



# The Swaffham Crier

Volume 26 Number 3

March 2002



## Editorial

A big thank-you to all our readers who have contributed some *brilliant* letters this month. Some wonderful reminiscences (we're still trying to work out how John and Sylvia's father *ever* got back home, and yes, we played kick-a-tennis-ball-round-the-village-fewest-kicks-wins in our youth). A number of correspondents have sorted us out about *The Railer*, including Ruth Stinton, whose grandfather founded it, and who thinks the name is because there were pull-you-up rails down the side. As for *Cock Hill*, named as such post-1814 apparently (see John Clarke), well, is Meryl right? Is this what a *Cock Horse* really was? It's not given as such in the *OED*, but it sounds very convincing. How *would* the carts get up that hill? About as well as the Spanish Lorries probably, and thank you Mr Webb, we agree with every word!

This month also sees the first edition of a *rival* rag: *The Swaffham Express*. This is Swaffham Prior Primary School's very own newspaper produced and edited by the kids themselves, of course and we include an excerpt in this edition. The Swaffham Express needs sponsors, so volunteers, please get in touch with the school.

Although it seems we already have sponsoring candidates for all things fun or sporty: yes, the *Swaffham Prior Sports and Recreation Club* have resurfaced with a BANG! (see *Letters*) and seem to have been secretly doing lots of fine works, and may, one never knows, be game for some more. Tennis Court? Bowling Green? Grass cutting on Town Close (football practice!)? One can but ask.

Another interesting village position has now become vacant — *Flag-flyer-in-chief*. (see *Situations Vacant*, p 16). This is the person who hoists the flag on top of St. Cyriac's Church. Brilliant view from the top and an excellent way to keep fit. Alternatively, you could take on the Village Newspaper Delivery (this is likely to be remunerative too!) because, ALAS, the Fullers are giving it up and unless someone steps in pretty quick, we are going to have to talk to each other over the breakfast table.

We are very, very sad to learn in this month's issue that the Zion Chapel is due to close — read David Bousfield's report, p. 30, and Mark's article too; we think this sums up the situation pretty well. We do hope something can be done.

To close, a few boring things about copy: hand-writing fine, printed text fine, but since we tend to scan this in (magic! No typing) *do* remember to put spaces after punctuation marks. Otherwise, it comes out wrong, like this! And our scanner *hates* coloured paper, so then we have to type it anyway. If layout's important (fancy Word copy) remember this is an A5 magazine — Word's not so fancy when it comes to resizing. Happy March, Ides and all,

*Caroline Matheson*

**Cover Picture:** *The Hare* by Charles Tunnicliffe



## Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

### Local Place Names

May I make a few comments about place names in the February *Crier*?

*The Railer* refers to a pair of cottages which stood beside the Backway near the path connecting with the High Street opposite Tom Cooper's shop.

The Backway starts on High Street at Schoolmaster's Lane, goes through the Churchyard and continues across Cage Hill past the modern house standing on the Railer site, and rejoins the High Street nearly opposite Shadworth Manor. There were formerly a number of stiles along its length.

Cage Hill, Cock Hill, Greenhead Hill, was simply known as the Green Head at the 1814 Enclosure, i.e. the head of the village green. I have an original of John Chapman's 1780 Map.

Best Regards,

*John Clarke*

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Dear Editors,

### More Memories

It was a great joy to read letters received from John Coleman and his sister Sylvia in the February edition of the *Crier*.

John and I grew up together both at Primary School and later at Burwell Secondary Modern. In fact we were both in the same class throughout our school days.

I remember vividly what fun we had as children specially when it was either John or Sylvia's birthday parties. We would all gather at Bramfield and John's father would split us into two groups. One group would jump into his car and after setting off, each of us in turn would be asked what direction we would like to go - i.e. left or right, straight ahead etc. and we would go off on our journey not knowing where we would be heading. Then once back home, the second group would go and do exactly the same. Once they had returned John's dad would clock up the miles to see which group had travelled the furthest. It was always the highlight of their birthday parties and such fun.

As John said in his letter he was an avid bird-watcher and I can remember the lovely drawings he used to do of birds at school. I think we all enjoyed our school days at Swaffham Prior with Mrs Dowdeswell.

John and Sylvia's parents were lovely people. You can't help but remember them all each time you walk past Bramfield — such happy memories.

About 4 years ago, I, along with my school friend Mary Jacobs organised a school reunion. We contacted all our old school-friends for this special occasion. Unfortunately, John could not make it but very kindly sent a letter of apology and a photo of himself and his wife so that we could add this to all the other photographs taken that night. We certainly missed him but hope perhaps he will make it again next year when we will be organising another one.

Its lovely to reminisce and it was a real pleasure to read the letters received from both John and Sylvia. Thanks for sharing these memories with us.

*Sandra Butcher*

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Dear Editors

### **The Railer**

It was lovely to reminisce with Sylvia Short and John Coleman in February's Crier. However, one thing in John's letter is not quite accurate. The Railer runs from the back path to Lower End between Bramfield and Chalna and not from the churchyard to the Beeches.

My grandfather, Bartholomew Badcock, who lived at Corona Dairy owned the then four cottages at Mount Pleasant and the land where Chalna now stands. There was a row of cottages along the front of Lower End, the last one being demolished after my parents built Chalna in 1964. Some years before, my grandfather set aside a strip of land to allow the residents of Mount Pleasant to have access from Lower End. This has gradually become wider over the years.

I understand that the Railer was so called because there were rails on the Bramfield side to assist people climbing the slope. Perhaps someone can confirm this.

When the public have used a path such as this for ten years or more, it can legally become a right of way and this is how the Railer came into being.

*Ruth Stinton*

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Dear Editors,

### **Lower End 30 years ago**

The by-pass had been completed and the Tot-hill estate built.

The village had about 400 people when we arrived in Swaffham Prior. We took over Primrose Cottage in 1970, it had been used as a temporary vicarage while the new one was built nearer the church.

The cottage next door (now a house) still had an outside loo and only one tap. The other side of us, an old farmhouse used the barn for carpentry which

is now a business. The house opposite was then an official Police establishment and housed our Village Policeman.

Ivy Farm was fully working, the granary being used for most of the year. Ida Clark, who lived there, ran the Caravan Site and kept Guinea-Fowl, which spent much of their time strutting up and down the road much to the amusement of the children. Stocks Farm was empty someone having gutted the inside and the barns at the rear were still barns. The local shop was then thriving.

The Beeches had been completed and the older generation had moved in. Sheldrick's Cottage still had traces of a garage which once was a business and the Chapel was there but Roger's Road corner was undeveloped. Opposite Sheldrick's Cottage was a carpet shop and Oaks Farm consisted of large farm buildings.

My children used to play tennis in the road avoiding the Guinea-Fowl(!) and stepping aside if a car came which wasn't very often. 30 years is comparatively a short time. I sometimes wonder what Lower End will be like in another 30 years.

Tempus Fugit.

S.N.

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Dear Editors,

### **The New Cock Pub**

This picture was published in the Newmarket Weekly News. The little boy is Tod Milgate (Marie Milgate's son) step father of Roger Cook (Tothill Road).

After the Cock closed, Ted lived at 3 Greenhead Road until he died in 1992. He was church organist for a number of years.

We used to shelter in the porch while waiting for the bus before the bus-shelter was there.

**Ruth Stinton**



*Last week's picture from the Cambridge Collection showed the New Cock public house in Swaffham Prior taken around 1910. Outside the building is Mrs Milgate, wife of the then licensee.*

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Dear Editors

### **The Fencock**

I think pub at the bottom of Cage Hill was called *The Fencock*. When I first came to the village (nearly 19 years ago!), I was told that some

incomers had objected to *Cock Hill* because it was ‘rude’! Apparently a *cock horse* was kept at the bottom of the hill to be harnessed in front of a horse pulling a heavy load to help it up to the top. This fascinated me. I had no idea what a cock horse was, having always vaguely associated it with the nursery rhyme and illustrations of a child on a *hobby horse*.

As to the path running parallel with the High Street and Lower End, that, I understood, was known as *the Back Way* or *the Back Path*. *The Railer* was the cart track, now metalled, leading from Lower End (near Ivy Farm) up to the Back Way. And why ‘Railer’? What does it mean?

*Meryl Moore*

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Dear Editors,

### **Swaffham Prior Sports and Recreation Club**

At a recent meeting of the above Sports & Recreation Club it was decided that a letter be sent to *The Crier* in order to confirm our existence and briefly explain what we have achieved to date.

Following the departure and resignation of Malcolm Hall, the past Chairman, a new committee was formed at the 17<sup>th</sup> May 2000 meeting, the elected new Chairman being Ted Hurst.

Both the Village Playscheme and Village Youth Club have benefited from substantial donations and we currently have an ongoing agreement with the Youth Club that could well see further financial assistance going their way. In tandem with the Parish Council we are endeavouring to tidy up the recreation field so that it becomes more usable for the village, indeed, our member Ian Dalton, tells us he is actively seeking to put together a football team to represent the Village, the condition of the field obviously being of great importance to his plans.

We therefore hope to continue our good work with all vigour and gusto!

*John Berry*

PS. We would of course welcome the use of the field by any other sports or recreational activity.

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Dear Editors

### **Mrs. Dowdeswell’s Book**

In reply to your question ‘But WHERE is it now?’ in last month’s ‘*Crier*’, the book concerning the Village compiled by Mrs. Dowdeswell is in the proud possession of the W.I.

Mr. Peter Cunningham very kindly produced a bound copy for us, so if anyone would like to see it just ring me on 741221.

*Betty Prime*

Dear Editors,

### **Greenseed International**

I am over the moon, and I am sure the local community is too, to read about Greenseed International, Lord's Ground Limited Swaffham Prior, and its success in exporting seed potatoes to places like Spain, South Africa, Italy, Chile, Brazil and it is also rumoured to Poland and Russia. Congratulations on the Award of Exporter of the Year from Britain and the HSBC Export Awards. I am sure that David Almond and his colleagues have worked very hard over the last ten years and possibly the workers have worked even harder for them!

I love to see the Spanish Lorry drivers, who can't speak a word of English, with their happy faces, asking as well they can where Lord's Ground is. Sometimes I even drive down in front of them to show them the way. David has done well by thanking villagers for putting up with them and it is appreciated. But, I ask myself whether the village and its inhabitants will get an award for this co-operation? I would like to ask David to think hard about helping to make the Village School look better and more importantly its immediate vicinity safer. He could do this by persuading the powers to be to improve the road outside the School by taking the grass verge away and putting kerb stones up at the path edge and by installing piping along the little ditch on the other side of the road and then filling with hardcore and finishing off with kerbstones. By doing this almost two meters, by my calculation, would be gained in road width, which is not an enormous amount, but to parents, carers and school children it would make an hazardous corner a great deal safer.

David has had children at the School, some of his colleagues and workers still do. I hope the village gets its reward. After all, it would only cost the equivalent of one or two lorry loads of potatoes and with these simple improvements to the road at the junction of the High Street and Station Road it would make life so much easier, safer and quicker for Spanish lorry drivers!

I also know a very competent and able local construction firm that would be more than happy to tender for the works!!

***R A Webb***

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Dear Editors,

### **CHERNOBYL CHILDRENS HOLIDAY 2002**

In 1998 and 2000 the Eastern Area of Baptist churches organised successful holidays for a group of children from Belaws who are still sufferinng as a result of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster 16 years ago.

A similar holiday in East Anglia is being planned for 30 children and 4 adult leaders from 16th June to 7th July this year and Zion Baptist Chapel is again sponsoring one child (~300) and also supplying toiletries for them.

Some of these children bring very little with them in the way of clothes etc and really do benefit from the holiday. They stay with families and visit local places of interest as well as doing other activities.

If you feel able to help, please put your donation however large or small, in an envelope marked 'Chernobyl holiday' through my letterbox at 17 Green Head Road - you needn't even give your name. Alternatively there is a letterbox at the Chapel. If you would rather help in a more practical way I have a list of toiletries which are required then please phone me on 01638 742641.

Your help will be much appreciated once more.

**Ruth Stinton**

Secretary, Zion Baptist Chapel

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Dear Editors

### **Christmas Holly**

This is *a very* belated thank you to Elisabeth and Alastair Everitt, who kindly organised the cutting and selling of the Christmas holly, and to all of your readers who purchased a bunch or two. A grand total of £124 was raised! It was a generous amount and we shall use it to provide the flowers for our Golden Jubilee Flower Festival on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June this year.

We do hope that you will be able to come and see the arrangements in St Mary's.

With many thanks, **Ruth Scovill**



### **GOLDEN JUBILEE FAMILY PICNIC**

It is hoped to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee on Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2002 with a Grand Family Picnic at one of the amenity areas in the village.

The general idea is to bring a blanket, basket of goodies (sandwiches, jellies, buns, etc), play a few games and have a good time! Any further ideas and offers of help would be very welcome.

This is very much an idea at present. It needs people to make it work!

Please telephone Karen King if you would like to help or have any suggestions (01638 742358).

## From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

'Tidying-Up' was the theme running through the discussions of the meeting of the Parish Council in February. First came the consequences of some previous tidying-up in Tothill Road, where a large tree whose roots had been disturbing the pavement had been removed. But as to a replacement, what species, where to put it, and who would pay? Our local tree expert Andrew had some good ideas about species: Himalayan silver birch which has attractive bark in winter, or mountain ash, or a species of Acer; and the P.C. would probably have to pay for it; but as to where to put it, so that it would not obstruct vision of car-drivers or tear-up pavements, this would need a site-inspection. Decisions and planning now would mean that we would be ready-to-go at next autumn/winter tree-planting season. Next came a discussion about who would do our tidying-up-and-grass-cutting of the grassy spaces of the village this year; the P.C. decided on a Local Man because if anything went wrong it was easier to complain to him than to a firm in Littleport.



A spectacular item of tidying-up of the Parish Council's finances was discussed when the Chairman proposed the repayment of (say) £4000 of a loan we took out in about 1997, from the Public Works Loan Board, and on which we pay annually a fixed interest of 7¼%, which comes to an annual charge of about £1400. If we repaid some of the loan, we would have less interest to cough-up each year. There was a certain 'penalty' for repayment before expiry-date of loan: to repay £5000 would cost us about £5300; but even so it might be worth while: we would repay the money out of our Reserve Account, which is now quite large and handsome. The P.C. kicked-around the idea for quite a while. Then when we were told just how large the reserve is, Henry suggested the revolutionary idea of repaying forthwith the *whole* loan of £10,000, and then we would not have to pay *any* interest ever again. The P.C. considered this a splendid notion, and voted for it. Somebody remarked that our Reserve Account might then be dangerously low, but our financial advisers were confident that it would soon mount up again, especially as our expenses would be automatically reduced by £1400 annually.

Tidying-up items of a more material kind was also mentioned. Cars parked on the verges and pavements along Fairview Grove would have to be cleared away before the Highways people could put in the proposed lay-bys. Another item of car-dumping by gipsies reported at the far end of Head Lake Drove, came up in question-time. Some loose ends of the Village Enhancement are about to be tidied-up: lamp-standards re-placed and re-



arranged, and church-steps-light wired-up. The Sports Club had undertaken to tidy-up the litter around the sports field down Station Road, if the P.C. will pay the cost of hiring a small-or-medium skip for the rubbish (It will). A tidying-up-repair job is needed to a wall between the Beeches bungalow-estate and the footpath running alongside the estate at the edge of the Dencora Field; but Hereward Housing which owns the Beeches estate declares that it does not own the wall, and refuses to repair it.

The Chairman insisted that at the *next* meeting the P.C.really must finally tidy-up the long-overdue matter of 'Standing Orders' . This is because when applying for grants we are obliged to send to potential-grant-giving bodies a copy of our Standing Orders, and at present we haven't any to send. A somewhat related but more serious matter is that of 'Code of Conduct', which Parish Council officers are to be called-on to sign. We may here more of this: bound to become contentious. readers are warned.

*Margaret Stanier*

## **FUND RAISING EVENT IN AID OF VILLAGE HALL Its that time again!!**

**We are having a JUMBLE & NEARLY NEW SALE on 2nd March in order to raise funds in aid of the Village Hall and require jumble, nearly new items, toys, bric-a-brac, books in fact, anything saleable. We would very much appreciate your help.**

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

Elaine Malster  
28 Fairview Grove  
Tel: 743894

Alastair Everitt  
Anglesey House, High St  
Tel: 742974

and Trevor Jones — 741197

Alternatively items can be delivered to the Village Hall on Friday 1st March, 7.30 — 9pm and 2nd March 10.30am —1pm.

## **Launch of a major musical project for Swaffham Prior:**

### **4.00pm - Easter Day, Sunday March 31<sup>st</sup>**

### **St. Cyriac & St. Julitta's**

Over the next 3 years Ian de Massini, founder and director of Cambridge Voices, will perform Bach's complete "48 Preludes & Fugues" in a series of piano recitals throughout France, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. The series begins in this country with the inaugural pair of concerts both occurring on Easter Day, Sunday March 31<sup>st</sup> in Swaffham Prior and in Cambridge. With a grand piano placed in the centre of St. Cyriac & St. Julitta's Church, Swaffham Prior, Ian will present, from memory, eight of the preludes and fugues from Book 1 of Bach's famous "Well-tempered Clavier". At each concert, Bach's piano music will alternate with other complementary musical items in keeping with the season of the year and so, for this Easter Day concert, there will also be a joyful sequence of songs and arias by Bach, including beautiful excerpts from his setting of St. John's Passion and from various Cantatas, all sung by Lydia Smallwood, a Soprano from Cambridge Voices (whose heart-stopping rendition of the top-Cs in Allegri's "Miserere" regularly fills St. Cyriac's each Ash Wednesday and Good Friday).

This Easter Sunday concert, presented solely by the light of candles, will begin at 7.00pm and will last one hour maximum, without an interval. The grand piano will be placed at the centre of the building and the audience may sit wherever they wish, perhaps close around the piano, or to one side, or afar off and thereby revel in the extraordinary acoustics of this unique building. There will be soft drinks, wine and nibbles offered after the concert. Admission will be by programme (£5), available at the door.

These concerts are being organised by Ian himself, to help raise sufficient funds to bring to fruition the following ambitious plan of his. Over the past twelve years his choir Cambridge Voices has come into contact with some of the most exciting choral composers in Britain and the Continent. Now Ian has persuaded these composers to collaborate in the creation of a great cycle of anthems and motets, each movement composed by a different composer but thematically linked by a common melody. Cannily, Ian has chosen a theme specially pertinent to Swaffham Prior, namely "The Great Antiphons for Advent" (sometimes referred to as the "Great O"s since each verse begin with that single word) which have become the basis of the lyrics for the great Advent hymn "O come, O come Emmanuel" sung every year as part of the village's "Advent by Candlelight". All being well, these composers will produce a monumental contribution to the new millennial choral repertoire,

which will be premièred in this very village during Advent 2004. Herald Records, with whom the choir exclusively records, would also be very keen to put the work onto CD soon after. Composers already lined up include Carl Ruetti (Switzerland), Luis Gasser (Spain), Vincent Warnier (France) and, from Britain, Paul Johnson, Ben Harris, John Reeman and Ian de Massini himself. There is also a handful of other composers from whom Ian is waiting confirmation "if the price is right"!

Not surprisingly, funds beyond the normal means of the choir and Friends of the Choir are needed in order to offer even just a token fee to each composer, plus the cost of the photocopying and binding of all the scores. Ian hopes that, by the completion of the series, his piano recitals will raise sufficient funds as well as help maintain interest in this ambitious project over the next three years as the composers reach for their pens (or computer mouse!) to create a very great work in honour of the special musical heritage of this village.

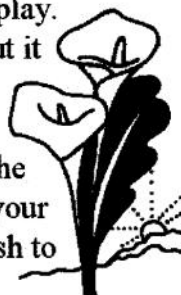
*Ian de Massini,*  
24 Fair Green, Reach

## Easter Lilies

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

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

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



*Ruth Scovil*



# **BULB WALK**

**AND**

## **COFFEE MORNING**

**Thursday, 7th March**  
**10.30 am – 12 noon**

**The Manor House**  
**Lower End, Swaffham Prior**  
**by kind invitation of Mrs R Wood**

**Bring & Buy ❀ Produce Stall ❀ Raffle**



**Proceeds to St Mary's Church  
Centenary Restoration Fund**



*FRIENDS OF BOTTISHAM  
VILLAGE COLLEGE*

## ***CEILIDH***

AT  
BOTTISHAM VILLAGE  
COLLEGE  
ON

9TH MARCH 2002  
7-30—11-30 p.m.

Adults £8 Child £3

*Dancing to* RSVP

Bar

For tickets contact SUE  
on 01223 812194

BOTTISHAM MUSIC SOCIETY

STUDENTS OF

LONG ROAD SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

WILL PRESENT AN EVENING OF

## **JAZZ AND LIGHT MUSIC**

IN

BOTTISHAM VILLAGE COLLEGE

ON

FRIDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

AT 8PM

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

*BRING YOUR OWN INTERVAL REFRESHMENTS*



## **Reach Fair 2001** **May 6<sup>th</sup>** **at 12 noon**

Rides-stalls-games-country crafts  
Morris men-juggling-assault course  
Cub courts-raptor foundation-knights-Refreshments & beer tent  
Cream teas-salads-roast and BBQ

free admission, £2 programme

## **Music for Holy Week and Easter**

**7.00pm - Easter Monday Bank Holiday April 1<sup>st</sup>**

**St. Cyriac & St. Julitta's, Swaffham Prior**

Two years ago Swaffham Prior was honoured by the visit of the internationally renowned concert pianist and composer Carl Rütti, teacher at the Zürich Conservatoire and President of Cambridge Voices. This year we are delighted to welcome Mr. Rütti once again to our village where he will, together with his choir, present our village's annual concert of Music for Holy Week. This year, for a change, the concert will be moved from its customary position on Good Friday to that of a few days later, namely Easter Monday Bank Holiday and so enabling the concert to embrace the wonderfully rich repertoire of music celebrating Christ's resurrection.

The first half of the concert focuses on the events leading up to Good Friday, with a performance of Franz Liszt's "Via Crucis" set for choir, soloists and piano. This is one of the composer's late works and is striking for its intensity of emotion achieved by a stark simplicity of means, all supported by unusually experimental harmonies for its time. But, to open the concert, Mr. Rütti will play some of his own music for solo piano, from his cycle "Book of Hours" that portrays the inner turmoil of Christ in the Passion narrative. Since his last visit here Mr. Rütti now works extensively with the BBC including recent performances of his music at the Proms as well the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols from King's, not to mention recordings by the BBC Symphony Chorus, The BBC Singers and, of course, our very own Cambridge Voices.

The second half rejoices in the exuberance, not-to-say unashamed theatricality, found in Rossini's hugely entertaining "Petite Messe Solennelle" composed for piano, choir and uninhibited soloists! If you are put off by the religiosity of so much church music then this is the concert for you! Rossini effortlessly employs all the tricks in the book to strip these sacred texts of their cloying tradition and re-clothes them with the dazzling robes of the opera. Indeed, this Mass is neither "Petite" nor "Solennelle" but one can't help but fall in love the ebullient composer's gorgeous melodies soaring above the sparkling piano accompaniment.

Admission to the concert is by programme (£5) available at the door: children are welcome free of charge. There'll be an interval (with toilet facilities kindly provided by The Red Lion pub just down the road).

***Ian de Massini,***

24 Fair Green, Reach. Tel: 01638 741366

## **PLAY SCHEME 2002!!!!**

5 – 9 August, 9.30-12 noon

Planning is underway for this year's Playscheme. We have lots of exciting ideas, but would very much welcome further suggestions or offers of help. For example, we are looking for people to help with woodwork and for a magician to share some secrets!

A particular need this year is for a caring, organised and patient person to oversee the crèche for helpers' children throughout the week. We always have lots of willing hands in the crèche, but we really need that one special person to pull it all together.

We also require assistance with refreshments at break times – could you offer less than an hour one day? It is a great way to share this special week with the children.

Finally, we will soon be needing a very small amount of storage space to store about half a dozen plastic boxes containing Playscheme craft materials. Does anyone have a dry shed, barn or garage we could use? Please call on the number below.

The next meeting will take place on **Monday 18 March in the Red Lion at 8pm.**

All are welcome. Please support your Playscheme.

Some basic information: All primary school aged children living in Swaffham Prior and Reach, or who have attended Swaffham Prior School, are welcome to attend Playscheme 2002. The cost will be £2.50 per day, or £6 for a family ticket, with some subsidised places available. Application forms will be issued through school in the summer term; please get in touch with Dee Noyes on 743864 if you will not be included in this circulation.

Thank you in anticipation of your support – Liz Thompson, Mandy Kingsmill, Jo Pumfrey,  
Tracy Jeacock, Dee Noyes

## **BEAUTIFUL SOUTH WEST FRANCE**

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.

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### Newspaper Delivery

G.A. and R.A. Fuller will be ceasing to deliver newspapers in the village from April 27<sup>th</sup>. They would very much like to hear from anyone who would be interested in taking over the business. Tel: 742846.

**Flag-Flyer Required:** Sidney Hewitt has decided that he must stand down from his flag-flying duties on St Cyriac's Tower. We are looking for someone to take his place who must be able to climb the spiral staircase to the roof on the days specified each year (currently 54, but some are consecutive) and training will be given as necessary. Please offer if you think you would like to be involved in what is both a civic and church duty. The job can easily be split amongst a group of people, and willing deputies are vital. Contact Mark on 741409.

Applications are invited for the part-time position of **Clerk to Lode Parish Council** The Clerk's main duties are to prepare papers for, and record minutes of, the Council meeting each month, to act on the Council's decisions and to manage the accounts.

Those interested should contact the present Clerk in the first instance who can advise on salary, hours and duties, after which written application should be made to the Chairman.

Chairman: Philip Dean 812493  
Clerk: Peter Swannell 811584

Those interested should contact the present Clerk in the first instance who can advise on salary, hours and duties, after which written application should be made to the Chairman.

Chairman: Philip Dean 812493

Clerk: Peter Swannell 811584

## BACKWATER BLUES

Here, in this sequestered close,  
One cannot fail to feel morose.

No passing traffic to disturb;  
No break in curving concrete kerb.  
No change in car across the way  
Except for incipient decay.

Occasional caravans,  
                    with curtains drawn  
Stand rooted on their yellow lawn,  
Whilst dried-out boats,  
                    with wheels beneath  
Are failing desperately to bequeath  
An air of action to the scene,  
Where anything that has, has been.

No curtains twitch,  
                    and nothing moves.  
Life loiters in its cloistered grooves.

*Ophir Catling* .





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**DRIVEWAYS PATIOS DRAINAGE FOUNDATIONS**  
**DEMOLITION FENCING**



**FREE ESTIMATES GIVEN**



## **BOTTISHAM SWIMMING POOL & SPORTS CENTRE**

Regular users of these valuable community facilities may have been aware that for some time discussions have been under way to investigate the possibility of setting up joint management in order to create a fully integrated leisure and fitness centre.

However, after serious consideration, the College Governors have decided not to contract out management of the Sports Centre and Bodytone facilities but to retain them as a separate commercial entity from the Swimming Pool.

From 1<sup>st</sup> April, therefore, the normal entrance and kiosk will serve swimming pool users only and access to the other facilities will be via a new entrance on the other side of the Sports Hall, adjacent to the PE Office.

As Chairman of the Swimming Pool Association, I would like to assure our customers that we have a positive attitude towards the future of the Pool and other sports activities and our staff will do all they can to help with any difficulties that may occur during the changeover period.

***Peter Swannell***

Chairman, Bottisham Swimming Pool Association

**Paddock for two horses available after Easter**

**Mrs Wood 742020**

# SWAFFHAM BULBECK COUNTRY STORE & POST OFFICE

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## Extract from *The Swaffham Express*

### (First Edition of SP School Magazine)

On Monday 21<sup>st</sup> of January, Bobby Matheson and Peter Hollingsworth interviewed *LaMeKa*, one of the school bands. We started off with the obvious question how they came up with the name *LaMeKa*. They answered that *its quite simple — if you take the first two letters of each of there name you get it LaMeKa:*

Laura = La

Melissa = Me

And Katrina = Ka

And that spells *LaMeKa* really quite simple (not.) The band (so they say) were together for 4 weeks on the 21<sup>st</sup> Jan so that makes them how old now? There's some Math for you. The girls have only yet done copied songs but they're planning on doing their own song soon (we'll look forward to that!) But they say *its really quite hard to make songs but we're trying*. Another thing we can look forward to is (hopefully) a concert some time this year, although its not really organized they still say they're going to do one. Did you realise at the start we quoted *one of the school bands*, well that's true there is another band in the school, DWA, their rivals! The Leaded of DWA is Tracy Reader an 11 yr old from class 4, DWA was started by her after she was kicked from *LaMeKa* (at that time it was *Forever Divas*) by the manager, Bob Matheson (ME). This has not been proved but I'm highly confident its true that *LaMeKa* in Italian means friends, please write into us and tell us if this is true or just write into us just to say something. Like any band they have to practice, they're finding this difficult due to them living in separate villages. If you want to look out for the band then they're all in Swaffham Prior Primary School and after that they'll be in Bottisham village college.

*Bobby Matheson & Peter Hollingsworth*

## Computer Courses

FREE @ Bottisham Village College

Basic Word Processing	Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> February
Producing Posters	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March
Simple Calculations	Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March
Internet	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March

# **Bottisham, Burwell, Linton Village Colleges**

## ***Courses for Adults***

Day and Weekend Courses

**March 2002**

**Excel : Life Drawing : Essential Italian  
Mailmerge : Photoshop Workshop : Woodturning  
A Taste of Quilting : Basic Food Hygiene  
Essential Spanish : Lebanese Cookery : NLP  
Wheel of Change : Canadian 20<sup>th</sup> Century Art  
Meditation Day : Portrait Painting : Sign Language  
Email and the Web : Essential French**

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



### **VERY ADVANCED NOTICE OF A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY. SATURDAY NOVEMBER 23<sup>rd</sup> 2002.**

It's years since we had a **Village Variety Show** so you've all had long enough to forget the pain of it all! [But mostly it's FUN – you know it is!]

If you have a party piece that hasn't seen the light of day for a while, if your one song/dance/monologue has been rubbished by your long-suffering family and needs a new audience, or if you have always secretly yearned for a chance to dress up in even weirder costumes than usual, please contact: Tim Doe on 743656 or Hilary Sage on 742978 and your name will be put On The List. [Rest assured that your fantasies of stardom will be gently treated by both of us]

Even if you are utterly talentless (though we find it hard to believe) we have a place for you in our special Swaffham Prior Variety Show. Be bold, have a laugh, ring us today and we'll do the rest.

***Tim and Hilary***



## WI Notes

The W.I. had a very enjoyable evening at the Body Shop in the Grafton Centre on Monday 18th March.

First we were offered tempting home-made cookies, then Karen's assistant gave us a quick run down of the history of the shop —how it was started in 1976 with a £4,000 loan to the millions it is worth today. This was followed by a make-over for one of our members by Karen, the Manageress, with lots of tips for us. After this we could wander round the shop and sample the goods and treat ourselves to some of the tempting items on display.

On 18<sup>th</sup> March we shall be having our AGM followed by a talk by our Treasurer, Pat Airey, on her holiday in Mongolia. Pat always has unusual holidays so we are looking forward to a very interesting evening.

Watch out for our notice in the April issue of the 'Crier' there will be something for all the ladies in the village.

*Betty Prime*



## VILLAGE GARDENERS

**20 FEBRUARY 2002**

Richard Gant, the Head Gardener, gave us an interesting talk on the Renovation of Madingley Hall Gardens. He began with a brief description of the attractive, redbrick, towered building which was constructed in 1543 with later additions.

Capability Brown understood the importance of the relationship between the house and its grounds. A plan of the estate dated 1871 shows the planting of the 1200 acre site and how he used the lie of the land to create wonderful vistas. A clever device used in the 18th century was his "winding" of the path around the church to give the illusion of it almost being a private chapel.

Colonel Harding owned the estate during the early 1900's. After the University acquired the site (at a bargain price) the inappropriate Leylandii avenue was felled and replaced with Quercus.

Other delights abound. The two acre wild flower meadow is a success with over 60 flowering species. The gardens are a series of "rooms" and views including the enclosed croquet lawn with its octagonal pond, an impressive Hazel walk, the walled garden and, my favourite, the secluded sundial garden which is made delightfully secret with ornate topiary boundaries and scented by White Hyacinth only. Good husbandry includes selling the yew clippings (half a ton each year) for cancer treatment drugs,

long border supports constructed with the hazel trimmings, shredding the cut bark, etc, etc.

An eclectic range of flowers and shrubs provide interest throughout the year. It would take too long to list all of the varieties, but the Garden Club will be visiting Madingley Hall Gardens on 16 July. Anyone who has had their appetite whetted is more than welcome to join us.

Enquiries about this trip and other Club activities are available on 01638 578248. On 19<sup>th</sup> March, Mark Williams from Unwin Seeds will be talking about vegetables, both ornamental and edible.

*Tricia Harrison*



## STAINED HUNDRED

The February Meeting of the Local History Society was held in the Library at Bottisham Village College as the Lecture Room was being used in conjunction with the School production of Macbeth. For me personally this was a pity as the acoustics were far less good than in the Lecture Room and I missed a lot of what was being said. The speaker, Tim Malim, gave a talk about the “Archaeology of Staine Hundred” which was amply illustrated by maps, aerial photographs, and pictures of artefacts. Villages are mainly on the spring line between the lower and middle chalk but most of the burial grounds are on the drier upper chalk. He showed examples from Neolithic, through Bronze and Iron Ages to Roman and Anglo Saxon times. The pipeline laid in the 1990s gave opportunities for sites to be discovered. For instance, the floors of one brick dwelling of two rooms and a timber house were discovered near Wilbraham Temple. Cross-sections of Devil’s and Fleam Dyke show that there were at least four phases when the bank was built, and more than one phase in the ditch. Carbon-dating of animal bones in the different layers dated it from the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> through to the 7<sup>th</sup> century - though this does not prove there was not an earlier structure. The speaker was thanked by Robert Hill, chairman.

The next meeting will be in the Lecture Room of Bottisham Village College on 13<sup>th</sup> March, when the Staine Hundred will be celebrating 25 years since its foundation in 1977. The speaker will be Dr Desmond Hawkings on “The Wilbraham River.” The talk will be followed by a celebration drink. Non-members £2

The Outing will be on Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> June, leaving at 9 am. First will be a visit to the last working ride mill at Woodbridge where there will be time for coffee and exploring the town and church. There will then be a short

drive to Sutton Hoo Anglo-Saxon ship burial site dating back to the 6<sup>th</sup> century. The treasures can be seen in the newly opened National Trust Exhibition Centre. Coach, entry fee and tour guide will be £8.50 for NT members and £12 for non NT members. For further details, contact Stewart Bell, 811570.

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## LADIES CIRCLE

The Ladies Circle has now successfully completed its fourth year and we have been fortunate to have a steady flow of members each month.

Throughout the year we have had various outings and speakers. We have learnt how to make our own greeting cards and our own jewellery, arrange flowers, taken on a trip to the hills of Scotland with slides, made aware of the homeless in Cambridge, found out about restoring old Churches (St Cyriac's being one of them), toured Burwell Museum and had a memorable evening with the Fire Brigade at Cambridge Fire Station. We also had some social evenings and ended the year with a delicious Christmas Meal at the Red Lion.

**We are at present trying to raise some money for a child to visit from Chernobyl which is a very poor country and the children obviously are not so fortunate as ours. We would therefore like to ask if anyone could spare a few pence to help with this worthy cause - any donations could be given to either myself, Mary Cook or Ruth Stinton.**

We are now ready to face another year and hope that perhaps we may welcome any new members who may be reading this and feel they would like to come along. If they would like one of our members to call for them we would be pleased to do so. Ring either myself on 742585 or Mary Cook on 742945 and we will arrange this.

Happy New Year to everyone.

*Sandra Butcher*

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## BOTTISHAM CROQUET CLUB 2002

We welcome beginners and old hands of all ages to join the Croquet Club and play Croquet or Golf Croquet on our courts at Bottisham Village College. Games are played peacefully but competitively, and are curiously both relaxing and exhilarating! Please contact: May Walker, 01223 811 237 for further information.



I have to start this month's article with two apologies. In early January the recyclable waste collections were several days late and in late January the general rubbish was collected a day late. I am sorry about these problems and assure you that we are working hard with our contractor, Cleanaway to prevent them from happening again. The general rubbish was not collected because both of their refuse lorries broke down on the same day. In these circumstances they should have back-up arrangements and we are pushing to ensure that they use these in future. The recyclable collection problems resulted from over-success. Far more people are using this scheme than was predicted when we drew up the contract. Because of this, they cannot cope with their current resources. They have borrowed lorries from other parts of the County and have a trial vehicle for two weeks. This has allowed them to get back up-to-date with the collection timetable. We are negotiating with them to permanently increase their capacity to cope with what we hope will be further increases in the take up of collections for recyclable waste.

Central Government have given East Cambs an award of £400,000 over 2 years to fund our continuing progress in the IT field, particularly in relation to e-government. Allied to this, we launched the East Cambs On Line project in February. This project provides computers in various locations, which anyone can use. The idea is that people can use these computers to improve their computer skills and use computerised training programmes to improve their qualifications and career prospects. Your nearest East Cambs On Line computers are at The Dykes End Pub in Reach and Hereward Hosing, Downing Court in Swaffham Bulbeck.

Our annual Business Ratepayers Consultation meeting was held at the end of January at E-space North in Littleport. For several years hardly anyone came to these meetings, so this year we put together a programme of speakers on subjects of interest to business people. This paid off with 50-60 people attending and joining in a lively discussion on next year's budget. There will also be a meeting with Parish Councils at the end of February to discuss the budget. East Cambs is proposing to increase our Council Tax by 73 pence a week for a Band D property to £102.18. The County is proposing to charge £730.53 (an increase of £1.20 per week), the Police are proposing £94.59 (an increase of 51p per week) and your Parish Council are proposing



£30.69 (an increase of 5p per week). This would make the total bill for a Band D house in Swaffham Prior £957.99. The County and East Cambs are still consulting on our budgets, so the figures will not be finalised until later in March.

*Charlotte Cane*



Cambridgeshire  
County Council

**From our Local County Councillor**

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## **COUNTY NOTES MID-FEBRUARY 2002.**

This month the news affecting our locality relates to traffic, roads and paths.

At long last work has started on the **Lode — Swaffham Bulbeck** path and the contractor is Wrekin plc. Completion should be in the region of twelve weeks. This will be followed by an extension of the path behind the **Denny Pavilion to cemetery corner**. Combine that with the path from **Quy to Bottisham** and **Quy to Airport Way** we are at last beginning to see more progress in the creation of a cycle/footpath from Burwell to Quy. The gaps between the two Swaffhams and between Lode and Quy remain. Connecting **Reach to Swaffham Prior** is also on my list.

A hope of mine is to get these gaps filled within the next few years. When complete there will be a safe route from start to finish for cyclists and walkers and better traffic flow for drivers so long as cyclists, in particular, actually use the paths. I am still amazed when I see cyclists on Lode Road not using the path. I know there is a problem seasonally with hedge clipping causing punctures but these periods do not usually last long. I have several times raised the matter of sweeping paths beside hawthorn hedges, but as yet the priority of this work is not sufficiently high. Maybe it will become so when the route is complete and being used.

The meeting of the Joint CCC/ECDC Committee a few days ago also gave the go-ahead for traffic calming at **Mill Hill, Swaffham Prior**, and a footpath at the top of **North Street, Burwell**. I have asked the Highways Department to do a speed check at the narrowest part of North Street to see how much speeding goes on there.

*James Fitch*

## **Notes from the Parish Council February Meeting**

The meeting was chaired by Mr Trevor Jones with 6 members + 3 members of the Public attending.

### **Reports:**

Apologies were received from both Cllr Fitch & Cllr Cane due to illness.

### **Matters Arising.**

**Allotment Shed:** A letter had been received from Mike Malster asking for permission to erect a shed on his allotment. This was agreed.

**Tothill Trees-Replacement Trees.** Following the removal of trees on Tothill Road, the Clerk discussed with David Groom of CCC Highways replacement trees for this area. He felt that it was not a good idea for new trees to be planted in this area due to the proximity to the footpath and the road. Following this, the P.C. agreed to look for alternative areas for new trees. Permission would need to be obtained from CCC Highways for any planting near footpaths or highways.

**Grasscutting Season:** 3 tenders have been received. After discussion it was agreed to instruct A.C. & M Badcocks to carry out this work. The grasscutting season has been increased. It will run from mid-March to Mid October. The number of cuts for many areas has also been increased.

**Public Works Loan Board** – repayment of loan: The settlement of this loan was considered following confirmation of payments from the Public Works Loan Board. A Badock, the Responsible Financial Officer is to be asked to advise on the practicalities of this. A final decision will be made at next month's meeting. This will not involve any rise in this year's Precept and could make a significant saving for residents in future years.

**The Precept:** The proposed Precept figure for 2002/2003, as discussed in November 2001, was confirmed at £10,000. The Clerk will confirm with ECDC.

### **Correspondence Received:**

**CCC:** Notification of Stephen Hill's resignation from CCC Highways.

Details of road closures at Great Drove/Headlake

Drove for road maintenance works.

CC Budget for 2002-2003 – information sheets.

**ECDC:** Parish Councillors' Code of Conduct – further guidance, procedures.

Supplementary Planning Guidance on Gypsy Site Provision.

Details of Chairman's Awards to Young People Scheme

Discover Computers Week 25/2 to 1/3 (poster displayed on

noticeboard)

**General:** Details from Reach Village Centre about parking on the “Dencora” field for Reach Fair.

School Report from FoSPs.

Confirmation of play area inspection in April (ROSPA.)

Newsletter for Histon Police.

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

**Planning Application:**

34 High Street – *single-storey extension to kitchen to the side of property.*  
There were no objections.

**Planning Approvals:**

a) 21 Fairview Grove

c) Sterling Farm, Heath Road

b) 41 High Street

d) Liberty Barns, Heath Road

**Any Other Business:**

Further works as part of the Enhancement Scheme are hopefully to go ahead during May/June. This will consist of the burying of BT cables. Residents will be contacted in due course by BT. Outstanding work is also to be chased.

David Groom of CCC Highways inspected the condition of footpaths of Fairview Grove noting that they badly needed repairs. He was concerned about the number of vehicles using the verges/footpaths for parking. The provision of small lay-bys is being investigated.

The dumping of tyres, vehicles and general rubbish on Headlake Lake has been reported to Brian Hicks of ECDC.

Concerns were again raised about the ditch opposite the School gates on Station Road. The Clerk will again contact CCC Highways.

**Open Question Time:** Further concerns were raised about the damaged wall on the boundary of the “Dencora” field and The Beeches. Repairs are urgently needed. Finding out who has responsibility for this wall is proving difficult. ECDC are looking into it.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2002 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

**Karen King**

Clerk of the Parish Council

**From the Parish Registers for January**

In Memoriam: Dennis George Brown (80) [SP]

Alice Ethel Lloyd (82) [SB]

Church Services                      March 2002			
	ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck	ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior	ST ETHELREDA Reach
LENT 3 <b>Sun</b> <b>3</b>	<b>9:30am</b> Parish 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>
MOTHER- ING SUN <b>Sun</b> <b>10</b>	<b>8:00am</b> Holy Communion <sup>†</sup> <b>9:30am</b> Family Service	<b>11:00am</b> Family Service	<b>3:30pm</b> Family Service
LENT 5 <b>Sun</b> <b>17</b>	<b>9:30am</b> Village Communion <sup>CW</sup>	<b>11:00am</b> Parish Communion <sup>CW</sup> <b>6:00pm</b> Deanery Devotional Concert at Soham	<b>8:00am</b> Holy Communion <sup>†</sup>
PALM SUNDAY <b>Sun</b> <b>24</b>	<b>9:30am</b> Parish Communion <sup>CW</sup> & Baptism of Lucy Ryan	<b>8:00am</b> Holy Communion <sup>†</sup> <b>11:00am</b> Mattins <sup>†</sup> and Sermon	<b>6:00pm</b> Evening Service <sup>CW</sup>
GOOD FRIDAY <b>Fri</b> <b>29</b>	<b>10:00am</b> Childrens' Worship <b>11:30am</b> Family Service	<b>1:30pm-3:00pm</b> Devotional addresses and Hymns <b>7:00pm</b> Compline + Readings	
EASTER SUNDAY <b>Sun</b> <b>31</b>	<b>9:30am</b> Parish Communion <sup>CW</sup>	<b>11:00am</b> Parish Communion <sup>CW</sup> <b>4:00pm</b> 'Basically Bach' Concert	<b>8:00am</b> Holy Communion <sup>†</sup>

### Other Services in Holy Week

Mon 25 - 7:00pm Night Prayer (Compline) in St Mary's, Swaffham Bulbeck

Tue 26 - 7:00pm Night Prayer (Compline) in St Mary's, Swaffham Prior

Wed 27 - 7:00pm Night Prayer (Compline) in St Etheldreda's, Reach

Sat 30 - Easter Eve Vigil Readings, Paschal Rite and Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Dear Friends,

Have you had the same experience as me in Cambridge, or indeed wherever you shop, in that the shops themselves change so quickly. Perhaps I should go more often and keep up with the pace of change! So high are the rents, so fragile the markets and the margins of profit, that it is perhaps no surprise; but when you go to find the particular shop for the very thing you know should be there, you find that either they've discontinued selling them now, or the shop has indeed changed hands completely. In the former case, the harassed shop assistant may well say **"people assume we will still be here when they need us"**. This is exactly what I think many people think of the Church.

As you know, the papers have been full of hustling details about who the Archbishop of Canterbury is going to be, but also the system of appointment, the role of the State and the whole question of Establishment. Whatever the pros & cons of all that, the particular genius of the Church of England is to serve the needs of all the people in the parish; it is not, and should actively avoid becoming, a congregational church. The Vicar is not solely chaplain to his flock, but priest to the parish as a whole. It is of course an impossible task, which is why *ministry* is for clergy and laity, and yet **people assume we will still be here when they need us**.

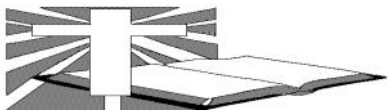
However, established status places burdens not faced by other churches. A lead article in The Times on January 11th said "Church can escape the milkman's fate, drawing the analogy of decline in doorstep delivery with falling church attendance, but with new hopes for the future, not least in education. Over 3/4 million children are educated in church primary schools, and there are plans to build 100 extra church secondary schools. For our part, the two parishes here expend no little effort in working with and through our two church primary schools, and in church, a warm welcome is extended to visitors and newcomers at any time. The church communities offer friendship and support **to make sure that the church is there when you need it**. Terminal decline in our churches? I don't think so.

For this to continue, as I wrote last month, the church in any community needs your support if you expect it to be there when you need it; it cannot be taken for granted as a village fixture-and-fitting. This is not a plea for money, difficult as our finances are, but to raise awareness of the role and work of the church. I want to encourage you to support the church by your presence and prayers, which requires some time-commitment on your behalf. For personal growth, there are times when we all need support and feeding, and some find that within the church. Why not make a small step this Lent? There is a comprehensive range of services, groups and activities all contained in the green 'Lent, Holy Week & Easter 2002' leaflet, freely available from the three churches in this benefice.

Why not consider renewing your personal commitment **to ensure that the church will still be there for others when they need it?** May I take this opportunity to wish you a Holy Lent and a very Happy Easter.

Yours sincerely,

**Mark**



## Zion Baptist Chapel

### *The end of an era?*



**I**t is with great sadness that I write to let you know about the situation at Zion Chapel. All churches have their ups and downs from time to time and recently the Chapel has had a difficult period.

Like all Baptist Churches Zion is completely independent and self financing. Over the years declining attendances and an ageing building have taken their toll. Zion Chapel has now reached the stage where despite everyone's best efforts, there is too much to be done for so few in the remaining congregation.

At Christmas the members of the Chapel (six in number) met and decided that we could no longer go on as we were. We agreed that Sunday services would be suspended between New Year and Easter and we would use this time to pray about the future of the Chapel. We are continuing to pray together but at present we see no other viable option than for the Chapel to close down. No date has been set but it will not happen overnight. The process of closing a church is complicated and takes even longer than buying a house! Groups that are currently using the premises will be able to continue for a good while yet!

Closure would be a heartfelt loss to many individuals, to the whole village community, and to the wider Christian community. The Chapel has been a familiar landmark in Swaffham Prior for nearly a century and a half and there are many who have deep attachments and memories associated with it. This Easter the Chapel will celebrate its 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and we will certainly mark this occasion alongside the joyful Christian festival of Easter. We will therefore be holding an Easter Sunday evening service at the familiar time of 6:30 pm to which everyone is warmly invited.

The Chapel membership is committed to prayerfully investigating possible options for the future of the Chapel. We will keep you informed about the situation via the pages of *The Crier*. In the midst of changing circumstances it has cheered us to remember that the Good News of '*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday today and forever*' (Heb. 13:8).

In the meantime if you have any questions, thoughts or simply memories that you would like to share, please do get in touch with me via the Chapel post box or on the number below.

David Bousfield

**Easter Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2002 6:30 pm**  
**Easter Celebration and 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service**

For further information please call David Bousfield  
☎ 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

In every art-form there is some sublime genius who literally changed the world. Not only is their art-form never ever the same again, but the world itself is transformed by the encounters of every generation with their work. I am very happy to nominate Shakespeare in Theatre, Massaccio or J.W. Turner in painting, and Johan Sebastian Bach in music. And amongst the works of inexplicable genius by Bach, one of the very greatest is his *St John Passion*, in which a tenor tells the story of the last 24 hours of Jesus's life, with a bass singing the words of Jesus and a chorus singing the words of the apostles and of the fickle crowd who condemned Jesus. Soloists sing arias (songs) that reflect on key moments in the drama, and (originally the whole congregation, but in a modern concert version, just the chorus) sing chorales, or hymns, songs of recognition of the ways we let Jesus down and depend on his forgiveness of love. I have just been reading a review of a performance of the St John Passion conducted by the amazing Simon Rattle in Birmingham on Ash Wednesday. The normally staid *Times* reviewer waxed lyrical, and ended his review thus: 'performed with this degree of inspired intensity, Bach's music illuminates the mysterious heart of the Christian message more profoundly more electrifyingly, that a thousand sermons could. If Rattle weren't about to become chief conductor of the Berlin Philharmonic, I would put him forward for archbishop of Canterbury. The pews would be packed.' A pleasing conceit, no more! But it is a reminder of how important a part music plays in our worship. There is a great gulf fixed between the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Chorus and the likes of Ian Bostridge singing Bach and the hymns and ancient prayers set to modern tunes accompanied by guitars and recorders at our 1030 Mass every Sunday (let alone the half-hearted congregational singing of old familiar hymns to a wheezy organ accompaniment at our 0900 Mass), but the fact remains that the ability of music to move and transport us is one of the greatest of God's gifts. There is a joke in Church circles that goes like this: *Question*: what is the difference between a church musician and a terrorist; *Answer*: you can negotiate with a terrorist! The fact that even the friction, dispute and back-biting in many churches (I largely but not wholly exonerate our parish from this!) between 'traditionalists' and 'modernists', between music-to-be-listened-to-in-awed-silence, and music-for-all-to-lift-the-roof, actually reveals just how important it is. God gave us music so that in the sequencing of pitches (melody), the combination of pitches (harmony) and the frequency of change (rhythm) He could be found. God's way is to take the everyday and to transform it – as he does the water of baptism or as he does with the bread and wine in communion. It takes skill, hard-work and experience for men and women to master the art of playing an instrument, but then God takes over and uses it to bring us closer to him. Next time you feel like complaining about the music (too, much, too little, too loud, too soft, too old too new, too much someone's ego-trip -- and, be honest, don't we all think some of those things sometimes?) let us just hum to ourselves that lovely hymn tune

Now thank we all our God, with hearts and minds and voices

*Who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices*

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

Fri	1	
Sat	2	Jumble and Nearly New Sale, Village Hall
Tue	5	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm ☎ 01223 712000 (Renewals) 742850 (Village) 2.30-3.30, Baby & Toddler Group Zion Baptist Ch ☎ 743992
Wed	6	Cubs, Village School, 6.30-8:00pm.
Thu	7	10.00am Bulb Walk and Coffee Morning, Manor House 2.30-4.30pm VH Teas 7.30pm PCC Meeting, 48 Great Lane, Reach
Sat	9	7.30pm Ceilidh, Bottisham Village College
Tue	12	2.30-3.30, Baby & Toddler Group Zion Baptist Ch CLEANAWAY Collection Day
Wed	13	7.30pm, Staine Hundred : The Wilbraham River, BVC
Thu	14	<b>Crier Copy Deadline</b> 7.30 PC Meeting, VH. 2.30-4.30pm VH Teas
Fri	15	8.00pm Jazz and Light Music Concert, Bottisham Village Coll.
Mon	18	WI AGM + Talk on Mongolia, VH 8.00pm Playscheme 2002 Meeting, Red Lion
Tue	19	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm 2.30-3.30, Baby & Toddler Group Zion Baptist Ch 8.00pm Village Gardeners, VH, ☎ 578428
Wed	20	7.30 School Governors
Thu	21	2.30-4.30pm VH Teas
Sat	23	9.30am: Church Spring Cleaning Morning
Tues	26	2.30-3.30, Baby & Toddler Group, Zion Baptist Ch
Wed	27	Cubs, Village School, 6.30-8:00pm. 9.30am, St Mary's: School End of Term Service
Thur	28	<b>Crier</b> Collating, Village Hall, 2:30pm 2.30-4.30pm VH Teas
Fri	29	<b>Good Friday</b>
Sat	30	
Sun	31	<b>Easter Sunday</b> 4.00pm Bach Concert, St Cyriac's