



The Swaffham Crier

Volume XXX Number 12
December 2006



Editorial

Christmas might come once a year, but from mid-November to Twelfth Night, there's nothing *but* Christmas. However, one consolation must be that wonderful Christmas music, and the *Crier* won't be outdone on this: Just in case the enclosed FREE CD doesn't reach you, here's a sample:

*"Tis the Season to be Wary
Tra-la-la-la laa, you know it's true,
Of people getting far to Merry
Tra-la-la-la-la, it could be YOU!*

*Merry Christmas,
Merry Christmas,
See you when the Year is New
Merry Christmas from the Crier
Tra-la-la-la-la, from Us to You"*



Seasons Greeting from all the Crier Team!

*Mike Phillips, Rodger Connan, Ruth Stinton,
Caroline & James Matheson*



Cover Picture: *Strong Wing* by Clive Riggs

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Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

That Rubbish

We were stunned to read about all the rubbish Mark Lewinski counted on the Burwell Road (November Crier). Did he pick it up?

Julie Nunn

Dear Editor,

Mystery Object Identified

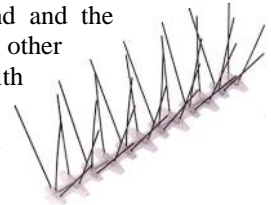
I was reading the Crier Vol 30 No 11, and see the mystery object item on page 11. The answer you are looking for is Pigeon Proof Spikes, also known as P4 Plastic or P4 Metal. These can be installed with either screws or Fixall Silicone all weather.

As used by myself and many people in the Pest control Services for prevention against birds, e.g. Pigeons, Gulls, Doves etc, to stop them from roosting or landing for a rest on window ledges, walls or steel beams etc.

The main problem is the mess the birds leave behind and the droppings pigeons leave behind deteriorates brick work and other items. Bird fowling from pigeons can be potentially lethal with all the bacteria they carry, known as the Flying Rat!!

If used successfully they work well or in conjunction with other bird proofing items.

Many thanks



Paul Ward RSH.RPPT

Qualified & Registered Pest Control Technician.

Dear Editors,

Repaint Ye.....

The folk of Prior hurry by
Their eyes fixed on the wintry sky,
Their sensibilities abused,
Their facers sternly unamused
“What use is puce?” they seem to say,
“What’s wrong with cream and beige and grey?”
We love our gentle village street
The quiet tones, restrained, discrete,
Who didn’t think that pink and brown,
Might drag our cheery spirits down?
So listen, please, to our complaint
And - is it too late to repaint?

Anon

CAROLS AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Please come and join us for the traditional singing of carols
and Christmas songs at the Village Hall.

And enjoy as much fine mulled wine as you can drink
with a few mince pies.



Again we will be singing inside the hall.

MR ANDREW NOYES

With his quite Remarkable Band

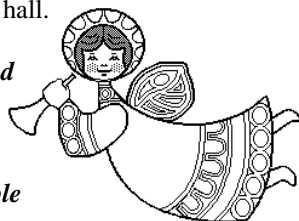
Provides the music

AND

We also have the services of

Amazing, Masterly, Incomparable

Mystery Compère



Put a bit of tinsel in your hair and please come,

It's Free.

WEDNESDAY 13TH DECEMBER at 7.00pm

Advent by Candlelight

4pm, Saturday December 3rd

St Mary 's moving on to St Cyriac 's

This year 's theme is:

Mozart & Salzburg



From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

BOTH THE CHAIRMAN AND THE CLERK were looking very bonny after their extensive holidays and the remainder of the PC also had a nice shine.

Alan Alderson was away at another important meeting but Hazel Williams brought us up to date with affairs at the CCC with her usual concise, comprehensive and clear report. The CCC is already two and a half million pounds overspent, one and a half of which is because it is impossible to budget for Adult Support Services and the need to look after certain children and young people. These are the two areas which cannot be controlled, estimated or truncated and it leaves CCC very vulnerable. Also, because CCC has always had a low council tax, a 5% increase yields less than the tax of a possibly more profligate council. Anyway the point to remember is that the main problem is caused by the young and the old – those in between are good value. Read Hazel's report for the rest of the news, as you should also read Alan's. (*What Reports??? Yes, where are you, Councillors! Eds*)



“Geoffrey Woollard raised what he called “the very moving letter” in the November Crier ...”

While Hazel was still at the meeting Geoffrey Woollard raised what he called “the very moving letter” in the November *Crier* about the troublesome traffic on Mill Hill. For a variety of reasons the traffic has increased greatly and all agreed a solution has to be found. Hazel advised the PC to speak to the CCC engineers to get an idea what may be accepted and then to make an application to the Minor Highways Funding. “Tried that some years ago and it didn’t work”. “Well, try again” was

Hazel’s response. She also said that there were already 6 successful applications in the pipeline awaiting funding. Then came out oodles of ideas covering everything from speed cameras to islands. One of the problems is that you cannot have a crossing in a 40mph area. This item will now run and run and Hazel reminded the meeting that “this conversation could be replicated in half the villages in the county.”

The Recreation Ground/Burwell Tigers arrangement is now but a half whisker away. Even a half whisker can break a camel’s back – so, no more until next month.

Karen reported that she has been granted a £200 bursary to help her become a Quality Clerk, that she will complete the course in January, and then, she announced “THERE WILL BE SOME CHANGES ROUND HERE”. Most of the PC visibly quaked and the one faint “what?” was silenced by one look from Karen. Whatever the changes I bet there will be more forms to complete!

The budget for next year has an increase of £750 bringing it up to £14,500. The increase is to cover the possible expenses of a PC election next year. If there are more than 9 candidates the cost of the election will be £750. If the election is uncontested the charge will be £30. Eric asked when we last had an election and did

we pay £750 then. No-one knew as it was so long ago. Geoffrey thought the imposition of the charge was an “explosive issue”, a “denial of democracy” and a “stifling of free speech”. This was really rousing stuff and if he continues like this he will qualify to become a *Crier reporter*. The cost will be about £2.50 per head in Prior – the cost of a half pint or a double cone ice cream. Other members were equally

“Karen reported that she has been granted a £200 bursary to help her become a Quality Clerk...”

outraged and I understand that two valued members offered to drop out if there were more than 9 candidates. This is all very commendable but I questioned (to myself) whether this is equal to rigging the vote and whether the charge of £2.50 is really too much to pay for a little democracy. Over the years something must have changed because the usual lament is that insufficient people are prepared to stand.

In the last report I mentioned Geoffrey’s concern that the National Trust (NT) appeared to be opposing the bridleway linking Burwell to Upware and then on to Wicken. It is not unusual for a villain to become a hero, or vice versa, and so Geoffrey found out when he learned that the NT actually supported the bridleway and that the objectors were the boat owners (and other locals) at Upware. Geoffrey gave a short resume of their objections – horse droppings, disease from horse hair dust, and other potential disease – as opposed to the benefit of a safe leisure facility for horse riders.

The objections as presented by Geoffrey appeared to be very unreasonable making us all blow raspberries at the selfish boat owners. That is until you read the complete list of objections posted at Upware Lock and on the Cock-up Bridge. The half mile between these two points is a very special place. It is especially attractive and good for all walkers including the elderly and children. Why the protesters are objecting is that making this public footpath a bridleway will open it up to cycles, and inevitably motor-bikes and quad-bikes (don’t tell me they won’t go there), and that what is a beautiful stretch of grass will become a muddy morass. The fear is that something quite special will be destroyed, and I cannot entirely disagree. Both viewpoints are understandable and the Enquiry in Burwell will have been completed and the decision taken before this *Crier* is published. I hope we have a fair account of the proceedings.

Planning Applications were tenth on the agenda and two new applications were given the usual careful consideration and were accepted with no objections. Earlier, while discussing the “Section 106 Agreement” (of little direct reference to Prior), the Chairman suddenly erupted and said that he deplored receiving no feedback when the planners ignored the PC’s objections to an application. And later he returned to the same point when the PC had been over-ruled yet again. He claimed that the PC was nearer to the ground, more aware of local conditions, and took more things in to account. Rarely have I seen a good-natured man so irate.

During the meeting a couple of points had been made about the *Crier PC reporting*. I cannot recall all the words but there was a little concern. Fortunately I

was there at “Open Question Time” and the general opinion was “Yes, that was true” and “I now see what was meant”. Also, as words like “more care” receded, phrases like “inspirational reporting” (I think) and “embellished poetry” (I think) came to the fore.

Alastair Everitt

The Gay Bulleid Good Neighbour Award

IF YOU have anyone you would like to be considered for this annual award can you please give your nominations to Margaret Phillips, 50 Lower End Swaffham Prior – Tel 741495 as soon as possible please!



HOCKEY ON BOXING DAY MORNING

AGAIN we meet our friendly neighbours from Swaffham Bulbeck and the match is particularly important this year as the winning team have been invited to apply for Olympic Funding so that we stand a chance of winning one gold medal.

Swaffham Prior needs more players (and certainly an umpire - please volunteer). At one time only Internationals, Olympic or County players, University ‘Blues’ were approached but in the last few years the policy has changed. We now concentrate on raw local talent in addition to our more experienced players. And over the last three or four years the local talent has blossomed - Tim Doe, Mike Carrington, Dave Nicholls and Paul Latchford - to name but a few. So even if you haven’t played hockey before but are fit and a natural ball player you can be moulded into shape by our special training programme. We also need the old and some new experienced players so anyone who wishes to have a go please phone me on 742974.

A special attraction this year is that John Prescott has been invited to report on the match. Now that he has ceased to cast an environmental shadow over our lives and has nowhere to go it seems only fair to offer the opportunity to a man who probably is a bit in the dumps, especially as he failed to keep a diary.

As usual the match will take place on Boxing Day Tuesday, on the Denny at Swaffham Bulbeck, at 11:00am. A very good mulled wine will be available at a reasonable charge and there will be a collection for Magpas.

Alastair Everitt

Come and support your local team!

HOLLY HOLLY HOLLY

After two very bountiful years the holly
Is likely to be quite sparse this Christmas.



It may be advisable to get your order in early.

**The price remains at £2.50 a bunch
sold in aid of local church and flower funds.**

**We shall be selling holly at Anglesey House
(white gates next to the churchyard) on:
Saturday December 16th
Sunday December 17th
from 12.00 - 1.00**



Please phone 742974 if you would like
to buy holly before then or
to order it to collect nearer to Christmas.

We shall do our best to help you.

Elisabeth Everitt



Travelling Nativity (Posada)

DURING ADVENT, an old Mexican custom uses the idea of people dressed as Mary and Joseph travelling around the villages, knocking at doors to see who will give them hospitality.

In our version of the Mexican celebration, knitted Mary and Joseph figures travel through the villages of Swaffham Prior, Swaffham Bulbeck and Reach. They will stay with a different family each night throughout December until they reach their destination on December 24th. They will then be added to the crib at Swaffham Prior church during the crib service on Christmas Eve.

If you would like Mary and Joseph to stay with your family in December, please contact Mandy Kingsmill (01638 742482).

Mandy Kingsmill



Mince Pies!

CAN YOU BELIEVE it's mince pie time again? For anyone new to the village, it is the custom to serve mince-pies after the Advent by Candlelight Service on Advent Saturday — 3rd December, which starts at 4pm. People come from far and wide to the service and we serve in the region of 200 mince-pies (yum...Eds), which the village provides. Please let me know by Friday, 1st December how many you are able to provide...it would be lovely if it weren't left again to the *usual few*.

Kate Child (743983)

Looking for a different sort of Christmas Party this year??!

WHY NOT COME and listen to some festive pickin' and grinnin' at Cambridge Folk Club's Christmas party on Friday 15th December. Mince pies and a knees up guaranteed with Cambridge's finest bluegrass outfit, Keith Pearson's Coup de Grass. Those who have seen us will vouch your laughing gear will ache by the end.

Support is The Cage Hill Hillbillies - Ryan and Keiran - 14 year olds singing and playing guitar, mandolin and mandocello.

Book early to avoid disappointment!
www.cambridgefolkclub.org



Cage Hill Hillbillies: Ryan and Keiran

Christmas Market Raises £900

A VERY BIG THANK-YOU to all who worked like Trojans behind the scenes and also on the actual day...there are far too many to mention by name, but *you* know who you are. Thank you also to those who came and supported the event and bought a whole range of goodies. It looks as though we will have made a profit of just over £900—unfortunately not the £1000 we raised last year, but still a worthwhile effort.

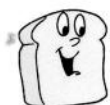
Kate Child

VILLAGE LUNCH

12 noon – 2.00 pm 🍞 Wednesday

24th January 2007

Come and join us for a



**BREAD
AND SOUP
LUNCH**



Everybody welcome at
Ruth Scovil's house
The Oaks 🍞 Manor Farm Court
Lower End 🍞 Swaffham Prior

Donations in aid of St Mary's Church

John Norris Remembers

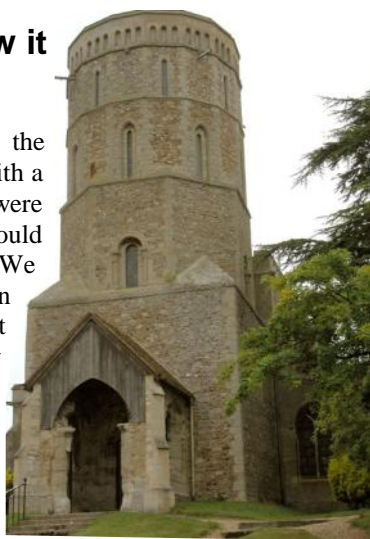
The railway figured very largely in John's early years in Swaffham Prior. This month, John tells us more and about how it was eventually dismantled.

IT WAS DURING THE DEMOLITION of the church porch that we found a broken pop bottle with a message in it buried in the top of the wall. We were doing the job because the best tender the P.C.C. could get was over £200, and that seemed far too much. We completed the job in just one hour: it was all down hill, you see. Anyway, to the bottle. When we got the paper out, it was found to be a large yellow piece of paper advertising a play called The Fatal Wedding. On the back was a reference to two children killed on the line, and a connection with the Allix family: all very mysterious.

When the line was finally made redundant, the contractors pulled up the lines, which were sold, and most of the sleepers. We had two good loads of sleepers which would come in handy, indeed, many are still piled up in Adventurer's Farm yard (1989). The demise of the very nice signal box was unceremonious, it was set on fire. There were only three levers inside the box, which elsewhere would have had dozens, and it could easily have been converted into a greenhouse. I still have several of the penalty signs which were screwed on the gates warning of the dire consequences of leaving them open!

After the track had been cleared away, the railway company decided to sell everything. The

adjacent landowners had the first offer, so the estate made a very advantageous acquisition. They later offered it to me. At that time, I had no use for the station and the two cottages, and suggested that John Hardiment might be interested. Indeed, he was, as his young son Henry had recently become engaged and would soon want a place to live. So it was that the station came into the Hardiment family for the sum of £3000.



“ When we got the paper out [from a bottle in the church porch wall] it was found to be a large yellow piece of paper advertising a play called The Fatal Wedding”



Before I leave the railway I should mention the business we did hiring sacks. At the time of our arrival here, nearly all the wheat was sold in rail sacks. Huge things holding two and a quarter hundredweights and not at all easy to pick up. They were hired for the season, the hire charge being transferred to the next user when the grain was sold. At the end of the day a reconciliation had to be made: all lost ones paid for, and damage made good.

“....all the wheat was sold in rail sacks. I am afraid that there was much wangling done to get a few “spares”.....Mr Bettes did his best but....we managed to keep a few....”

I am afraid that there was much wangling done to get a few “spares”. When they were collected from the square shed at the station, they were in bundles of twenty, nineteen in one sack. The question of a good count was vital, and preferential if we got too many! Mr Bettes did his best but without being too greedy, we managed to keep a few spares. These sacks were filled out of the grain store we built at Adventurer’s Farm, as our combine was of a later type that handled grain in bulk. Many of the local combines put the grain into sacks on the machine, dropped them onto the ground to be picked up later mostly by hand. Not a very good job at the end of the day when we were all very tired. It is a pity that we do not have any rail sacks about today, especially the old L.M.S ones, just as antiques.

Just before the close of the railway, the water supply was found to be polluted and a fresh supply in an old milk churn was delivered daily. I suppose the use of water was growing rapidly at this time, and being lower than the village, our sewage gravitated down to these cottages. After the alterations to the station, the main water supply was taken down to the station and later to Adventurer's farm.

To conclude this short resume of the railway activities, I suppose the final act was to remove the built up bank stretching out towards Cambridge. We decided to plough the land down towards the adjacent fields and try to level it out over a period. This has worked in the end, but for many years the old track did not grow very much. The raised length of the interline was carted away to form the base of the new factory at Burwell for Tillotsons. Looking back I think we too should have encouraged the contractors to have had our length.

As a postscript, there was a path leading from the station to Swaffham Bulbeck across the parkland, over the interline, and along Blackberry drove to the Cowbridge Road. I never saw anyone using the path, I suspect because the bridge over the water was not very safe. Indeed, we very soon removed it in order to improve the drainage of that area, and nobody seemed to mind or even know that it had gone.

When the railway was first built, the stream running through the park caused some very awkward areas to be created. These were removed by cutting a new dyke alongside the railway yard and filling in the old water course. Thus straight drive in turn caused some spare land next to the sidelines, and it was here Arthur Nash had an allotment. I suppose when it was originally laid out, it was very useful, but the beech trees have grown so large that very little grew there in the time I knew it. It is

now part of the station garden.

Just one more thing! When we wanted to move one of the railway trucks, we developed a trick of using the trailer corner post and a length of joist to push the truck along. The station master had an iron bar, which if used with skill and determination could persuade a wagon to move, but what a chore! The lever was placed over the truck and under the wheel so that the movement moved the truck—but only an inch at a time.

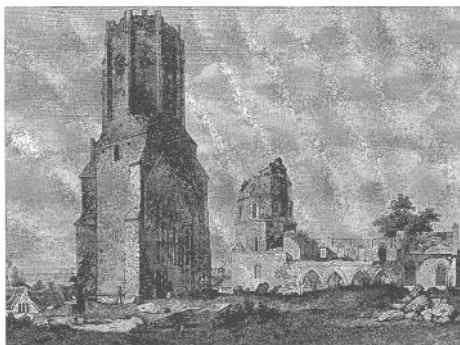
John Norria

St Cyriac's Development—Latest News

IT WAS A PLEASURE to see so many of you at Ian De Massini's excellent recital on September 10th in aid of St Cyriac's. Thanks to your generosity, £114 was raised via the retiring collection.

At the concert I was able to update people about the development and progress of the Trust's plans for the church. For the benefit of those of you who were not able to join us, I would like to take this opportunity to do so again.

We are now finishing preparations for our next programme of work at the church and hope to start work within this financial year. We will be installing under-floor heating, enhancing the electrics, fitting lighting, putting a small discreet kitchenette in the south transept and providing a portable folding screen (which will be the height of the dado rail) in the north transept to screen the chairs.



Hopefully these adaptations should make all the difference and encourage a few more people to use the church as well as benefit its long-standing, hardy users!

You may also be interested to know that I have recently heard from the Arabesque Trust, the new owners of St Cyriac's organ. The charity has now repaired the instrument and several blind organists are taking great pleasure in playing it.

As always, if you would like to talk to me about St Cyriac's, please do get in contact: ystroud@tcct.org.uk , 020 7213 0685.

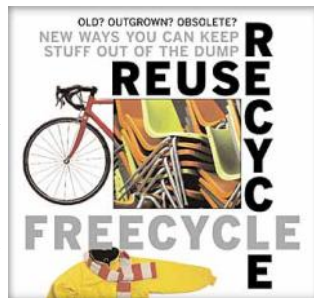
Thank you for your support. I look forward to continuing to work with you in 2007.

Verity Stroud

Development and Special Projects Officer
The Churches Conservation Trust

FREecycle

The next “Village Freecycle” offers and wants will be after Christmas – so it might be a perfect opportunity to get rid of unwanted presents! I haven’t seen any “wants”, so stop being polite and if there is something you want, please try the Freecycle scheme before paying out any money. Please continue to look through your house/garden for things that you haven’t used in years. If you have any offers or wants, please contact me on jun.thompson@tesco.net, phone on 01223 813362, or drop a note through 23 Longmeadow. As a quick reminder, everything is free and nothing is expected in return.



Offers	Wants	Details:
Swingball + bats (will need a new ball) 4 Hewlett Packard colour printer (1200C) cartridges (partly used) 2 unused cyan + magenta cartridges	-	Malcolm and Marjorie Sabin, 811108
Unused 0 – 3 month girls clothes: long-sleeved body suit, pink fleece zip-up coat with hood. Unused 3-6 month girls fleece top, trousers and hat (very pink) “Ringtons Tea” novelty clock featuring lovely (!) teddies (unwanted present) Old but adequate single-bed base (basic light-weight fabric base with wooden screw-on legs)	Clothes for boys (2 yrs +) Brio wooden train track	Jun and Andy Thompson, 813362

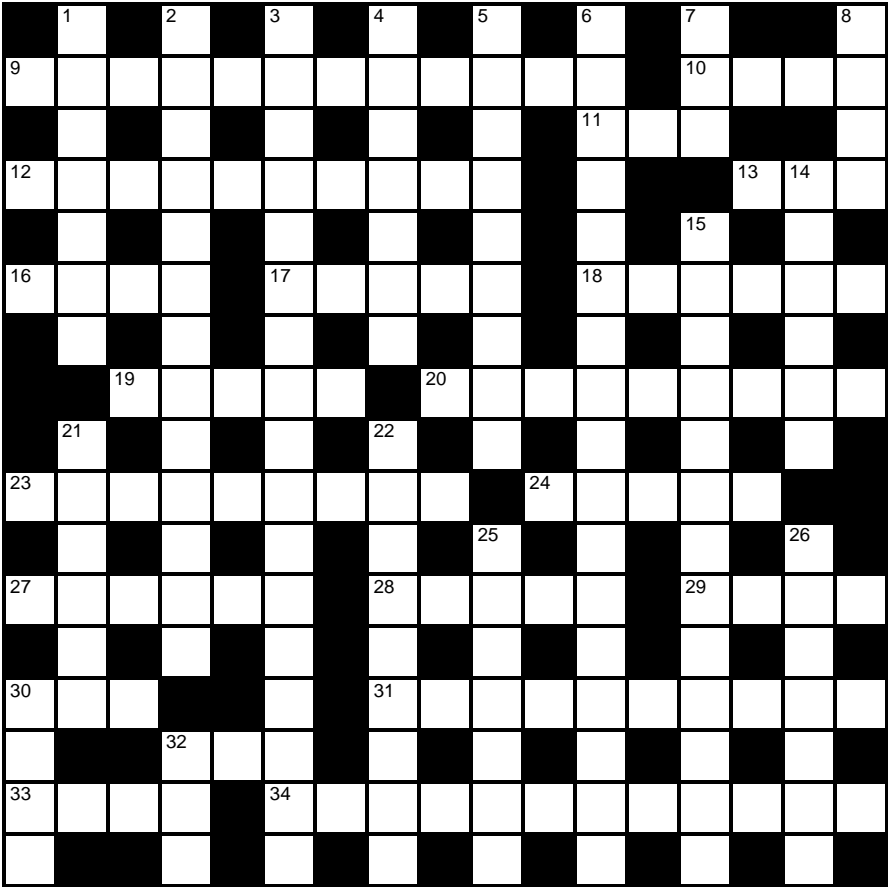
Crossword Number 38

Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

Compiled by

OUNCE

Clues marked * have a common beginning (X) loosely linked to the season. Send your answers to the editors by **14 January 2007** (No crossword in January Crier). The first correct solution out of the hat will win a free meal at the Red Lion – See Lorraine at the pub for full details.



Name:.....		
Address.....		
.....		Tel:.....

Across

- 9 VIP at ease, he'd used this while gift wrapping (8,4)
- 10 * X thousand adorn floor (4)
- 11 Little Theodore in the middle of 6 (3)
- 12 * X about a tipsy sign diminishing (10)
- 13 Opposites choose to lose posies (3)
- 16 All is this, according to Carol (4)
- 17 Precipitation follows. Bighead? Yes (5)
- 18 Lip-reader arranged German songs. Absolutely no rap! (6)
- 19 Deranged? Lost direction, so mindless (5)
- 20 Riot cops I scatter equally in all directions (9)
- 23 Deltas for adjusting factors to remove inflation (9)
- 24 Sara abandoned stairhead in confusion for handbagged Dame (5)
- 27 13 leaves, ipso facto resulting in debacle (6)
- 28 Noisily chew dish of potatoes and spring onions (5)
- 29 Thousand English meet Eastern Thousand and they shall inherit the Earth (4)
- 30 Catch back translation of X (3)
- 31 Lapdog running around open-air man (10)
- 32 Cheer bishop by giving him two rings? No (3)
- 33 * X duck design (4)
- 34 * X motoring organisation surrounds hole. It returns on beheading (12)

Down

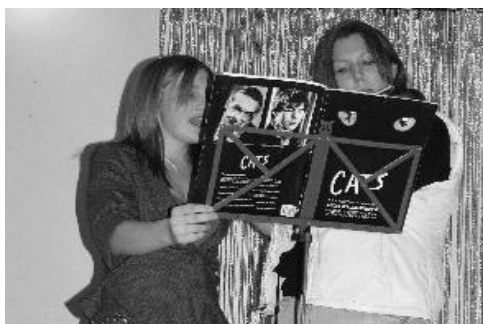
- 1 Earl Dan transformed gland (7)

- 2 * X gangster in Italian seaport, Sweden and Spain legalise (13)
- 3 Abreaction (food so bad) rendering intake necessary after Xmas dinner? (11,2,4)
- 4 * X mixed mail, one over 30? Yes and no (7)
- 5 Enormity of big head (9)
- 6 Titled sympathiser tipsy - don't drink these ghosts! (10,7)
- 7 Append a theologian (3)
- 8 Small outfit for short theatrical episode (4)
- 14 Gym class for English comedian. He gets the bird (6)
- 15 * X stirred ointment with a couple of articles to cleanse (13)
- 21 * X we hear, I would shortly choose (6)
- 22 Cliff Prince recipe: clutching a can-opener, twist (9)
- 25 Holds shoulder below arm, upside down for gentle exercises (4-3)
- 26 * X agony cut short by multi-sided figure (7)
- 30 Sweeney captured in cement, oddly enough (4)
- 32 Bush, given at Xmas? (3)

Solution to crossword no. 37

P	L	A	I	N	T	I	F	F	N	Y	L	O	N		
O	R	E	O	R	O	E	I								
W	E	T	S	U	I	T	E	N	V	Y	I	N	G		
E	I	T	A	Q	E	S	H								
R	O	C	K	E	T	S	U	R	M	O	U	N	T		
D	L	R		L	E	B		R							
T	B	E	X	L	A	U	N	D	E	R	E	R	S		
V			F	Z	T	R						P			
E	X	P	L	I	C	A	B	L	E	W	A	V	E		
	R		R		R		Y		W		N		A		
F	L	O	W	E	R	E	D		B	A	N	G	E	R	
I	S		W		T		A		L		R		H		
F	L	A	T	O	U	T		B	O	N	F	I	R	E	
T		I		R		O		L		U	E		A		
H	A	C	E	K			S	H	E	L	T	E	R	E	D

The Village Variety Show





Burwell Community Print Centre Ltd.

Trustee vacancy

Burwell Community Print Centre Ltd is a Social Training Enterprise, a Registered Charity (number 1053026) and it is managed by a Board of Trustees.

Would you like to be involved in this dynamic local resource and help to steer it forward as it meets new challenges and opportunities? The Trustees meet with staff and printer representatives 4 times a year and we can provide induction, support and any relevant training.

So, if like you are interested in getting involved in an organisation that works alongside people with learning disabilities, in a busy and creative print business, then please get in touch.

Come and have a look round and find out about the work we do. Please contact:

David Martin, Chair of Trustees on 01638-743766,

or Sue Anderson at the Print Centre on 01638-613102.

Why not have a look at our website www.burwellprint.co.uk

We look forward to hearing from you.

Give young people things to do.....

CAMBS YOUTH BANKS OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS

FOUR YOUTHBANKS WE HAVE SET UP are now inviting applications from 13-19 year olds living in South Cambs, Cambridge City, Hunts and East Cambs/Fenland.

The money the YouthBanks have to give out is from the Youth Opportunity Fund. The money is to fund projects led by young people that give them and other young people “things to do”. This could be anything from sport activities, art projects, youth projects to DJ’ing.

The projects activities must encourage one or more of the following for the young people :

- to be healthy
- stay safe
- to enjoy and achieve
- to make a positive contribution
- to achieve economic well being

Eds’ Note: But only *one* of these is required to get funding. Lots of scope there then....

Look on the web site www.cambsyouthbanks.org or call 01223 421588 for more information and to get an application form.

Jane Darlington
Cambridgeshire Community Foundation

School News



WE have had a very busy October and November at school.

Just before half term we said good luck to Head teacher Jo Lakey as she went off on her maternity leave. I am now Acting Head teacher in her place and having been deputy head for two years I feel I know the school well enough to carry on all of the good work that she has started. In my absence from the classroom, we have the pleasure of welcoming Yolaine Bennett to our school, who has taken over as teacher of Class 3.

Over the last term we have been encouraging children who live in Reach to come to school using the bus service that passes through the village. It stops just outside the school to collect the children going to Bottisham Village College. This has been a great success and we now have about 11 children using this service each day. They are greeted off the bus by Ruth Dalton.

“April Cook, one of our Midday Meal Supervisors, has written us our very own school pantomime.....”

We had great fun at our Children In Need day on 17th November. The children came dressed up as famous characters and then the staff were involved in an obstacle race designed by the School Council. The children bet on which adult would win, the result is a secret! We had a lovely day and raised lots of money for a worthwhile charity.

On Monday 20th November we had a very successful Anti-Bullying Day where we revised our school Anti-Bullying leaflet. The children were involved in designing posters, acting out events and remembering what to do if they see or are involved in bullying.

We have been very lucky this year that April Cook, one of our Midday Meal Supervisors, has written us our very own school pantomime. Rehearsals are fiercely under way and the children are walking round the school humming tunes and reciting their lines. We hope it will be a great success. Performances will be on Thursday 7th December at 9.30 am (dress rehearsal) and 6.30pm and on Friday 8th December at 2pm.

Our Christmas Church service will be held at St Mary’s Church on Thursday 14th December at 11am. All are welcome to join us and help celebrate Christmas together.

Just a reminder that admissions forms for Reception 2007 places are due in to school by 8th December, or directly to the admissions team.

Emma Vincent
Acting Headteacher



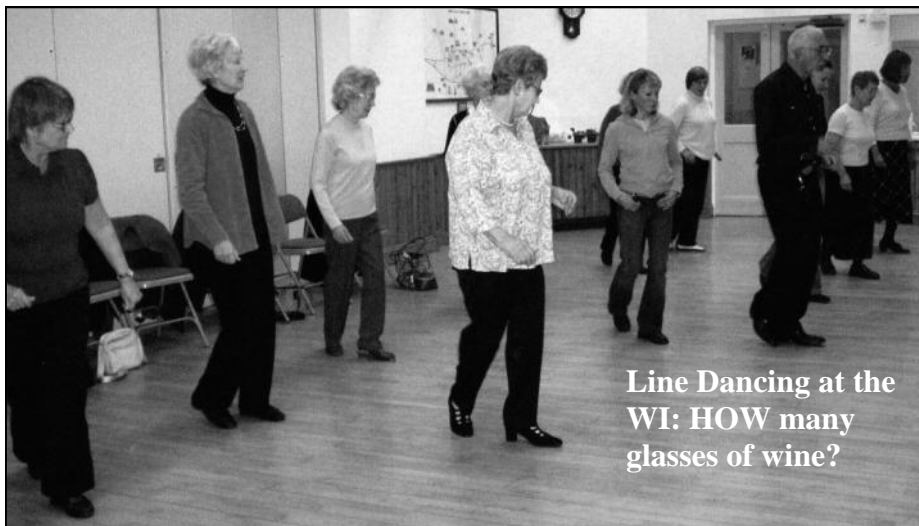
WI Notes

THE NOVEMBER MEETING WAS VERY LIVELY as a group of members and guests were introduced to some simple (not sure about that!) steps in line dancing with our speaker John Hanlon. Our own efforts were interspersed with some demonstrations by John of more complex dances. The evening was great fun and as Betty Fox was celebrating her birthday we were treated to wine and nibbles which probably added to our confusion on the dance floor.

Four members and two long suffering spouses were busy planting daffodils in the church yard and at the top of Cage Hill on a dismal Saturday morning recently – we hope for a splendid display in the spring to make it all worthwhile.

The next meeting in the Village Hall will be our Christmas Party on December 4th when we shall be enjoying a turkey supper and entertainment. The Gay Bullied Good Neighbour Award will be presented at the Church Carol Service

Pat Cook



The Reading Group Reads....

A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian

By Marina Lewycka



THIS STORY involves two Ukrainian sisters, who have been raised in England by their refugee parents - having arrived following WWII. With ten years between them the two sisters have never gotten along, but after the death of their mother, their aging father falls under the spell of Valentina, a bosomy synthetic blonde from the Ukraine who is 48 years younger than he is. The girls, Nadezhda and Vera, must join forces to oust the gold-digging Valentina and her 'genius' son. As Nadezhda and Vera work together to save their father old secrets are brought to the surface, including the most deeply buried secret from the War, which explains why the girls are so different. The father is oblivious to all that is happening on his account and continues to write a history of tractors.

The participants of the evening enjoyed a lively discussion of Father and Valentina (companionship or true love) and the two girls. We also tried to draw an analogy between Valentina and the story of the tractor.

Add these dates to your diary and join us next month when we meet on 6 December 2006 at 8 PM to discuss **The Name of the Rose** by Umberto Eco at Kent House. Bring some Christmas treats to share with everyone. January we will meet a week late on 10 January 2007 to discuss Mike Tidwell's **The Ponds of Kalambayi**. 8 P.M. at Brenda Wilson's home in Burwell. All are encouraged and welcome to join us.

Barb Mitchell

Neighbourhood Police Officer Sue Loaker will
be holding a Police Surgery at:



**SWAFFHAM PRIOR HIGH STREET
(opposite school)**

on

MON 18th December 5pm-6pm

TEL: 07921 938046

Notes from the Parish Council November Meeting

Chairman Mr John Covill chaired the meeting with 7 Parish Councillors and 4 members of the public.

Minutes of Last Meeting: These were reported and agreed.

CCC Report: Cllr Hazel Williams reported to the meeting.

ECDC Report: Apologies were received from Cllr Alderson. A written report was read to the meeting.

Correspondence Received: This was reported to the meeting.

Matters Arising – for information only

a) *Clerk's Quality Status Training (CiLCA Certificate):* The Clerk told the meeting that she had attended two training sessions to date. These were proving to be very informative. She gave an outline of the Training Portfolio, noting that this involved 25 modules, hopefully to be completed within a 9 month period. An application for bursary funding had been successful and a payment of £200 received.

b) *ECDC Parish Forum shared with CALC:* Andrew Camps attended this meeting on behalf of the Parish Council. Items on the Agenda included Parish Plans, Affordable Housing, Neighbourhood Panels and the Draft Budget for 2007/08.

c) *Meeting re Section 106 Agreements:* A meeting was held by ECDC at Reach Village Hall to discuss the procedures concerning Section 106 monies and how this affected Parish Councils. John Covill & Geoffrey Woollard represented the Parish Council at this meeting.

Confirmation of Budget/Precept for 2007/08: A working party had met to consider the proposed budget for 2007/08. A summary was presented to the meeting for approval. A draft Precept figure of £14,500 was agreed. This will be further reviewed at the January 2007 meeting.

Public Bridleway No.39 Wicken, No.22 Swaffham Prior and No.43 Burwell Public Path Creation Order 2006: It was reported that Geoffrey Woollard would attend the Public Inquiry on the 28th November 2006 at the Gardiner Memorial Hall in Burwell to record the Parish Council's support for this bridleway.

Use of Recreation Ground by Burwell Tigers Football Club: Two members of the BTFC attended the meeting and gave a summary of how plans for the Recreation Ground were proceeding. They had hoped to have the paperwork for the new lease agreement in place in time for the meeting but unfortunately this had been delayed. They were hopeful that the signing of the necessary paperwork would take place within the next few days. They reaffirmed their commitment to security of the site and suggested that an open meeting for the village be held to reassure people.

Accounts for Payment - These were agreed.

Planning Application Received:

The Vicarage, Green Head Road – *conservatory to side.*

9 Cage Hill – *construction of a car-port, alterations to wall and demolition of existing lean-to.*

11 Station Road – *two storey side extension.*

There were no objections to the above applications.

Planning Approval Received:

Lower End House, 39 Lower End – *change of use to self-contained annex ancillary to the main dwelling.*

Any Other Business:

Geoffrey Woollard brought the meeting's attention to the proposed changes by Royal Mail to postal addresses, in particular the proposal to replace property names with numbers. This was discussed.

It was again noted that overhanging hedges, etc., were causing concern in several areas of the Village.

Andrew Camps told the meeting that the footpaths on Rogers Road and Station Road had been tidied and cut back. The 'battle' continues to have them resurfaced.

Open Question Time.

General discussion.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Thursday, 14th December 2006 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Karen King

Clerk of the Parish Council

Tel: 742358. Email: karen.king5@bopenworld.com

Swaffham Bulbeck School PSA Christmas Fair



**Come along to our Fair on Friday 8th December
from 3.30pm in the school hall.**

- Grand Raffle
- Face painting
- Xmas nick-nack Stall
- Games
- Refreshments
- And lots more!

We have large luxury Hampers, Strikes bowling voucher, Planet Zoom voucher, day at Duxford, 3 months free membership at Fitness Express and a ride in Q103's Black Thunder as just some of our many fantastic Raffle Prizes!

Christmas Services



THE LIGHT OF LOVE CHRISTINGLE

Join us as we celebrate Jesus Christ, the light of the world, whose love shines in the darkest depths. Each child is given a traditional Christingle.

Sunday 3rd December

St. Mary's Church, Swaffham Bulbeck 9.30am

Sunday 10th December

Holy Trinity Church, Bottisham: 4.00pm

St. Mary's Church, Quay 11.00am

St. Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior 11.00am

St. James Church, Lode 4.00pm

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, with readers from throughout the village.

Sunday 17th December

St. James Church, Lode 3.00pm

St. Mary's Church, Quay 3.00pm

Holy Trinity Church, Bottisham: 6.30pm

St. Mary's Church, Swaffham Bulbeck 6.30pm

St. Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior: 6.30pm



CAROLS AROUND THE CRIB

Christmas Eve

A celebration of Christmas in words and Carols for all the Family

St. James', Lode 3pm

St. Mary's, Quay 3pm

St. Mary's, Swaffham Prior 3pm

Holy Trinity, Bottisham 4.30pm

St. Mary's, Swaffham Bulbeck 4.30pm

**25 December, 10am - CHRISTMAS DAY
COMMUNION**

Christmas Clerihews

Designer, Isambard Kingdom Brunel
Was a workaholic, truth to tell.
'Twas nothing for him to come to grips
With designing railways, bridges,
tunnels, and ships.

Benjamin Franklin. FRS.
Made what was an inspired guess.
His device was so enlightening
It made lightning a lot less frightening

Ophir

St Mary's Concert

**St. Mary's Church
Swaffham Bulbeck
Saturday Feb 3rd 2007
7.30 pm**

Director Martin Gent

**Bach Magnificat in D
Choral Works by Bardos**

**Orchestral pieces
Retiring collection
Refreshments available.**

contact Bob/Sylvia Thomson
sylviaathomson@btopenworld.com

MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

A MAJOR CHANGE is about to take place in the organisation of the Mothers' Union in the Anglesey Group of Parishes.

From 1st January 2007 the three existing branches – Bottisham, Lode and Swaffham Bulbeck, will merge to form The Anglesey Group Branch. Wyn Norton from Swaffham Bulbeck will become the new Branch Leader, Pauline Lewis from Bottisham will become the new Branch Secretary and Julie Sale from Lode will become the new Branch Treasurer. The Group will meet on the third Thursday of each month in Swaffham Bulbeck School Hall at 2.30pm.

A very interesting programme of events and guest speakers has already been planned for 2007 and the new Branch will be inaugurated at a special service in St. Mary's Church Swaffham Bulbeck on Thursday 18th January at 2.30pm followed by tea.

All those existing members throughout the Benefice are encouraged to join the new branch, and it is hoped that members who used to belong to the previously closed branches at Quy and Swaffham Prior will feel encouraged to join this new group.

We are very keen to attract new members to join, to hear the interesting speakers and to support the work of Mothers Union in its commitment to help families and children worldwide. Do think about joining or re-joining this exciting new venture – you will be very welcome!

For further information contact the Vicarage. Tel: 01223 812367 or e-mail: revdavidhlew@msn.com

Lode Chapel News:

Time to Cancel Christmas?



THERE'S BEEN SO MUCH CONTROVERSY about religious symbols over the last few months I was wondering whether the time has come for Christians to cancel Christmas, so that the government can replace it with a less offensive Winter Festival. Historians tell us that Jesus was more likely to have been born in September or October – so if the date's wrong, why not?

Let me tell you why not – the Christmas story is as relevant today as it ever was! Let me introduce you to the Christmas family and see whether it rings any bells for you...

Mary, the Christmas Mum – a young woman wondering whether she will be able to cope with demands of motherhood and fearing the criticism of others.

Joseph, the Christmas Dad – a hard-working bloke struggling to make ends meet, but facing ridicule amongst his peers if he 'does the right thing'.

Jesus, the Christmas Child – a vulnerable baby born into the harsh reality of a difficult world, but nonetheless more valuable than any earthly gift could ever be.

At Lode Chapel we'll be thinking about the Christmas Family this Advent and invite you and your family to join us. Everyone is welcome to any of the services – but here are two special invitations:

Christmas Mums (and Dads and Grandparents etc.) are invited to bring toddlers along to take part in the Toddler Nativity which is part of the family service at Lode Chapel on Sunday 10th December.

Christmas Children are invited to nag their parents to bring them along to Bottisham Community Primary School on 24th December for a special Christmas Club with carols and activities for all the family.

Simon Goddard

We welcome you to any of our services or other midweek activities.

Morning Worship every Sunday at 10.30am with Sunday School. For more information please contact:

Simon Goddard on 812881 or Peter Wells on 812388

Lode Chapel, High Street, Lode, CB5 9EW.

Email: simon.goddard@lodechapel.org.uk

Web: www.lodechapel.org.uk

Advent Services 2006

Celebrate the Christmas Season with Lode Chapel



Sunday 3rd December,
10.30am:

CHRISTMAS FAMILY

(Matthew 1v1-17)

Service at Lode Chapel with crèche and Sunday School.

Sunday 10th December, 10.30am:

CHRISTMAS Mum

(Luke 1v26-56)

*Family Service at Lode Chapel with
Toddler Nativity.*



*A special opportunity for toddlers to come along and
take part in the Christmas story. Parents welcome too!*



Sunday 17th December,
10.30am:

CHRISTMAS DAD

(Matthew 1v18-24)

*Service at Lode Chapel with crèche and
Sunday School.*

Sunday 24th December, 10.30am:



St Mary's Church - Autumn News and Events

THANK YOU to the many people who have supported social and fundraising events in recent months.

The **Quiz Night** in September was one of the best yet, with fourteen teams battling it out; well done Jenny Brand and Lynn Rand for the fiendish questions and Kate Child and the team for a splendid supper; and thank you, quizmaster Andrew Noyes, for the dodgy jokes!

Harvest Supper raised £342 for the Church and £190 for WaterAid; amazing food – memorable puddings! - and wonderful singing from the ladies' Barbershop chorus made for a fantastic evening; massive thanks to all involved especially Mandy Kingsmill, Barb Mitchell and Janet Willmott.

The **Christmas Market** was a great success raising almost £900. Grateful thanks to all stallholders – too numerous to mention - a huge amount of work goes into making and collecting the wares. Kate Child is keen to recruit new blood for future years – please give her a ring on 743983.

Thanks to the Walkinshaws for hosting a very enjoyable social – not fund-raising – evening; your hospitality was greatly appreciated.

The **Village Variety Show** featured the cream of village talent (ok – we borrowed a few people from Soham, Exning and Burwell, too!) and the music, singing, poetry and jokes were rounded off with a ten-minute pantomime – Cinderella! There was never a transformation scene like it – Fleur Routley twirled and span out of rags into ball-gown – this was real magic! And do beware of Lily and Grace, the ugly sisters, on dark nights! Grateful thanks to all the acts, and to Mark and Kaye Lewinski and Andrew Noyes for pulling it all together. We hope to have raised about £400.

We would very much like to welcome everyone to the special events and services for Advent and Christmas:

Season's Greetings

Dee Noyes, 743864

Contacts

Vicar

Churchwardens

Rev David H Lewis - 01223 812367

Christopher Walkinshaw – 742542;

Brenda Wilson - 743937





On the steps outside St. Mary's: some of the participants the children's service.



PASTORAL LETTER, December 2006

Bottisham Vicarage

Dear Friends,

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU THINK, but it seems to me that this year the shops are preparing for Christmas earlier than ever. Yet what is it they are urging us to celebrate? In many a Christmas stocking this year there may be a copy of this winter's best selling scientific book by Richard Dawkins: 'The God Delusion', which seeks to suggest that everything about Christmas is a figment of someone's imagination. It is true that much about Christmas remains veiled and puzzling.

For more than 300 years after Jesus' time, Christians celebrated his resurrection but not his birth. The observance first began in fourth-century Rome, timed to coincide with a midwinter pagan festival honouring the imperial army's sun god, Mithra and this December date was taken over to celebrate Jesus' birthday.

Yet on what day he was born is really unknown. Even the precise year is uncertain. We know now that it was not in the year 1 A.D., as the calendar's Anno Domini (Year of the Lord) suggests. Its dating system derived from an error in working out the year of Christ's birth by a sixth-century monk in Rome, Dionysius Exiguus. Scholars have since have calculated that Jesus' birth came in about 6 or 7 B.C., meaning paradoxically "Before Christ". The revised time was determined partly by the fact that Herod the Great ruled Judea when Jesus was born and history records that Herod died in 4 B.C.

In what month the birth occurred, or on what day, has been a matter of speculation for centuries. Possible dates include: January 6, February 2, March 25, April 19, May 20, October 4, November 17. A British physicist and astronomer,



Church of England Services

December 2006

	ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior	ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck	Bottisham
Sun 3	11:00am Holy Communion 4.00pm Carols by Candlelight	8:00am Holy Communion 9:30am Christingle Service	11:00am Family Service
Sun 10	8:00am Holy Communion 11:00am Christingle Service	9:30am Holy Communion	11:00am Holy Communion 4.00pm Christingle Service
Sun 17	11:00am Holy Communion 6.30pm Carol Service	9:30am Village Communion 6.30pm Carol Service	11:00am Holy Communion 6.30pm Carol Service
Sun 24	3.00pm Crib Service	4.30pm Crib Service 11.30pm Midnight Communion	4.30pm Crib Service 11.30pm Midnight Communion
Mon 25	10:00am Benefice Communion		

David Hughes, has calculated that the date was September 17, 7 B.C., based on scientific evidence, including that of a conjunction of two planets, Jupiter and Saturn, in the constellation Pisces on that date. He concludes in a book that this extraordinary celestial display was the "star" seen by the distant wise men. The 17th century German astronomer, Johannes Kepler, similarly had calculated that the "star" was a three-planet conjunction, including Venus as well as Jupiter and Saturn, in the same constellation in 7 B.C.

The celebration of Christmas was banned in the 17th century, when Oliver Cromwell forbade what was called the "heathen celebration of Christmas."

For all of the clouded chronology and controversial background of Christmas, however, we can be absolutely assured that there is ample historic evidence that a

man called Jesus was indeed born into this world in Palestine some 2000 years ago. In fact there is more historic evidence about Jesus' birth than there is about the birth of Julius Caesar. There is also ample evidence that the man Jesus did indeed embark on a remarkable ministry of teaching and healing miracles, that ultimately led to a terrible death on the cross. The sheer speed and effectiveness of the spread of the Christian faith after his death also speaks volumes about the truth of the wonderful miracle of his subsequent resurrection from the dead.

In all that he taught, one message stands out - that in him God entered the human race out of love for it, to be at one with it, and to be one of it. As J. B. Phillips sums it up: *"The Christian faith is founded upon a well attested sober fact of history; that quietly, but with deliberate purpose, God himself has visited this little planet."*

As that wonderful opening chapter of St. John's Gospel so eloquently puts it: *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the word was God... and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth,"*.

That is the mystifying message of Christmas; an awesome concept that has challenged hearts and minds since. It holds that Jesus was truly human, sharing the nature of all people, yet also truly God. As the Bible says:- *"Emmanuel - God with us," "The light of the world."*

So, as you buy and wrap up your Christmas presents this year, why not spare a thought as to why we are really giving presents to each other. Remember that Christmas began in the heart of God, but it is complete only when it reaches the heart of man. Then perhaps you might remember the words of my favourite Christmas Carol:-

*What can I give him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man,
I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him-Give my heart.*



Pauline and I wish you a happy, peaceful and blessed Christmas.

David Lewis

Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish

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

Dates for Your Diary

December 2006

Sun	3	Advent by Candlelight, St Mary's, 4pm
Mon	4	WI Christmas Party, VH
Tue	5	Mobile Library Cage Hill 15.05 15.45 Chapel 15.50-16.10
Wed	6	Reading Group Christmas Party, 8pm, Kent House
Thu	7	PC Meeting, VH, 7.30pm
Fri	8	Swaffham Bulbeck Christmas Fair, 3.30pm, School Hall
Sun	10	Christingle, 11am, St Mary's Crier Copy Deadline
Wed	13	VH Carols, VH 7pm
Fri	15	Cage Hill Hillbillies, Cambridge Folk Club
Sat	16	Holly Sale, Anglesey House, 12-1pm
Sun	17	Holly Sale, Anglesey House, 12-1pm Carols by Candlelight, 6.30pm, St Mary's
Mon	18	Neighbourhood Police, 5-6pm, High Street
Tue	19	Mobile Library Cage Hill 15.05 15.45 Chapel 15.50-16.10
Sun	24	Crib Service, 3pm St Mary's
Tues	26	Boxing Day Hockey, The Denny, Swaffham Bulbeck, 11am

