



# The Swaffham Crier

Volume 26 Number 1

January 2002



## Editorial

Happy New Year, Readers!

Of course, it isn't *really* New Year for the **Crier** crew — no such luck! It's still the mad run up to Christmas, and the reason for this is *not* the Crier's deficient technology (see John Morrill!) but the fact is that nobody in their right mind would want to be beavering away with the magazine between Christmas and the New Year. So a big thank-you to all our correspondents who've got their copy in on time this month, and a qualified *oh alright then* to those who got it in a bit late!

Alas, it's the last installment of Mavis Nickson's memoirs in this issue, but her picture of the Home Guard will appear again next month (we hope) because, um, we made a few little errors (wrong list, wrong spellings!). We'd be extremely grateful if this month's contributor (see Letters) could get in touch again with their version of the complete list .

Unfortunately, this month also sees the last instalment of the Village Shop (see page 7) — it was a lot of hard work for small return — but we still have the Teas and the Fruit and Veg van in the Car Park

Meanwhile, now is the time of year when the **Crier** runs its new pages of advertisements for the year, so give them a look - you might find just what you've been looking for - and support them when you can - they pay all our production costs. And if you would like to advertise, please contact Roger Cannon on 742182.

But money can't buy everything, and one thing it definitely can't buy is the Village Sign Writer, a strictly voluntary individual who causes that long line of notice boards to mushroom up along the by-pass when anything happens. Could this be you?

If not, how about the cricket team? They need someone to get things organised for the four-way local tournament in the coming Jubilee summer. Contact the editors if you're prepared to have your arm twisted.

STOP PRESS: the Gay Bulleid Award is now to be given at the Village Lunch on Jan 1. Don't miss it!



*Caroline Matheson*

**Cover Picture:** Skaters by Francisco Goya



## Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

I recently received this letter from the Arthur Rank Hospice

Dear Ruth

**Re: Arthur Rank House Hospice Charity**

Thank you so much for the foreign currency donated by the residents of Swaffham Prior. Please do pass on our thanks to all who donated and let them know that it has raised £100 in total. As you know this support will enable those with incurable cancer to continue to receive the care and therapies provided at Arthur Rank House.

The Arthur Rank Hospice Charity works to benefit cancer patients by providing funds and volunteers to support vital cancer services at Arthur Rank House. In particular the charity is responsible for the total funding of the Day Care service, which treats more than sixty cancer patients each week and enables them to live positively with their cancer. To provide these services we need to raise over £450,000 from voluntary donations. This amount cannot be raised without the help and goodwill of our supporters within the community.

Once again, please accept our thanks for your support.

Yours sincerely

**Maureen Thompson**

Fundraising Assistant

It's great to know our efforts are appreciated. Please keep up the good work by giving me all your used stamps and foreign currency and I will pass them on to the charity. Don't forget the introduction of the Euro means most European coins and notes will be redundant by early 2002.

***Ruth Scovil***

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Dear Editors,

**Dad's Army**

What a mess up about Dad's Army. 1<sup>st</sup> names were wrong and A. Mead was never in the Dad's Army he was in the forces. The man in between Vernon Dowdeswell and Frank Symonds is Mr H.K. Botts who was porter at our Stations, the man next to Frank Symonds is Stan Sturgeon of Reach, the man sitting next to Alfred Flack could be Tom Jacobs who lived next to the Lion.

*Guilty as charged! The published list was a jotted down provisional list*

(mistakenly published instead of later version) - many apologies to John C. and John W., who did come up H.K. Botts and Stan Sturgeon, but I think this is the first we've heard of Tom Jacobs. Thank you John, John and the above. It looks like we now have **all** the names, so if we also have a consensus (if not, **WRITE NOW!**), we'll republish in February. Eds.

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Dear Editors

### **The Cancelled Blues Event**

We share the views of Julie Nunn, Brenda Doe and many others about the person who lodged an objection to the bar licence application. As far as we understand, the objection only succeeded because the licence application was very late, there was no-one attending to whom the magistrates could address any questions, and they had to reject the application almost on a technicality. We will be raising this at our next VHMC meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> January, will be exploring the matter further, and will be making a full statement thereafter.

Rest assured that we will do our best to prevent this ever happening again, especially as we have had previous experience of a villager objecting to the Hall even having a Public Entertainment Licence.

***The Officers of the Village Hall Management Committee***

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Dear Editors,

What a pity the 'Blues' event on 27<sup>th</sup> October was cancelled. Surely it should have been given a chance to prove that it could be held without being too noisy.

Apart from Friends of Swaffham Prior School most of the events held in the village are organised by the older generation. What a refreshing change to have the younger people taking on the responsibility. I think they should be encouraged, not rejected. And surely the Village Hall needs all the bookings it can get?

***Betty Prime***

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Dear Crier,

### **Christmas Greetings**

Thank you very much for your nice wishes for Xmas and a Happy New Year!

I am sending you forthwith all my Best Wishes for the New Year and Merry Christmas!

***Ludmilla Trapp-Reynolds***

## From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

My goodness, our Parish Council is very lucky that Germaine Greer is not the **Crier** reporter at it's meetings. She likens parish councils to the "plumbing". Yes, the PLUMBING!! It's as if she sees PCs as collections of Drainpipes and Ballcocks. How some of our sensitive villagers might wince, and snort out their disapproval. And yet, Germaine is generally right, **except** in Swaffham Prior. She says that, as with plumbing, "villagers become aware of the parish council *only* when they are looking for someone to blame." I maintain that our Parish Council has a much higher and better profile than this, and can be blamed (or congratulated) *all* the time.



Meanwhile I have been privileged to have had the opportunity of reviewing the work of the Parish Council while walking down the High Street delivering the good news about the Church Advent and Christmas Services to the residents thereof. I enjoy doing little things like this. I moved from the classy end (if I may say so ) near the Chapel with the new lighting, the rather nice arch over the church steps, down past the school and then at the other end of the High Street I came across their own little bit of millennium enhancement. When you get over the initial surprise the new giant salt and grit bin seems quite appropriate for that part of the High Street. On the way I met a really nice lady who asked "When are you going to write another of your balanced reports on the parish council?" I ignored the hint of mischief in her laughing eyes and told her straight - "This Month". So here it is.

It's a busy time of the year and the PC was short of four members. This mattered not as the business was despatched in the usual effective fashion. James Fitch has always given a full and very professional report, part of which appears in the **Crier**. But it is only if you attend a PC meeting that you appreciate how supportive he can be. Last year the PC submitted to the CCC a proposal to help the Mill Hill traffic problem. It came almost bottom of those submitted. James suggested the PC should talk to CCC officials, take advice on how best to submit a proposal, and the result is that the PC's recent application is top of the list or thereabouts. In the next month or two we will know whether the application has been successful with the possibility of up to £16,000 being available to help solve the Mill Hill problem. Interestingly the proposal for a path around the Reach railway bridge scored very poorly.

Shortly all PC members will have to agree to a "Code of Conduct", and not a moment too soon I thought. The Government's "Model Code of Conduct" had just arrived, from which nothing can be deleted; but any

number of new rules may be added. It will not be long before our PC members will have to behave like MPs!

While there are some inevitable permanent changes occurring in rural villages there are also short term cycles of change such as the level of juvenile crime, the quality of a hockey team, the enthusiasm for a choir or drama group, the activity of a local football team. And this last presents our PC with a dilemma. Dennis Badcock, now cutting our grass again, says that the recreation ground needs cutting once a month for the next 2 to 3 months in order to get it into some reasonable order. These cuts had not been included in the budget. Ted Hurst, acting Chairman of the Sports and Social Club, had told the PC that it was very unlikely the “village” team would use the ground again as it prefers to play indoors. Trevor wondered why village money was being spent on cutting the grass if no-one uses it apart from a kite-flier, a dog owner, and the occasional golf amateur. All thought this a perfectly reasonable question. Henry also agreed, but thought this village amenity must be kept because the lack of interest in football could just be a phase. Who knows whether in a year or two a group of young people would start one up again. After discussion the extra grass cuts were agreed.

At the end the Chairman offered all, including the two members of the public, mince pies, Christmas cake, and a couple of bottles of fine wine. A highly satisfactory end to a satisfactory year. And don't forget to read the Clerk's Report for the details.

*Alastair Everitt*

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## **SWAFFHAM PRIOR BABY GROUP**

Are you at home with babies or young children? Come and join us for a cup of tea and a chat on Tuesday afternoons at Zion Baptist Chapel, High Street, Swaffham Prior (warm and carpeted!).



This new group will be starting up on Tuesday 15th January 2002, 2.30-3.30pm — do drop in!

For more details contact Fleur (743992) or Sue (742184).

## **TOY APPEAL**

Do you have any spare toys that your children have grown out of?

The new Baby and Toddler group in Swaffham Prior would be grateful for donations of toys suitable for children aged 0-18 months.

We are happy to collect them, or you can bring them along to Zion Baptist Chapel, High Street, Swaffham Prior on Tuesday 15th January

## Sheep Knitters

Thank-you to the following ladies who have kindly knitted sheep to be left with the families (one per family) who have hosted the Travelling Crib:

Margaret Phillips, Rosemary Riggs, Elizabeth Everitt, Mary Day, Elizabeth Tatman and Eileen Buttes.

We understand they have caused much delight and have been really appreciated. Now all we hope is that the proud owners retrieve the right sheep after the Blessing of the Family Crib Service on Christmas Eve.

*Shirley Wilkins  
Kate Child*

BOTTISHAM MUSIC SOCIETY

## BACH TO RAVEL

MUSIC FOR OBOE, OBOE D'AMORE  
AND COR ANGLAIS

PLAYED BY JENNY SEWELL

WITH RUTH MCINTYRE, PIANO

IN

BOTTISHAM VILLAGE COLLEGE

ON

FRIDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2002

AT 8PM

*TICKETS: £5 AT THE DOOR, ACCOMPANIED  
CHILDREN UNDER 16 FREE.*

*THERE WILL BE A SHORT AGM IN THE INTERVAL*

## Donations

*Many thanks to the Parochial Church  
Council and to Ludmilla Trapp-Reynolds  
for their kind donations this month*

## Christmas Market

Held on 24th November

*A very big THANK YOU to you all, whether you were mere HELPERS or BUYERS, together you helped raise the grand total of:*

**£1126**

*which as you know is being shared equally between the Village Hall and St. Mary's Church. This was a real community effort, and as one new resident remarked, a very pleasant social occasion. We hope to see you at the next Village Gathering on 1<sup>st</sup> January in the Village Hall at 12.30p.m.*

*Betty Prime, June Wolfenden, Shirley Wilkins, Kate Child*

## New Year's Day Bring and Share Village Lunch

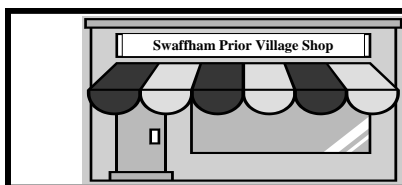
**Village Hall, 12.30 pm on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2002**

We look forward to seeing many of you at the above event.

Please bring enough finger type food for yourselves. This will be shared. It would also be helpful if you could bring your own drinks. Glasses will be available. Squash and coffee will be free and there will be a small supply of wine and beer for which we ask you to make a donation.

There will also be a Grand Raffle.

Please come and enjoy a Happy New Year with your friends!



**Village Shop  
And  
Teas**

### THE THURSDAY SWEET SHOP

*Following a failed takeover bid by Tesco plc, the Shop has suffered a decline in trading profits due to a loss of clientele, and from a consequent fall in staff morale. An expensive consultation with crisis managers from Marks and Spencer failed to turn the business round, and as a result it has been decided to cease trading in the course of January 2002.*

So what does all that mean? Because we feel there is little demand for the shop, and because keeping it running requires quite a lot of stocking up, pricing and shop-sitting by busy people who have other things to do, we have decided to close at or before the end of January. Meanwhile we shall be running down our existing stock, with tempting special offers and reductions.

**This decision in no way affects the Tea Shop, which will continue as at present at the Village Hall from 2.30-4.30 on Thursdays. All are welcome for a cup of tea, a chat, and all the latest news.**

**FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES WILL STILL BE AVAILABLE  
IN THE CAR PARK BEHIND THE VILLAGE HALL EVERY  
THURSDAY 2.00-4.30PM**

***Betty Prime 741221  
Elisabeth Everitt 742974***

# Home Guard Days

## 4<sup>th</sup> Instalment of Mavis Nickson's Memoirs

The T.V. programme 'Dad's Army' I have always loved. This stems probably from the days of the Home Guard in Swaffham Prior. The platoon met regularly at the back of the 'Red Lion' - what a good place! It was also situated opposite our house, Rose Cottage. The efficiency of the camouflage clothing was tested in our garden. It got full marks. My mother and I did not locate the men. Band practice took place in the room below my bedroom.

For the men unused to wearing boots the 'breaking in' march to Bottisham and back was sheer torture. It caused much laughter seeing my Father with his feet immersed in a bowl of mustard water.

One morning the men were on manoeuvres down Station Road. They were supposedly in hiding from the enemy in a ditch. I went pedalling down the road on my tricycle and spotted them all. My happy shouts of recognition and glee foiled hours of strategic planning.

My Father had been the type of child who went from one scrape to another. Remaining hidden in the town's church at the ends of the service, he disguised himself as the Hunchback of Nôtre Dame, took a flying leap at the bells and set them ringing. One can easily imagine the reception he got. He disrupted a Jewish Synagogue wedding at its most solemn moment. Whilst spying through a door keyhole, a friend gave a mighty push, the door crashed open and my Father went sprawling.

Obviously there was a very serious side to the Home Guard but many of the Swaffham Prior platoon, over the years, told me how much my Father still loved to play pranks. Most notable was the exercise being undertaken down the Fens. It was pitch dark and not a sound was to be made. In single file the men had to cross a stretch of water bridged by a narrow plank. When the men were halfway across my Father, with his foot on the end, put the plank in motion. People were desperately trying not to fall into the water and not to make a sound. I imagine that having the rank of lieutenant cut no ice with the men and he probably received some form of punishment.

My father-in-law still tells hilarious tales of the group to which he belonged. Perhaps the photograph of the Swaffham Prior Home Guard brought back memories to the village people.

Besides being in the Home Guard, my Father was also an ARP Warden. How he combined the duties I do not know. Everyone at that time was working in some way or another for the War effort. During those years my Father and another man from Swaffham Prior worked on secret scientific



instruments at Pyes in Cambridge. Frequently they worked until midnight. Public transport did not operate so the friend had a car. The nights were extremely dark, lighting almost non-existent and fogs could be extremely bad. Once their car passed underneath an aeroplane being towed across the road from one side of Marshall's to another and on a second occasion they found themselves among the gravestones in the main Cambridge cemetery.

I can dimly recollect the excitement caused by the annual (?) church parade, or was it the end of the war? It was attended by all denominations. Everyone assembled somewhere near Cage Hill. The regular Army & RAF personnel were, I believe, at the front, followed by the Home Guard, Wardens, Land Girls, and lastly we excited children. Everyone then processed to the church.

At the end of the war my Father, in his spare time, resumed his love of opera and acting. For about six or seven years my parents were invariably memorising lines for one production after another. Before the war those who could drive a vehicle were examined in some way on their proficiency. Driving tests were suspended during World War II and resumed in 1946. During the years of no examination learning to drive was very much the order of the day for many people. This started with the men. Professional driving instructors and tests did not exist. Friend taught friend and so on.

Gradually some village women learned to drive, usually under tuition from the husband. Such was the case with my mother. The time arrived when she felt confident enough to drive unaccompanied. My Father insisted that, until she could reverse in a straight line and then move forward, she was not ready to drive alone. During a practice session down the Fens, at a crossroads, my Father spotted a friend. He got out to have a chat and Mother saw her opportunity. I was hastily ordered to get out of the car. Immediately she turned the car and began to reverse it. She continued in a straight line as far as the eye could see before making her return. My Father nearly went berserk but Mother had proved her point and the friend was a vital witness - she could indeed drive on her own!! Those were happy and memorable days.

*Mavis Nickson*

Née Scott Dowdeswell

## **BOXING DAY HOCKEY MATCH**

Come and support your local team against the Bulbeckians at 11.00 on Boxing Day morning.

Mulled wine will be available

There will also be a collection for Magpas whose services are often required before, during and after the match.

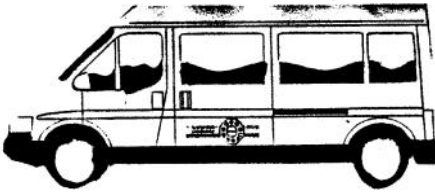
## Sign Writer Wanted

*We are very good at putting up posters advertising events, but as someone pointed out "You can only read them if you walk through the village. What we need are notices on the By-pass".*

*Surely there is someone who would be willing to take this job on? Perhaps computer printouts could be used instead of the hand painted ones we used to have. They need to be printed, waterproofed, attached to boards, bashed into the ground and removed after the event. Maybe it's a job for two people?*

*If anyone feels they could take on this service for the village please contact the editors.*

*Swaffham Bulbeck **Bright Sparks** Playgroup are looking for a new Play Leader. If interested, please ring Elizabeth Froy on 01223 812690.*



## CAMBRIDGE DIAL-A-RIDE “Rural Service”

Cambridge Dial-a-Ride provides wheelchair accessible transport for people with limited mobility who cannot use existing public transport.

We operate a weekly service every Friday in this area for residents unable to access public transport. We collect from the members homes at approx 10.00am and drop off anywhere in Cambridge returning approx 2.00pm. (The times are approx depending on the number of bookings made). You can bring a friend or member of the family as an escort. Guide dogs are also allowed.

Membership is just £5 a year and a return trip is now £4 and just £2 with a concessionary bus pass. Anyone interested can telephone 01223-506335 for further details.

Address for correspondence:  
Cambridge Dial-a-Ride  
c/o Zion Baptist Church  
East Road  
Cambridge CB1 1BD



## THE CLOCK RINGS OUT AGAIN



What wonderful news that the clock is striking for the first time since 1989. This was the moment when the Churches Conservation Trust removed the clock bell from the top of the tower and took away the strike from our clock. The reinstatement of the strike was delayed for twelve months as a valiant attempt was made to try to persuade the Trust to restore the clock bell to its rightful place at the top of the tower so that it could be heard as clearly as in the past.. We failed and a ringing bell is being used instead.

The sound is not as clear and bright as the clock bell used to be and initially it was quite dull, until the clockmaker came up with a solution which would have delighted Phil Sheldrick. For fifty years Mr Sheldrick had kept the clock going with bits of binder twine, a piece of stiffening from a lady's corset, a knife blade and some old rope. How Phil would have chuckled when Colin Walton shouted "I've got it", and came up with the improvement - a bungee!

So, while it is not nearly as good as we remember the original, it is *probably* pleasing enough and we may grow to love it with the occasional doffing of the cap to the 1798 clock bell languishing in the dust on the floor of the bell chamber. Those of us who oil the bells always give it a greeting when up there.

A pity the chiming is so restricted. It was thought that 7.00am to 10.00pm would be acceptable. The Tothillians however stipulated 8.00am to 6.00pm and the Trust (under threat of being sued "for the blight to our property") supported the Tothillians. Fortunately a particular child no longer goes to bed at 6.00pm, and they agreed the chiming could be extended to 8.00pm. Alas, a 7.00am start was not acceptable because it seems many Tothillians wish to lie in at the week-end. There you have it.

Alexander Pope expressed it far more elegantly:

"'Tis with our judgements as our watches, none  
Go just alike, yet each believes his own."

*Margaret Stanier  
Alastair Everitt*

## FOUND

In the Greenhead Road/Tothill Road/Churchyard corner of the village  
A MOTOR CYCLE HELMET  
To claim it telephone 741974

## ART HISTORY IN THE NEW YEAR



### **A Visit to Santa Croce in Florence**

Talk at Swaffham Prior Village Hall

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January, 7.30 p.m. (£2)

10 week courses start 7<sup>th</sup> January:

### **Discovering the Art of Florence**

Radwinter, Tuesday mornings

Cambridge, Wednesday evenings

Godmanchester, Thursday mornings

### **English Country Houses**

Great Bradley, Wednesday mornings

### **Northern European Painting 1400-1650**

Burwell Village College, Thursday evenings

All enquiries to Ann Hollingsworth 01638 741613



**EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **The Chairman's Awards to Young people.**

In all our communities there are many young people whose enterprise, enthusiasm and vigour help to enrich the lives of others.

This valuable resource should not be unrecognised or unappreciated and it was for this reason that the Chairman of the East Cambridgeshire District Council created the Young People's Awards scheme.

Its aim is to let young people know that they are valued, and we as adults acknowledge that like any other group in a community many of them have much to contribute and wish to do so.

In the past two years whilst the scheme has been running the Chairman has given awards to young people for such things as:

- helping frail elderly people with their gardens.
- planting Spring bulbs on public ground in the village.
- writing and performing own theatre production

- working as volunteers in a Day Centre
- giving concerts to raise money for charity.

We know there are so many things being done by individual young people and we want to you, the adults in our communities, to tell us about them so we can reward the most outstanding.

Details and nomination forms are available from Parish Councils, Libraries and Community Colleges, or contact:-

Brian Hicks.

Youth Issues Officer.

East Cambridgeshire District Council

Telephone 01353 616259

E-mail: [brian.hicks@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:brian.hicks@eastcambs.gov.uk)

Let's make 2002 a really bumper year for nominations and show our young people that contrary to what some may think they are not the problem but part of the solution to flourishing Communities.

*Cllr Valerie Leake*  
Chairman of the Council



**Pantomime  
2002**

Hello boys and girls of all ages. It is Pantomime time again soon and you need to get your voices in training to help "Good" overcome "Evil"

This year down in Bottisham Wood (the main hall at the Village College) we will be helping "Robin Hood and the Babes in the Wood" to make thing turnout right.

Peter Denyer of "Please Sir" fame again writes the Pantomime and is being directed by David Coles assisted by Val Quy of Burwell.

Dates for your diary are Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2002, Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2002 and Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2002 at 7.30pm and also Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February at 2.30 p.m.

Buy your tickets from Lushers Newsagents in Bottisham price £6.00 for adults and £4.00 concessionaires (not Saturday night). Telephone bookings 01223 812779.

Look out for the posters so you know when tickets are available. If you really want to plan ahead then make use of the telephone booking.



## Games Night at the Lion

On Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> December, the Red Lion once again hosted a Social Evening with Crib, Darts and Dominoes, the proceeds going to the Milton Hospice Appeal. A contribution of £70 was made on the evening, and many thanks to everyone who came along.

Lorraine and Dave supplied us with the usual generous variety of food. Thanks!

*Pam and Ralph Waters*

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## ANATHE(E)MA

The boy stood on the burning decks,  
His name was Anathe(e)ma:  
With boyhood spent in learning wrecks  
From sail to channel steamer.  
He knew them all from A to B -  
He'd not been at it long,  
He feared he'd never get to C  
As he burst into song . . . :

“I’m the boy who stands on burning decks,  
My name is Anathe(e)ma:  
I’ve spent my boyhood learning wrecks  
From sail to channel steamer.  
I know them all from A to B -  
I’ve not been at it long,  
I’m afeared I’ll never get to C  
That’s why I sing this song . . . :”

I’m the boy etc etc.

*Ophir Catling.*

# **GRAND JUMBLE & NEARLY NEW SALE**

**IN AID OF THE VILLAGE HALL**

**on 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 2002**

*Full details in the next Crier*

**Don't throw it away - save it for the jumble sale**



## **RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE**



For the fourth consecutive year, East Cambridgeshire District Council is running their Christmas tree recycling project. By choosing to recycle your Christmas tree you are helping the environment by saving landfill space. The trees are then chipped and put on public areas such as gardens and parks across the district to act as a natural weed suppressant rather than using pesticides.

This year, the scheme has been expanded and as well as the High Barns recycling point in Ely and Branching Out in Littleport you will be able to leave your tree at any large recycling points within the district. This way nobody is far away from a recycling point. Look out for the poster notice boards.

The scheme will run from Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> until Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2002. Collections will be made regularly during these times.

For further information please contact Tracey Harding, Project Officer, East Cambridgeshire District Council on tel: 01353 616377

## **learndirect has arrived in Bottisham, Burwell and Linton**

Learndirect is brand new way of learning that lets you learn where you want, when you want and at a pace to suit you.

For more information call

- 01223 811372 between 0930-1400 (Mon-Fri) and 1900-2130 (Tue & Thu)

- learndirect on 0800 101 901

or visit the learndirect website at **[www.learndirect.co.uk](http://www.learndirect.co.uk)**

**Bottisham, Burwell, Linton Village Colleges**  
*Lifelong Learning*  
***New Courses for the New  
Year***

Computer Courses at All Levels  
European Computer Driving License  
Improve Your Painting Skills \* Japanese Cookery  
Local History \* Maths Skills for Parents  
**Northern European Art 1400-1650**  
RHS General Examination in Horticulture \* Spanish Beginners  
Vegetarian Thai Cookery

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**Many one-day Workshops including:**

**Access \* Arabic Dance**  
**Canadian 20<sup>th</sup> Century Art \* Essential Italian**  
**Fly-tying \* Lebanese Cookery \* Mailmerge**  
**Managing Behaviour in Childcare Setting**  
**Meditation Day**  
**Portrait Painting \* Quilting**  
**RYA VHF GMOSS System \* Sign Language**  
**Using Email and the Web**

\*\*\*\*

Many existing classes welcome new members  
***Spring Term starts Monday 7<sup>th</sup>  
January 2002***

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







## STAINED HUNDRED

The December Meeting of the Local History Society was well attended and, as the speaker was unavoidable delayed, began (instead of ended) with wine and nibbles.

John Durrant gave a most interesting talk on “Cambridge Past and Present” which was illustrated with twin projectors so that direct comparison could be made of the two periods. He had taken much care in taking modern photographs from the same angle as the older ones. In some, such that of Robert Sayle and the old Addenbrookes, one could see how the basic underlying structure remained the same but in others the old buildings had been completely replaced - not always with something for the better! His commentary was lively and informative and members are looking forward to a return visit from him to show us more of Cambridge.Past and Present.

The next talk will be on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January when Peggy Day will be giving a talk on Quy School, whose history is mirrored by so many other small village schools which started in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century and closed again some 130 years later.

*Peggy Day*



### ***Church Electoral Roll***

The Electoral Roll of a Church is not to be confused with the Electoral Roll of a local authority, though it is similar in purpose. It is a list of baptised lay members of a church who live in the parish or who are regular worshippers. Membership means being able to speak at and vote at the Annual General Meeting of the parish. It is a way of ensuring that the people of a parish Church have a representative voice in its affairs. The Roll is updated yearly by the Electoral Roll Officer, appointed by the Church Council, but every six years every Church must begin a completely new Roll. This Roll must be in place before the next AGM in the Spring, and so we shall begin the process shortly of enrolling members. This must be done ‘from scratch’ and even if you have been on the Roll for many years you will still be required to complete and sign an application form. These forms, along with a sheet explaining the Electoral Roll in more detail, will be in Church early in the New Year. If you have not joined the Roll or have questions about whether or not you qualify, please take a sheet and form from the back of the Church. or you can contact the Electoral Roll Officer, Mr Eric Day, 26 High St (tel: 742448), who will be happy to help you.



## WI Notes

Despite the horrible foggy weather, 20 members enjoyed the Christmas Party on 10<sup>th</sup> December. Our thanks go to Betty Fox who provided all the wonderful food and drinks. The meal was followed by silly party games organised by Shirley Wilkins and Pat Airey and the cup for the best table decoration was won by Pat Airey.

The next meeting will be on 21<sup>st</sup> January when Peter Norman will give an illustrated talk on 'Old Newmarket'.

*Margaret Phillips*

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## Notes from the Parish Council December Meeting

The meeting was chaired by Mr Trevor Jones with 5 members + 2 members of the Public attending.

### Reports:

Councillor Fitch reported to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Councillor Cane.

### Matters Arising

**Cambridgeshire ACRE subscription:** This was agreed.

**Grasscutting:** Following receipt of a request from D C & M Badcocks, it was agreed that they should carry out 2-3 further cuts of the Recreation Ground to bring it up to a standard for people to use plus the moving of redundant equipment to allow easier cutting. A letter is to be sent to the Sports & Recreation Committee asking them to tidy up the shed building and store goal posts, etc., that are lying in the grass.

**Bottisham Village College:** Following a request from B.V.C., a donation of £50 was agreed towards the running of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

**Village Maintenance:** *Village furniture* - Andy Martin is to carry out the necessary repair/maintenance works to the village seating, noticeboards and the Village Hall fencing.

**Cemetery** - Community Services group have been tidying up the cemetery for the last few weeks. They have agreed to edge the cemetery path with a suitable wood strip edging. Exact measurements and estimates for the materials needed are to be obtained for the January meeting.

**Standing Orders:** Ongoing.

### Correspondence Received:

**ECDC** – Register of Electors. This is held by the Clerk.

**CCC** – A letter was received acknowledging receipt of the P.C's application for traffic calming measures on Mill Hill.

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

**Planning Application:**

Liberty Barns, Heath Road (amendment) *“revisions to layout & design and clarification of site ownership/operation”*.

41 High Street (x2). *“Demolish rear porch and garage and construct extension to form granny annex & new double garage”*. *“Demolition of rear porch and garage. Construction of extension to house and new double garage”*.

There were no objections to the above.

**Any Other Business:** The work to the Pound/Keep is in hand.

**Open Question Time:** General discussion.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> January 2002 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

**Karen King**

Clerk of the Parish Council

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## **What's On Round and About**

Sat 5      National Trust **Wild Fowl Walk**, 10am 2pm, 01353 661707

Wed 9 -   **Aladdin and His Magic Lamp**

Sun 12     Panto: Haddenham Arkensawe Centre  
7.30pm Sat Matinee 2:30pm.  
01353 740257

From Fri   **Future's Student Exhibition**

11          Babylon Gallery, Waterside  
013536 69022

Sun 12     Anglesey Abbey Gardens and Lode Mill  
**Winter Wonderland**, 11am

From      Anglesey Abbey Gardens and Lode Mill

Wed 25    **Snowdrop Openings**, 10:30am - 4pm.

Fri 25      **From Bach to Ravel**, BVC (see ad, page 6)

Wed        Panto: **Briar Rose—A Sleeping Beauty**

30—Fri 1   Wicken Village Hall, 7.30, 01353 721611

Thurs 31   Panto: Bottisham Players Robin Hood & Babes (see p.6)



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

The Local Government Commission has published their draft report on the ward boundaries in East Cambridgeshire. The aim of their review is to ensure that the number of electors represented by each Councillor in East Cambridgeshire is as nearly as possible the same, taking into account local circumstances. Under the Commission's proposals the average number of electors per Councillor will be 1,473. The smallest number of electors represented by a Councillor will be 1,340 and the largest number 1,635. The Swaffhams Ward has 1,530 electors. To achieve this they are suggesting that the number of Councillors should increase from the present 37 to 39. The two extra Councillors will represent Ely, which will also have an extra ward. This reflects the growth in the population of Ely. The Swaffhams Ward, which is made up of Swaffham Prior, Reach and Swaffham Bulbeck would remain as it is under the Commission's proposals with a single Councillor. Burwell would also remain as it is. But our other neighbours would change dramatically. Bottisham and Lode are currently one ward with 2 Councillors and the Dullingham villages are 1 ward with 1 Councillor. The Commission is proposing that the Bottisham ward is enlarged to become Bottisham, Brinkley, Burrough Green, Lode and Westley Waterless which would be represented by 2 Councillors and the Dullingham Villages would become Dullingham, Stechworth and the Woodditton rural ward. Many of the Parish Councils affected and many District Councillors are not happy with the Commission's suggestion. It is therefore likely that the Council will suggest an alternative warding structure in this part of the District, which would involve the Swaffhams Ward joining with Bottisham and Lode to become 1 ward represented by 3 Councillors. The Commission wants to know what local people think of the proposals and they say "We will consult on these proposals ..... We take this consultation very seriously. We may decide to move away from our draft recommendation in the light of comments or suggestions that we receive. It is therefore important that all interested parties let us have their views and evidence, *whether or not* they agree with our draft recommendations." If you want to express your views, please write to the Review Manager by 28<sup>th</sup> January 2002 at East Cambridgeshire Review, LGCE, Dolphyn Court, 10/11 Great Turnstile, London, WC1V 7JU. If you want to see their report, I have one, you can see it at the Council's offices in Ely or you can read it on the internet at <http://www.lgce.gov.uk/reports/periodic/east/cambs/draft/reports/EastCambs.pdf>

*Charlotte Cane*



## County Council Notes—Early December 2001

### STRUCTURE PLAN

**Where are we going to build a town of 6,000 dwellings by 2006, in the south part of Cambridgeshire?**

For the whole of this last month (and further back, if it comes to that) I have been following the debate and adding views where sensible.

You may remember there are over half a dozen possible sites for a new town which will be additional to the expected growth of Cambridge City and larger villages such as **Burwell** which is completing much previously planned expansion. There was a strongly argued proposal for a new town at **Six Mile Bottom** which I have opposed since it appeared. The other candidates ranged from **Wilburton** around the north and west of the City to **Great Abington**.

At the time of writing we can expect a recommendation to go to the County Council Cabinet suggesting a choice between **Oakington/Longstanton** or **Waterbeach**. If the Cabinet agrees it will go to full Council on 18 December for ratification. Again, if agreed, this will be put forward in the formal Structure Plan process of consultation and public inquiry during 2002. The two villages just mentioned have climbed to the top of the pile since they have met more of the 30 or more fundamental criteria than the other contestants. Because the measurements against essential criteria have been judged objectively, there has been little need for NIMBY-ism to show itself. Having said that, few people in any of the villages concerned would welcome a town as big as six thousand dwellings in their parish. More news on this vital matter early next year.

At long last the much delayed sale of **Queen's Court**, Bottisham to Hereward Housing Association has been completed. Hereward will arrange for the Methodists Homes for the Aged organisation to run it on a daily basis. In due time Hereward expect to refurbish and increase Queen's Court size. Planning permission has already been gained

Villages in **Reach**, **Swaffham Prior** and **Burwell** in particular and our neighbourhood in general will be interested and, I hope, pleased to learn that the NATIONAL HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND has granted over £300,000 to restore the **Devil's Dyke** to its former condition of native chalk grassland. During the last half century it has become infested by scrub and has suffered erosion. Earlier steps to improve this huge Anglo Saxon earthwork

monument has included steps inserted on the path along its top and the imaginative control of unwanted weeds and scrub by the use of Andrew Hill's sheep.

Nevertheless, with seven miles of dyke to restore much more was needed and now we have the money. The programme of restoration will extend over five years. Try the celebratory special ale "Devils 800" at the Dykes End pub in Reach if Phil Vincent has any left!

By the time you read this, Christmas and New Year will be upon us. Greetings and good wishes for the whole holiday period.

*James Fitch*

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## **SWAFFHAM PRIOR WITH REACH, EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2001 AT THE HALL, SWAFFHAM PRIOR**

### **1. Treasurers' and Gift Officers' Reports**

#### Swaffham Prior

The Treasurer, Michael Cazenove, presented the Receipts and Payments account from January to November. The cost of the repair to the vestry chimney (£4623.30) had been included under Payments, so the deficit appeared much greater than it was. The actual deficit was £3018, which is slightly better than last year. Covenants and FWO were up but collections were down. We need to concentrate on fund-raising. The Village Christmas Market, the profits of which were to be shared between the Church and the Village Hall, was thought to have raised over £1000.

#### Reach

Laura Luckyn-Malone, who has taken on the role of Gift Aid Officer as well as Treasurer, presented a Summary Sheet of the Reach accounts. She felt that the Reach villagers should be made aware of how the legacy was to be used and showed the PCC a draft of a letter she had composed for their information. She also suggested that we might set up a Trust or a Friends' scheme.

There was some discussion of how much of the collection on Remembrance Sunday should go to the British Legion. It was suggested that £20 should go to the Reach War Memorial Appeal and £20 to the British Legion.

### **2. Social Working Groups' Reports**

#### Reach

Jan Robinson reported that £326 had been raised at St Etheldreda's Fair on October 12<sup>th</sup>. Mince pies to be served with tea after the Carol Service this year on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Social Working Group would be convening to make arrangements for next year.

#### Swaffham Prior

The Vicar reported on the meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> November. The Quiz had raised £134. The Christmas Market had raised about £1000 to be shared between Church and

Village Hall. Thanks were given to all who had contributed. The Travelling Crib would be launched on December 1<sup>st</sup>. At the “Advent by Candlelight” service on December 2<sup>nd</sup> mince pies and mulled wine would be served. A list of next year’s social events was circulated, including arrangements for the Festival Weekends in June. Attention was drawn to the “Bring and Share” Village Lunch at the Village Hall on January 1<sup>st</sup>; the Ash Wednesday Concert of Cambridge Voices on February 13<sup>th</sup> the Bulb Walk and Coffee Morning, 10.30 am. at the Manor House, Lower End on March 7<sup>th</sup>, the Buffet Concert with Cambridge Voices at Swaffham Prior House on Friday May 10<sup>th</sup> to raise money for the Centenary Restoration Fund; and a Marquee event at Goodwin Manor on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. There was some discussion about refreshments to be offered after special services, especially Christingle and the Carol Service. The next meeting of the Social Working Group would be at the Manor House at 8.00 p.m. on 26<sup>th</sup> January.

### **3. Fabric and Finance Working Groups’ Reports**

#### Reach

Doreen Robinson reported that Jan Frearson from Freeland Rees and Roberts was working on a specification for the re-ordering and the work would soon go out to tender, hopefully to local builders and craftsmen, and as soon as possible. Some of the Quinquennial repairs should be prioritised, and a start should be made on these as well in the near future.

#### Swaffham Prior

John Norris reported that the Faculty for the vestry refurbishment which had expired, had now been extended. The new safe was to be installed under the window above the worktop. The timber had been ordered for the cupboards, which would be fitted in January. The vestry door has to be made waterproof, and ventilators have been ordered to mitigate the damp. The light outside St Cyriac’s has now been installed and is working satisfactorily. Thanks are due to Francis Reeks, Tim Doe and Martin Mead for help in the installation. The tree officer has been helpful in allowing permission to tidy up trees in the churchyard. The boundary wall repairs seem to be prohibitively expensive, but they are the concern of the ECDC, working with our architect. The clock striking mechanism is too quiet to be heard - this will be fixed. Rev. Dr L. Broughton has advised on the suggestion of a replacement pulpit, to be carved to match the screen, and has suggested a new, lower lectern to match - PCC members supported this. The electrophonic organ is in very poor repair and seems to be nearing its end, in spite of Sidney Hewitt’s attempts to revive it.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2002, 7.30 p.m. at Reach Village Centre.

### **From the Parish Registers for November**

Holy Baptism: Isabella Sofia Rose Brewer [SP]

In Memoriam: Frances Mabel Hunt [SB]

Elsie Maud Doe [SP]

Dear Friends,

**Another Year**

As with most things to do with the Church of England there is an enormous variety of emphasis placed on such things from one church to another. However, we here do try to “do things properly” in that regard, since, as with most things, the more you know about something, the more it can enrich your life.

The cycle of the Church’s year begins with **Advent Sunday**, the day when we begin to look forward to the wonder to come with the celebration of Jesus’ birth at **Christmas**. As with all the things of God, however, this is not just the signal for an orgy of celebrating. First we are called to reflect soberly on our own unworthiness before God’s outpouring love, and even more soberly to consider the extent of this unworthiness, which necessitated such an extreme act by God. So we begin the liturgical year without the decoration of flowers and banners. Then we do come indeed with a sense of rejoicing to the glory of Christmas, with flowers, incense and the magnificence of white frontal, pulpit fall and vestments.

But even in the midst of such rejoicing there is suffering and death: as on the 26<sup>th</sup> when we remember St. Stephen, the first martyr, with red which signifies martyrs and saint; white on the 27<sup>th</sup> for St. John the Apostle; red on the 28<sup>th</sup> in memory of the Holy Innocents. Not all of these will necessarily mean a change of frontal as they fall in the middle of the week; otherwise the verger might well bring his bed! But the lectionary makes provision for each feast, and the constant change in emphasis that there is, as day follows day.

The Christmas season lasts through **Candlemas**, or the Presentation of Christ in the Temple on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February. After that we begin Sundays “Proper”, which is known as “Ordinary Time”, with the normal colour being green, seen as possibly the symbol of growth and fruitfulness.

The next change of colour comes with the beginning of **Lent** on Ash Wednesday. This, the most penitential time of the Church’s year, is again a time for purple hangings, no flowers and a general sense of heaviness, in parishioners as well, as we struggle to give up our “little luxuries”!

The **Easter** Season, as befits its splendour, keeps white as its colour, right through Ascension Day until we reach Whit Sunday, the day of Pentecost, celebrated with red, possibly signifying the tongues of fire which were seen resting on the apostles. White again for Trinity Sunday and for the Institution of Holy Communion, **Corpus Christi**, on the Thursday following Trinity Sunday, and, then back again to Ordinary Time and what we now call **Sundays after Trinity**.

Ordinary time can indeed be a long season, depending on the date of Easter, but the green is broken by the red of various Saints Days: Peter and Paul, Thomas, James, Bartholomew, St. Luke the Evangelist, Simon and Jude, and Holy Cross Day. It is also broken by white for the Transfiguration of our Lord, the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Michael and All Angels.

Then comes white for **All Saints Day**, red for All Souls followed by the **four Sundays before Advent**, culminating in either red or white for **Christ the King** on the Sunday before Advent Sunday.

Writing this has felt like mad gallop through the year, but it seems to me that such a constant change of colours and seasons, while not an end in itself, nevertheless, like



candles, incense, vestments etc. serves to enhance our worship. They are constant reminders, not only of the pattern of Christ's life here on earth, but of the number and example of the Saints through the ages, of the fact that life does move on and we must move on too, that God calls us to be always ready to let go and move from certainty to uncertainty, from known to unknown, to accept arid and dry patches, times of loss and hardship as well as times of rejoicing and celebrating, **so that we learn to put our trust in Him alone, He who can always be relied on and never changes.**

**Happy New Year!**

**Mark**



## Church Services January 2002

	<b>ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck</b>	<b>ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior</b>	<b>ST ETHELREDA Reach</b>
<b>EPIPHANY</b> <b>Sun</b> <b>6</b>	<b>8:00am</b> Holy Communion <sup>†</sup> <b>9:30am</b> Family Service	<b>11:00am</b> Parish Communion <sup>CW</sup> <b>6:00pm</b> Epiphany Carol Service	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <sup>†</sup> — Book of Common Prayer  CW — Common Worship </div>
<b>EPIPHANY</b> <b>Sun</b> <b>13</b>	<b>9:30am</b> Parish Communion <sup>CW</sup>	<b>11:00am</b> Family Service <b>6:00pm</b> Evensong <sup>†</sup> and Sermon	<b>8:00am</b> Holy Communion <sup>†</sup>
<b>EPIPHANY</b> <b>Sun</b> <b>20</b>	<b>9:30am</b> Village Communion <sup>CW</sup>	<b>11:00am</b> Parish Communion <sup>CW</sup> <b>6:00pm</b> Evensong <sup>†</sup> and Sermon	<b>8:00am</b> Holy Communion <sup>†</sup>
<b>EDUCATION</b> <b>Sunday</b> <b>Sun</b> <b>27</b>	<b>9:30am</b> Parish Communion <sup>CW</sup>	<b>8:00am</b> Holy Communion <sup>†</sup> <b>11:00am</b> Mattins <sup>†</sup> and Sermon	<b>6:00pm</b> Evening Service

**Holy Communion**  
**Evening Prayer**

1<sup>st</sup> Thursdays 10am, Swaffham Bulbeck Church  
Tuesdays, 5:30pm, Swaffham Bulbeck, Wednesdays, 5:30pm, Reach  
Thursdays, 5:30pm, Swaffham Prior

**Bellringing**

Wednesdays, fortnightly 8pm. St. Cyriacs. Contact Dr Margaret Stanier on 741328.

**Mothers Union**

1<sup>st</sup> Mondays, 2:15pm, c/o Free Church, Commercial End.

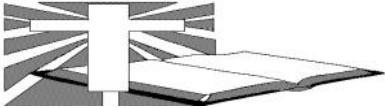
**Toddlers Service**

Contact Win Norton on 01223 811509

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays @ 11:30am for 15 minutes in Reach Church or Centre

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays @ 10:00am for 15 minutes in Swaffham Bulbeck School Hall.

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



## Zion Baptist Chapel

### A TXT 4 2DAY...

At the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century we live in a world which has become a global village through the widespread use of high-tech communications. What is happening in Afghanistan can be inside our living rooms within minutes. In seconds we can be in touch with our friends across the world via e-mail. Yet for all our technology, being in touch with ourselves spiritually is another matter altogether.

Even so there are many who realise that there is a spiritual side to life and they set out to try and find it. In their searching they experiment with all sorts of new experiences. But for all our rapidly changing world there are some things that don't change. Take prayer for instance. It is a tried and tested method of being in touch with God, for talking with Him and hearing Him speak back. It is sometimes difficult to get started, but a good, if old fashioned, place to begin is with the Lord's Prayer. *'Our Father who art in heaven...'*

However the words are difficult to understand for modern ears. So to make it easier an Internet website ran a competition to re-write the Lord's Prayer in text message form so it could be transmitted via mobile phone. The traditional version is 372 characters long, so whittling it down to the 160 characters of a standard text message meant cutting the prayer by more than half without losing anything important. This was the winning entry:-  
dad@hvn,ur spshl.we want wot u want&urth2b like hvn.giv us food&4giv r sins lyk  
we 4giv uvaz.don't test usl!save usl!bcos we kno ur tuf&ur cool 4 evalok!



(For the bewildered and bemused you can find an understandable translation in the Bible in Matthew's Gospel chapter 5, beginning at verse 9.)

So why don't you communicate with God this year. Start with the Lord's prayer, using whichever words you prefer! You may find that God's ancient communication technology of prayer really works.

P.S. If you're short of time you can pray using one of the other Internet competition entries:- Hi Fr.,Mat6:9-13 again pls.Cheers. c u in ch.

David Bousfield

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

## Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish

**Masses:** Newmarket: Sat 1830; Sun 0900, 1030; Kirtling: Sun 1700;  
In Bottisham Parish Church, Sun 0900 (Served from Cambridge).

### From John Morrill, Deacon to the Roman Catholic Community

Happy New Year! It seems odd to be writing that on the day on which I have been out to buy the Christmas tree and presents for Frances and for my parents, and to select a cask-strength malt whisky to keep me going through the forthcoming festivities! But despite all the wonders of modern technology the text for the New Year *Crier* needs to be ready two and a half weeks before the end of the year. So there it is: Happy New Year!

For the Catholics of East Anglia it has been a strange year. Back at the beginning of 2001 we in Newmarket were hoping and expecting that by now we would making giant strides towards our redevelopment – a reshaped site, a new Hall, presbytery, meeting rooms, social and prayer spaces, a new *environment* in which to encounter God and to share him with our neighbours and neighbourhoods. Instead, the Catholics of East Anglia find themselves with no Bishop, Bishop Peter having been taken from us to become the new Archbishop of Wales. We will now be bishop-less for as much as a year, although anyone who knows Fr Tony Rogers, Fr Paul's predecessor at Newmarket and now Parish Priest of Cambridge, who will be diocesan administrator during the 'Interregnum', will know we are in safe if tied hands. Meanwhile the Catholics of Newmarket find themselves still staggering through the planning and permissions stage for the church redevelopment, and find themselves (in sad and distressing circumstances) with one priest instead of two. And yet there is so much to be thankful for. In the past year we have been the first Catholic Church in the world to be used for Methodist ordinations (an act of ecumenical hospitality that gave us great delight), we have witnessed the ordination in our church of a man whose faith journey from 'convert' to 'priesthood' has been in a single parish (Haverhill) – an ordination conducted amidst extraordinary scenes of rejoicing from those who had formed him in faith to whom he will now minister as priest, and we see our links with other Christians, most notably in Open Door, mature and deepen. We have started a home-visiting scheme in which about thirty of our parishioners have undertaken to visit all known Catholics in their 'patch' on a regular basis, and when I look over all the rotas in and around the church, I see more than 100 people engaged in ministry of some sort on a regular basis. We have a wonderful parish school that delivers the *Christian* faith through *Catholic* forms (I am amazed at the opposition in some quarters to 'faith' schools. *All* the faith schools I know in England are developing in children and in adults associated with the school both a sense of God's immanence in the world, his love and care for everything – people, peoples, environment – and a deeper understanding and tolerance of the varieties of faith in this land and around the world). All this is not intended to be a boastful audit; just a reflection that beneath the headlines ('priest arrested'; 'Jockey Club objects to school footpath'; 'East Anglia to be without Bishop for year or more') there is much to be thankful for. Faith tested is not faith lost. Our parish mission statement is 'Partners in Jesus Christ for others'. May we remain strong in our commitment to that mission, and trusting in God to help us see the way forward. As I return to write a few more Christmas cards, and to push aside the cobwebs in the attic as I go in search of the Christmas tree lights: Happy New Year!

## ***Dates for Your Diary - January 2002***

26 Dec - BOXING DAY: Hockey Match, SB, 11am

Tue 1 New Year's Day Lunch, VH, 12.30pm.

Wed 2 Cubs, Village School, 6.30-8:00pm.

Thu 3

Fri 4

Sat 5

Sun 6

Mon 7

Tue 8 Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm

Wed 9 Staine Hundred, BVC

Thu 10 2.30-4.30pm VH Teas  
7.30 PC Meeting, VH.

Fri 11

Sat 12

Sun 13

Mon 14 ***Crier Copy Deadline***

7.30 Art History: 'A Vist to Santa Croce', VH

Tue 15 2.30-3.30, Baby & Toddler Group Zion Baptist Ch  
8pm, CU Botanic Gardens 'Past, Present & Future', VH.  
CLEANAWAY Collection Day

Wed 16

Thu 17 2.30-4.30pm VH Teas

Fri 18

Sat 19

Sun 20

Mon 21 WI: 'Old Newmarket', VH

Tue 22 Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm

Wed 23

Thu 24 2.30-4.30pm VH Teas

Fri 25 8pm, Bach to Ravel, BVC

Sat 26 PCC Meeting, Manor House 8pm

Sun 27

Mon 28

Tues 29 CLEANAWAY Collection Day

Wed 30

Thu 31 ***Crier*** Collating, Village Hall, 2:30pm  
2.30-4.30pm VH Teas

7.30 Robin Hood and the Babes in the Wood, BVC