our new Health Visitor, Lisa Wright, who is now based at the practice. She may be contacted directly on Cambridge 810041.

Many thanks for the many generous donations which have been made to our surgery equipment fund on recent months, especially those made after several sad bereavements. We will be using these to buy a new ECG machine, new surgical instruments for minor operations and several other items. Medical equipment is expensive and such contributions help us to continue to update our facilities, and we hope, to provide you with a high quality service.

Finally, a reminder that we still have some supplies of flu vaccine available which we are happy to give to those over the age of 65 or those people with significant medical problems. Flu can be a serious as well as very unpleasant condition and is worth avoiding!

RILEY SNOOKER TABLE
For sale in Swaffham Prior
8'4" x 4'4"
SLATE BED
£590ono. With accessories.

Tel. 01223 811437 or 07787506707



News from Swaffham Prior Church of England Primary School



Last month I mentioned that two of the classes had been on trips to support the curriculum and this broadening of experience is one of the school's strengths. Teachers make every effort to make learning meaningful and fun, with these extra experiences opening up a whole new dimension to the children.

This month, Class 4 visited not only the Fitzwilliam but also the museum of Classical Archaeology to help with their work on the Ancient Greeks. The day has been followed up by the school hall becoming an ancient Greek town. Children, staff and parents dressed up for this occasion, which focused on hands on learning and role-play. It was organised by "History off the Page" and we thank Waitrose, Newmarket for their feast donations.

Class 1 have brought their rôle play area to life by visiting the local vets and then setting up their vet area within the classroom; we are not open for appointments yet.

If you live in the community and would like to help at school there are lots of ways to become involved on an occasional or regular basis. You might have a particular skill to offer (a piano player for assembly would be helpful!), or could support classroom activities. We also would like paid midday supervisors to help over the winter months by providing additional support to increase the lunchtime activities on offer to the children. Please contact the school office on 01638 741 529 if you are interested in voluntary or paid work.

Unfortunately we have been experiencing regular vandalism, often on a Thursday or weekend night. Repairing damage is not the best use of the school budget. The police are aware of these incidents and will be monitoring the premises.

School Community Dates

- Jigsaw library 3.00pm: Mondays £1.00 to join plus small charge per jigsaw
- Christmas Fair and Cake stall: 3pm 2nd December School Hall.

For sale and community notice board now available Joanna Lakey

FoSPS

Friends of Swaffham Prior School held a meeting on Monday 4th November where a number of points were discussed.

Joanna Lakey, our new head teacher was congratulated upon her recent appointment and the parents look forward to working with her and supporting her and the school.



Joanna told the meeting about a number of new initiatives that she wishes to introduce, ie. drinking facilities in every classroom (*sounds good! Eds*), and the introduction of a school council.

During the meeting the Swimming Pool facility was discussed at length and it was agreed that the Pool environment should become FoSPS fundraising priority. It was felt that the pool is a great asset to the school and should be adequately maintained. Areas therefore, that will be concentrated upon are: the cover, the grass bank, the surface around the pool, tree management around the pool, the fencing and the changing rooms. At our next meeting, we will be discussing the possibility of having a Working Party, meanwhile is there anyone out there who could help in any way?

Next year the school will be commemorating its 75th year since its move from within the church grounds, and FoSPS have begun to look at how this can be best celebrated. We are currently investigating a number of possibilities and would wish to involve all of the villagers (Swaffham Prior and Reach). If anyone has any ideas for an appropriate way to celebrate this jubilee, we would like to hear from you.

Please remember to support the Christmas Fair (see separate notice) we would love to see you all there!

Our next meeting will be held on Monday 13th January 2003, 8pm in school. *Jane Blanks*, Secretary

Wanted

A person to undertake caretaking duties for Swaffham Prior C of E Primary School. Approx. 4 hours per week.

Duties to include checking premises in the morning, minor repairs etc. More details on enquiry. Please contact 01638 741529 for further details.

WI Notes

Mrs.Bennett, a National Trust speaker, came to the W.I. on 18 November to tell us how National Trust houses are put to bed.

She was an excellent speaker and her talk, illustrated with slides, covered all aspects of house-cleaning that goes on when the houses are closed for the winter. We heard how all the books, ornaments, furniture, tapestries, carpets and pictures are cleaned, mostly by a

when the houses are closed for the winter. We heard how all the books, ornaments, furniture, tapestries, carpets and pictures are cleaned, mostly by a team employed by the Trust. But some of the more delicate articles that need specialist attention are sent away.

Once everything is cleaned it is covered by its own specially made dust sheet to keep it dust free until the House opens to the public once again.

We were also shown the tools that are used for each specific job and given useful tips for when we do our own house cleaning.

Our December meeting will be on the 9th when we shall enjoy our Christmas party, commencing at 7pm.

Betty Prime



VILLAGE GARDENERS Growing Bulbs in the Garden

We were indeed lucky to have Mr J Walker of Walkers Bulbs to talk to us. I had always supposed that Holland was the main source of bulbs and flowers. Not so. Did you know

that our English growers produce more daffodils than the rest of the world put together? And we export to Holland. Perhaps a look around Lords Ground Farm during the daffodil season might have provided a clue.

The main part of Walkers business is growing daffodils, 50 per cent of which are sold as flowers and 50 per cent as bulbs, some of which are kept for stock. Some bulbs are crushed to extract a rare juice which is used in medicine to reduce the havoc of Alzheimer's disease.

I will not bore you with the requirements for growing or the hazards along the way. Suffice to say that bought bulbs are a bargain. Consider too, that fields have to be rotated one year in eight to prevent a build up of disease.

Mr Walker dwelt upon the stresses and strains of showing at Chelsea and the deserved accolades of 16 gold medals from 18 shows. Impressive.

There are over 25,000 registered varieties, but English growers tend to

concentrate on a few which is an advantage when customers, such as supermarket chains, order vast quantities.

Growing tips include the suggestion of using tubs and hanging baskets more. Feed them on flowering and twice more at ten day intervals with a low nitrogen fertilizer. Avoid planting close to hedges or walls to minimise the competition for light.

It would be so nice if more people joined us. Speakers of this calibre, who often travel quite a long way, need to be encouraged. As a bonus we were able to buy top quality bulbs at very reduced prices.

Please try to come along on 21st January 2003. I am sure that you will enjoy the experience.

Tricia Harrison

1st Swaffham Prior Cub Scouts

We have been really busy at Cubs this term. We have done lots of things such as making weather stations, finding out about and measuring trees, decorating plant pots and planting with bulbs, decorating jars, making leaf tablemats and we have played lots of games. One of the favourite things I have done

with the Pack is a 2-hour sports session at Burwell Sports Centre. We all played badminton and hockey. We had a really good firework night and made Guys with a pirate theme. We attended the Remembrance Service at Swaffham Prior Church, I liked the Vicar, he was fun.

James Cole Sixer, Yellow Six

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We have a beautiful holiday home available for rent, in a hamlet just north of Riberac, on the Dordogne/Charente border. One of only six properties in a development of converted farm buildings, it has a large swimming pool and full size tennis court, all within extensive landscaped grounds. It's fully equipped, very comfortable, and sleeps seven. If you'd like to know more, phone 01638 742345 or 742559.

Disco Dancing in Swaffham Prior

The family disco, held on Friday, 8th November at Swaffham Prior Village Hall was a rip-roaring success and excellent fund-raiser for FoSPS (Friends of Swaffham Prior School).



Dale Badcock's Bright Sparks Disco provided the back-drop to an evening of fun. Well-deserved disco-dancing prizes were won during the evening and nearly £300 was raised. This will be put towards the pool improvement project, set to be the major focus of this year's fundraising effort for the school.

If you'd like to be become a Friend of Swaffham Prior School and help with fundraising, please contact Tim Doe, Chairman of FosPS (Tel: 743656). Finally, If you'd like to boogie to the sound of Bright Sparks Disco, Dale Badcock can be contacted via his mobile No: 07970 9511035 to make a booking.

Bottisham Football Club

Bottisham SFCs (Over 17's)

Have played five won 4 and lost 1 conceding only 4 goals so far this season. Taz scored a hat-trick against Sawston and Scott White is the 2^{nd} top scorer in the league so far.

U 16's

Drew 4-4 with St Ives, beat Azteks 4-2, lost to Whittlesford 4-2 and lost to SOS 2000 4-3. The team were promoted into a higher league this year so the standard has been harder but they have all been close fought games despite injuries, which include two broken arms, a broken leg and a knee injury. Joe Pinnington-Hughes has been a prolific goal scorer so far this season and the manager is pleased with the way the whole team is playing.

U 13's

Have played five and lost five but as yet have not managed to field a full team. The boys are playing really well and team spirit is good so things can only get better.

U 11's

Have played 4 won 3 and lost one. The team is playing good football with good all round performances. Marcus Hall and Robbie Sheehan have both earned the man of the match award twice.

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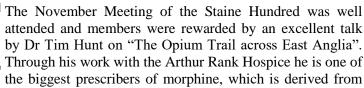
Make a difference

Would you like to make a difference to someone's life and, at the same time, do something different yourself? You could, by becoming a volunteer for the local community project Health for Life.

Health for Life helps isolated people suffering anxiety and depression regain their confidence, health and independence. How can you help? By accompanying them to community education classes and village clubs. We particularly need volunteers to take local people to daytime scrabble, keep fit, needlecraft or local history classes taking place in nearby villages such as Burwell and Bottisham.

As a thank you for your time you can stay and enjoy the class too, free of charge, and we will help with your costs. Want to know more? Phone Samara Philpott on 01638 743658.

STAINE HUNDRED



the opium poppies. These were being grown in Babylonia in 500 BC: oil was extracted from the plant which was used to provide light, and it was found that animals fed on the plants were sedated. Throughout the centuries, opium was used to sedate animals which had to be transported, and for alleviating human pain. It was also used in the Middle Ages by the monks to lessen hunger during Lent and as a cure for ague. Large quantities were imported from the Mediterranean area for use in the infirmary at Ely until it was decided that too many middle-men were getting a cut out of the deal. Two monks were sent to Padua to study the plants grown in the Botanical Gardens there for medicinal purposes and as a result poppy seeds were brought back. The Fens, which were a deprived area, proved to be suitable, and the plants were grown from Cambridge in the South to Boston in the North. Opium was given by the childminders looking after the children of women working long hours in the fields (and was later used in gripe-water!) Many fen people became addicted to it and it was sold openly in Ely and Cambridge markets, a tablet being the same price as a pint of beer. Opium became illegal in most of England in the 1860s though an exception was made of the Fens as so many people were dependent on it!

The coffee houses wished to sell tea in their establishments but the only source of tea was China. The Eastern India Company, a number of whose traders had been undergraduates at Cambridge, found that there was a ready market for opium in China (where it was smoked, as opposed to chewed or mixed with alcohol in this country). Large quantities were exported from the growing fields in the India area, where it was exchanged illegally for tea, which was brought to England in large tea-clippers, some 200 boats being employed in this trade. This led to the Opium Wars between Britain and China where its use was prohibited. Now much of the opium grown in the deprived areas of Afghanistan finds its way into Europe.

The talk was well illustrated, laced with humour and imparted a number of fascinating facts; above all, we saw the "Opium Trade' as an interesting story rather than a collection of isolated incidents.

The next meeting will be on December 11 at 7.30 pm in Bottisham Village College, when Professor J.S. Parker will be talking about "The History of the Botanic Garden". *Peggy Day*



From our District Councillor

Ely Farmers Market has achieved certification by the National Association of Farmers Markets. Ely is one of the first markets to receive this certification and it recognises that our Market meets their criteria for a true farmers market where local farmers, growers, bakers and brewers are able to sell their produce directly to the public. The Farmers Market is held in the Market Place on every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month from 8.30am, except for December where the dates have been changed to coincide with the Christmas holidays so the Farmers Markets will be on 7th and 21st December.

The Audit Commission has now published the timetable for the Comprehensive Performance Assessments for District Councils. The CPA assessment for East Cambs will not be until 2004. This is a government scheme that will put Councils into one of 4 categories, from excellent to failing, and follows on from the Best Value Reviews and audits, which the government has made us do. The future number of audits will be based on the category that our CPA puts us into, with excellent councils needing only a few audits and failing councils having many audits and some services put out to the private sector. These audits are very costly so we hope to be able to score highly in the CPA in order to reduce the number of audits. The government claimed that the Best Value Reviews and the audits that went with them would find savings of 5% within Councils and therefore cover their costs, so they provided no additional funding. But in East Cambs' case almost all the reviews have found that the area being reviewed was under resourced, so far from finding savings our costs have increased. Therefore our ratepayers have had to cover the extra costs of the Best Value Reviews and the audits.

October saw the national Energy Efficiency Week. During this week a national scheme was launched, subsidised by London Electricity but available to everyone. This offers Cavity Wall Insulation for only £150 for a 3-bedroomed semi-detached house. Fitting cavity wall insulation can save someone as much as £135.00 per year. Savings are also available on loft insulation. The contact number for a no obligation survey is 0800 587 2251.

We are also trying to encourage energy efficiency in new buildings. As part of this the Building Control Team hosted a breakfast seminar for over 40 local building contractors and designers. They were given presentations on the correct and effective use of insulation within buildings.



From our Local County Councillor

Libraries

At the time of writing County Members, particularly in rural areas, are becoming concerned about possible closures of up to ten lightly used libraries. There has been reference to this risk in the Cambridge Evening News and I have warned the two Parish Councils of Bottisham and Burwell that either might be involved.

Over the years I have supported the library provision to our area, and I would leap to the defence of our library service should any threat to it arise. Your support would be most helpful.

However, since 1982 there has been a continuous decline in book issues at Bottisham interrupted by a sudden surge when the new library opened in 1995/96. The school side is not directly affected.

The reason why the situation might arise stems from the severe financial pressure suffered by Cambridgeshire. The administration has reached the conclusion that this could continue and in order to deliver an effective service, cuts to the library service look inevitable.

I will keep you informed should there be any prospects that will affect either of the two libraries in our neighbourhood. In the meantime bear in mind the old saying "Use it or lose it".

In the context of what I have just written, it is relevant to mention that the CEN report of the County Budget debate last February records "The Lib.Dems put forward an amendment to the budget to put more money into the county's cash-strapped foster care, library and other services". I voted for it; regrettably, the amendment was voted down.

Fire and Rescue Service

As a member of the Fire and Rescue Service I have been distressed at the confrontation between the Fire Brigade Union and the Local Government Employers backed by the Government. As I write (mid-November) there seems to be a stand-off while the Bain Inquiry comes to some conclusion. Strikes are still possible. Let us hope common sense prevails.

Locally, both Swaffham Bulbeck and Burwell stations are manned by part -timers known as Retained Firefighters. The Fire Fighters Union has reassured us that the majority of retained fire appliances will still be operating in the event of a strike by the full-time personnel. We can take it that this applies to our two respected and popular crews.

Population Growth

You may be interested to learn that the population of East Cambs has risen by 35% to 73.000 in the last ten years. This is one of the main reasons for the rise in house building in all our communities — even those villages designated as "infill only".

May I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas season! STOP PRESS

I have just heard that Bottisham Library (Community Part) is on the list of libraries under threat of closure. I hope we can rally round to reject this absurd proposal. I am in discussion with the Warden, PC chairman and others to put up a really strong defence.

James Fitch

Notes from the Parish Council October Meeting

Mr Trevor Jones chaired the meeting with 4 members and 3 members of the Public.

Reports:

Councillor Fitch reported to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Councillor Cane.

Matters Arising.

Parish Council Vacancies: The Parish Council still has two vacancies. Anyone interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, please contact the Clerk.

Whiteway Drove - update: Notification has been received from CCC that an Enforcement Notice has been served with reference to the unauthorised deposit and storage of waste materials.

Recreation Ground - update: The two dumped cars have been taken away by ECDC. Further clearance work has been carried out. Once this has been completed, a working party is to be put together to walk the field to check for any hidden items that might cause damage to equipment. The field will then be cut and the goal posts reinstated.

Additional Electricity Line across the Fens - update: A letter had been received from 24Seven confirming their intention to submit an application to the Department of Trade and Industry for the construction of an overhead electricity transmission line at 132kV. This additional line will run parallel to that existing from Burwell to Horningsea. The meeting discussed this at length, agreeing that as the present pylons lines are approximately 20 years old and nearing time for replacement, larger pylons should be constructed to create just one line and the old pylons taken down. The Clerk is to reply to

24Seven confirming the Parish Council's views.

Youth Club Floor – *estimate received*: An estimate had been received from the Youth Club Leader. The meeting generally felt that this estimate did not provide sufficient information and that further estimates were needed for comparison before a decision could be made.

Cemetery – *maintenance*: The Community Services Team had now completed their work at the Cemetery and the meeting agreed that they had carried out a good job. The pile of chalk at the bottom of the Cemetery is to be removed. The Clerk will organise this.

Jointly Funded Minor Improvement Schemes – 2003/04 Bidding **Round:** It was agreed to submit a bid for extra measures on Lower End to stop cars speeding along this stretch.

Budget Meeting: A date and time was agreed for this.

Barston Drove – Infestation of Rabbits: A letter had been received complaining about crop damage to a field on the boundary of Barston Drove. This is to be investigated further.

Village Maintenance – Bus Stop: A new litterbin is to be purchased to replace the damaged one in the bus stop.

Correspondence Received:

CCC/ECDC: Correspondence was reported to the meeting.

General: A request was received asking for the Parish Council's agreement to the use of an 8m wide section of the Village Hall car park to play Petanque. This area would be levelled and re-shingled by members of the Petanque Club. This was agreed in principle.

Accounts for Payment: These were agreed.

Planning Approvals: 2A Green Head Road – *Demolition of existing property and erection of new dwelling.*

Any Other Business:

It was noted that the Pound needed weeding and tidying. This is to be arranged.

Notes from the Parish Council November Meeting

Mr Trevor Jones chaired the meeting with 3 members and 2 members of the Public.

Visiting Speaker:— Christina Greaney, CCC Speed Watch Liaison Officer. Topic: Community Speed Partnership. The aim of this programme is to reduce speeding in villages by offering help and support to Parish Councils who wish to involve their local community in finding ways of achieving this. Swaffham Prior has been identified as being a potentially

suitable village for this scheme. Please see notice, p.2.

Reports:

Councillor Fitch reported to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Councillor Cane.

Matters Arising.

Parish Council Vacancies: The Parish Council still has two vacancies. If anyone is considering becoming a Parish Councillor but would like to discuss this first, please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk (742358) or the Chairman, Trevor Jones (741197).

Grasscutting – 2003 Season: Quotes are to be invited for next year's grasscutting season.

Youth Club Floor: A further quotation had been received from the Leader of the Youth Club. This was discussed and it was agreed that the Parish Council would contribute one-third of the cost up to a maximum of £700 – this is to be paid on receipt of the final invoice for the works.

Precept 2003/04: Following a budget meeting held earlier in the month, the Precept was agreed at £11,000.

Recreation Ground – *working party/cutting:* A working party will be put together to check the field for any final pieces of debris left following the removal of the travellers. Badcocks will then be asked to cut the field and the goalposts will be re-erected.

Bottisham Village College – *request for donation*: A £50 donation was agreed.

Correspondence Received:

CCC: Details of an Appeal against the Enforcement Notice served for the unauthorised deposit and storage of waste materials on Whiteway Drove.

Confirmation of receipt of village bid for funds under the Jointly Funded Minor Improvement Schemes 2003/04.

General: Letter from the Petanque Club confirming details.

Police - Histon Sector Newsletter crime figures for month of October.

School Newsletters

Accounts for Payment: These were agreed.

Any Other Business:

Stockbourne Plc (Dencora) will be contacted further with reference to tree damage following recent storms on the boundaries of the field on Lower End.

"Swaffham Prior" road sign, High Street, is to be reinstated.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday, 12th December 2002 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Karen King, Clerk of the Parish Council

SWAFFHAM PRIOR WITH REACH, PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY,

22nd OCTOBER AT 7.30 P.M. AT SWAFFHAM PRIOR HALL

1. Minutes of the previous PCC Meeting of 16^{th} September were approved and signed.

2. Matters Arising:

- a) **Reach re-ordering project:** the Architects had sent a bill for the work which bad been done already for Reach Church, which was £3000. Laura Nottingham was querying this. We are still expecting another bill for the new drawings of the entrance doors and the architects have sent this work out for new tenders. Doreen Robinson had resigned from the PCC because of pressure of work, but said that she would try and see the Reach re-ordering project through.
- b) **Service Arrangements:** these had been satisfactory so far. Roger Bowen and Laurie Marsh had been coming to cover Communion Services. There would be a Service of Choral Communion led by Tim Alban Jones and Cambridge Voices on the evening of Remembrance Sunday. "Advent by Candlelight" would be on 8th December with "Cambridge Voices" at 4.00 pm.
- c) Rotas: these had been drawn up for readers, flowers and cleaning. Ruth Scovil had typed and printed them and they would be distributed to all relevant people.
- d) **School Assemblies:** Roger Bowen was unable to cover these at Swaffham Prior School except occasionally. David Bousfield was visiting the school to take assembly on a fairly regular basis, and it was hoped that some lay parents would also help occasionally, perhaps those used to arranging Family Services.
- e) **Pulpit:** as the design had not been approved by English Heritage, John Norris was investigating other possibilities.

3. Fabric Reports

Swaffham Prior

John Norris reported on repairs to the boiler.

Reach

The vents under the floor in Reach Church which lead to the outside are blocked. New drains were urgently needed.

4. Social Working Groups' Reports

Swaffham Prior

The following dates were to be noted:

Advent by Candlelight (Cambridge Voices) 8th December. 4.00 p.m. (St

Mary's)

Carol Service 19th December, 11am (St Mary's)

Reach

Cake Stall (Newmarket) 29th October

Thanksgiving Day & St Etheldreda's Fair 16th November, Reach

Village Centre.

Carol Service 22nd December 6.30pm (Church)

5. Future Arrangements

The Secretary outlined the arrangements that were to be made for the new incumbent and for Reach from next March. The archdeacon had told the PCC's of Swaffham Bulbeck and Swaffham Prior with Reach, at a Section 12 Meeting on 16th October, that a new incumbent would be sought to take care of the five parishes of Bottisham, Lode, Quy, Swaffham Bulbeck, and Swaffham Prior. He/she would be Priest in Charge until the Pastoral Plan is properly in place. An advertisement was going into the Church Times in early November, and applications should be in by December. Interviews will take place in early January, the two Parish Representatives being part of the interviewing team. It is hoped that the new incumbent will be in post by Easter.

Reach church will be looked after informally by Stephen Earl. Stephen will take services at Reach Church from February, and five members of the PCC from Reach will attend PCC meetings at Burwell, and become members of Burwell PCC from the AGM in March.

Jenny Mosely



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Church Services December 2002

	ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck	ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior	ST ETHELREDA REACH
Sun 1	8:00am Holy Communion [†] 9:30am Family Service	11:00am Parish Communion	No Service
Sun 8	9:30am Parish Communion	11:00am Family Service 4:00pm Advent by Candlelight	8:00am Holy Communion [†]
Sun 15	9:30am Village Communion	11:00am Parish Communion [†]	8:00am Holy Communion [†]
Thu 19			6:30pm Carol Service
Sun 22	9:30am Parish Communion 6:30pm Candlelit Carol Service	8:00am Holy Communion [†] 11.00am Carol Service	
CHRIST-MAS EVE Tue 24	4:00pm Blessing of the Crib 11:30pm Midnight Mass	11:30pm Midnight Mass	
CHRIST- MAS DAY Wed 25		11:00am Parish Communion [†]	
I ST AFTER CHRIST- MAS Sun 29	St Mary's Burwell 10:00am UNITED PARISH COMMUNION		

Dear Friends,

Since our last letter in September, the future arrangements for this parish have become settled. The new group of parishes will include both Swaffhams, Bottisham, Lode & Quy, with the new incumbent living in Bottisham vicarage. The post vacant has already appeared in the church press, and we are awaiting applicants.

In the mean time we Have been fortunate in finding help to maintain a similar pattern of services, due mainly to the diligence of John Roebuck. We do however have an Achilles Heel, in that organists are very shy to offer their services, and we have yet to find a volunteer for the Midnight Christmas Communion.

The past month has seen a recovery of numbers attending our services, with the Remembrance Day services especially well attended. The troop of Cubs were most welcome and well drilled in parading their banner at the eleven o'clock service. The Requiem Evening Communion later that day was also a great success, as are all of the Cambridge Voices performances. Their next visit to Swaffham Prior is on December 8th for the Advent by Candlelight service at 4 pm, in St Cyriac's church.

We cannot let this month pass by without offering our grateful thanks to Michael Huber for flying the flag for us. Eighty steps up, and eighty steps down twice a day for the privilege of seeing the flag fluttering from the pole and perhaps some may question the reason, and widen their knowledge of the past! It always commemorates some event.

Andrew Camps is another of these unsung heroes performing the duties of verger in a most exemplary way, arriving long before the congregation, and leaving well after most of the others are gone.

Working our way through an interregnum is a steep learning curve, we trust all is satisfactory, and we both welcome comments, favourable if possible.

We are trying to keep the pattern of services as in previous years, with the Cambridge Voices singing at an Advent by Candlelight Service in both Churches, (4pm, 8th December) and a Service of Lessons and Carols (11am, 22nd December).

On Christmas Day, we welcome the Archdeacon, the Ven. Jeff Watson, to the Morning Service, a special concession to parishes in an interregnum; whilst the Midnight Celebration will take the usual form.

We both wish all our community a peaceful and happy Christmas.

Carolyn and John,



Zion Baptist Chapel

A Tale of Two Christmases

A Christmas Poem

C is for Credit Cards that make buying a breeze.

 $oldsymbol{\mathsf{H}}$ is for your Headache when your cards are seized.

R is for Remembering everyone on your list.

f I is for feeling Insulted when your gifts are dissed.

S is for feeling Stressed when you're on the fly.

T is for the Truckloads of presents that you buy.

M is for your Massive debt that soars into the sky.

A is for the Awful feeling that you've gone astray.

S is for your Sorrow and the tears you'll shed today.

The True Christmas Poem

C is for the Christ child lying in a manager.

 $oldsymbol{H}$ is for the Holy One who saved us all from danger.

R is to Remember Him who died that we may live.

I is to Inspire us that we may always give.

S is for joyful Songs and sacred hymns that praise.

T is to Thank the Lord for showing us the way

M is for the Miracles that bless us each day.

A is for the Almighty who always puts us first.

S is for the Shepherd who guides us on earth.

by Jim Smith



The above poems were sent to me via the Internet. Christmas can be the worst of times or the best of times, but the Christmas you have depends upon you. May you be blessed to follow the Light and choose the right. Have a happy and peaceful Christmas.

David Bousfield

There is still no news to report at present on the future of the Chapel. However if you want to get in touch with me please use the Chapel post box or phone me on the number below.

For more information please telephone David Bousfield on 01223-563307

Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish

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

Kirtling: Sun 0945;

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

From John Morrill, Deacon to the Roman Catholic Community

As predicted last month, with the arrival of Mgr John Drury, we are able to offer - at least for the next few months - a de luxe service for the Catholics of Newmarket and district. We have two priests, both Monsignors indeed (an honour bestowed by Rome on priests of exceptional dedication), and possibly the only parish in the country with two Monsignors in residence! And so we can resume the pattern of five Masses every Sunday, four in Newmarket and one in Kirtling. The Kirtling Mass moves back to the morning time, much more suitable in the winter cold and dark along those winding country lanes; but slightly earlier than in the days when Fr Ashman was with us. The Sunday Evening Mass has been moved from 5pm (the time preferred by families with young children who play sports or who are otherwise involved in family activities on a Sunday morning) to 630pm, a time when it is thought/hoped that there are a lot of people who have no choice but to work on a Sunday (especially on the study and in the stables) who might be able to attend. We will try it for a while and see. Perhaps I can also advertise the six Christmas celebration Masses: a vigil mass especially for children and families at 6pm on 24 December in Newmarket (young children [well all the young at heart, really!] encouraged to come dressed as angels or shepherds); 'Midnight Mass' at 1130 on 24 December both in Newmarket and in Kirtling; and daytime Masses on Christmas Day at 900am and 1030 am in Newmarket and 0930 in Kirtling (but NO evening Mass). There is also the free community lunch in the parish Hall at 1230 on Christmas Day. Everyone who wants to attend is welcome and it is always a lovely happy occasion. If you want to attend just phone 01638.662492 (mornings if possible) to book yourself in. Transport is available, including transport for those who are disabled, and you can come to help in the preparation or serving, or just for the meal. This has been a great part of our parish tradition and is open to absolutely everybody.

Fr John Drury's arrival perhaps allows me a chance just to remind you all of the way the parish works ministerially. There is a pastoral team of seven: Frs Paul and John, myself as deacon, Suzanne Jennings as pastoral assistant (with special responsibility for adult education and liturgy), Bill Franklin (from Burwell) with responsibility for youth, Linda Pector (from Cowlinge) with responsibility for children not in the parish school and for the 'Caring Parish' scheme, and Wendy Lashmar, the head of St Louis School. I have pastoral oversight of Burwell, the Swaffhams and the area of Newmarket around the Hamiltons (as well as my ecumenical involvement in Burwell). The 'Caring Parish' scheme ensures that all 'known' Catholics are visited quarterly and kept up to date with developments. If you are a Catholic and are not being visited or if you would be happy to take on the role of parish visitor with 20-30 homes in your care, let me know either at home (01223.811822) or via the parish office (01638.662492). And if, for whatever reason, you would like a visit, just use those numbers. We are only too happy to get to know you better! And, since this is my last chance to say it, a very joyful Christmas to everyone who has read the whole of this article and got to the end of it

Dates for Your Diary - December 2002

Mon	2	3pm, Christmas Fayre, SP School Hall
Fri	6	10-12 noon, Christmas Fair, The Abbey, Swaffham Bulbeck
Sat	7	
Sun	8	4pm, Advent by Candlelight, St Cyriacs and St Mary's.
Mon	9	7pm, WI Christmas Party
Tue	10	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Wed	11	Staine Hundred, 7.30, BVC Crier Copy Deadline
Thu	12	7.30pm, PC Meeting, VH
Fri	13	
Sat	14	12-1pm Holly Sale, Anglesey House
Sun	15	12-1pm Holly Sale, Anglesey House
Mon	16	
Tue	17	
Wed	18	8pm, Village Gardener's, VH
Thu	19	Crier Collating, Village Hall, 2:30pm
Fri	20	
Sat	21	
Sun	22	11am, Carol Service + Gay Bullied Award, St Mary's
Mon	23	M 1 1 1 1
Tue Wed	24 25	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm Christmas Day
Thu	26	11am, Boxing Day Hockey Match, The Denny (SB)
Tilu	20	Train, boxing Day Hockey Match, The Denny (3D)
		Weekly Events
Sun		11am, Boules, VH Car park
Tue		2.30-3.30, Baby & Toddler Group, Zion Baptist Ch Jamsing, 10-10.45 (0-18mnths), 11-11.45 (18-38mnths), VH
Wed		Cubs, Village School, 6.30-8:00pm.
Thu		2.30-4.30pm VH Teas.