



# The Swaffham Crier

Volume XXX1 Number 11

November 2007



## Editorial

WHAT AN EXCELLENT TIME OF YEAR TO BE YOUNG: burnings, witches, fireworks and all that innocent stuff. But for the rest of the year, things don't look so good for Swaffham Prior youth. Unless, of course, you can help....

First of all *cubs*. Massively popular, their leader's had to leave, and unless they get a new one, that's the end of cubs.

Second of all, *Youth Club*, until relatively recently also massively popular, but now numbers have dropped (possibly due to competition from a larger club at Bottisham?).

All things have ups and downs—that's only natural—but, if you want to keep your youth club, *now* is the time to get out, get down there, and give it your support. Read all about it in this month's *Crier*...

Many congratulations to Geoffrey Woollard and his supporters, who have managed to persuade the powers-that-be to keep to Lodes going—but just for another 5 years, and then they'll "review". Yes, a nice quiet civilised review, with Geoffrey quite five years older by then. For

every one of us that's signed the petition (see Geoffrey's article) there must be ten of us—including the Eds—that haven't got round to it yet. Now's the time...

Lots of interesting things in this month's edition, including a very welcome report from our County Councillor. So now we know who's responsible for public footpaths, along with "encouraging disabled access" no doubt. Absolutely. Anyone who set foot on Barston Drove last winter may not have been disabled *before* they set off, but the treacherous knee-high rutted quagmire they must then surely have tumbled into would have soon sorted that out.

Hurriedly glancing at last month's *Contents* to see whether Harvest Supper started at 7 or 7.30 (it was 6, we'd already missed it) I could not help but notice that a teensy-

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weensy error had unaccountably crept into the last line of the editorial. The trick-and-treaters brought a Grammar.

*Caroline Matheson*

**Cover Picture:** *Last of the Summer Wine*, by Brenda Wilson



## Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

### **The Good Neighbours Award**

The time of year has come round again when we ask villagers to nominate candidates for our annual award, which is an oil painting of the windmill. This will be presented at the Carol Concert in the Village Hall on Wednesday December 19<sup>th</sup>, and is held for a year.

The award was presented to the village by the WI in memory of a much loved president, Gay Bulleid, who worked tirelessly for friends and the village.

Anyone, except former winners, can be nominated. It does not have to be your actual neighbour, just anyone living in or very close to the village. Just drop me a line giving reasons why you think the person deserves the prize. Winners will be judged on their kindness and good deeds, not on large expensive donations to charity, etc. Last year's very worthy joint winners were Dee and Andrew Noyes.

Only people who have been nominated can be considered, so get your pens out now! Write to Shirley Wilkins, 4 Adams Rd, Swaffham Prior, tel: 741638 by December 1st.

*Betty Prime*

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Dear Editors,

### **Macmillan Cancer Relief Coffee Morning 2007**

Well, you have all excelled yourselves with your generosity! We raised £507.55p for Macmillan Cancer Relief! There were fewer people at the coffee morning but you must all have dug very deep into your pockets as we counted over £400 on the day. Then there were donations from people who were unable to come and that brought the total up to that final grand sum of £507.55p! I think it's brilliant and I am very grateful for all your contributions of cakes, money and raffle prizes. Certainly a good time was had by all, judging by all the chat that was going on!

So, thank you for your company and your donations and I look forward to seeing you all next September.

*Ruth Scovil*

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## **Barbara Ives**

Barbara celebrated her One Hundredth Birthday on Tuesday October 23rd. The *Crier*, together with the Queen and many in the village, raises a glass to Barbara, who herself enjoyed a family tea party on the day.

Dear Editors.

## SWAFFHAM PRIOR PAROCHIAL CHARITIES

Once again it is time to remind all who consider themselves eligible for our Christmas Grant that they should apply as soon as possible.

As usual the majority of these applications will come from our pensioners, particularly those who have to manage on the state pension, but if you are in particular need, or know of anybody who may be in difficulty but is unlikely to apply on their own behalf the Trustees will always be happy to consider requests for assistance.

Applications should be sent to me or to any Trustee, and I stress that this assistance is available at all times, not merely at Christmas.

*Mrs Pam Waters*

Clerk to the Trustees.

31 Tothill Road, , tel: 01638 741035

## URGENT!!

### Can you help Swaffham Prior Cubs?

Swaffham Prior cub group is **closing** on 31<sup>st</sup> October  
when we lose our leader.

We have been very lucky to have Jemima South running the cub pack for the past 6 years, Jemima is now moving to start a new job and new leaders must be found if the group is to continue.

We have a very keen group of 8-10½ year old boys and girls who really enjoy their cub activities. Any new leaders would be given full training from the District Scouting Organisation (see also [www.scoutbase.org.uk](http://www.scoutbase.org.uk)); you would also be supported by a strong committee and enthusiastic parents. If you feel you could help in any way, please contact Mandy Kingsmill (01638 742482).

### Donations!

Many thanks to Bridget Sheppard and Mr and Mrs L Jackson for their very kind donations to the *Crier* this month. Although production costs are mostly funded by advertising revenue, donations make up an essential part of our income, and are very gratefully received.

## From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

No reporter could attend the October meeting so it was decided to give readers a treat and reproduce a report written 20 Years ago almost to the exact day. Can you tell the difference? Or does nothing change? The reporter was Rick Meopham, the man who so long ago appears to have set the style and tone of the *Crier's* PC reports. In those days there was no range of type faces or styles. It appeared exactly as below.



### Rick's Report on the Parish Council Meeting

After the summer recess parish councillors returned, not exactly in force, since two were missing. Many of the items on the agenda were of an 'on-going' nature and had been aired at previous meetings. These included the rebuilding of the churchyard wall (I wonder if Hadrian had experienced similar problems?), emergency planning and maintenance of the cemetery.

An initial decision was reached with regard to the proposed new cemetery access. The lease of the strip of land between the Vicarage and the churchyard, on which it is proposed to lay a 'not too elaborate all-weather surface', is to be purchased at a cost of £250. One member registered his opposition to the plan by his abstention from the vote.

The planning applications for Nos 10, 12 and 27 Tothill Road and Bridgefarm House were passed. Applications for a new residential lodge adjacent to the existing lodge at Swaffham Prior House and for the erection of two stables, a feed store and tack room at Kents Hall were also agreed.

A letter to the council on the subject of the village footpaths, prompted a lengthy discussion. One problem addressed concerned private hedges/trees restricting footpath access and it was decided to ask the County Council to issue warnings to offenders. Before considering the path from the Beeches to the Church, it was decided to find out what powers the Council has in this respect.

'Rights of Way', another on-going agenda topic, had but a brief mention as the County Council officer responsible is away on a study tour of China. Can we expect to see rice fields in the fen shortly.

The Clerk announced the result of the Best Kept Village Competition. Presumably our dismal placing (last!) is directly proportional to the enthusiasm and interest shown by councillors on hearing the result!

The County Surveyor is to attend the next meeting to advise members on the long term proposals for the Fen road repairs. Parish Council members from Reach and Burwell are to be invited to attend since it is a matter of common interest and concern.

So, very little appears to have changed until you read Ruth

Stinton's report on the same meeting. Ruth was the then Clerk to the PC.

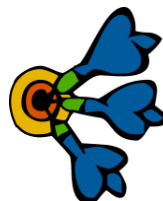
### Parish Council

Several people in the village have attended courses on Emergency Planning. Emergency planning includes all major hazards, both the peacetime type and the wartime ones and, with this in mind, the Women's Institute in Swaffham Prior has drawn up a list of members who would be willing to help if an emergency did happen in the village.

If you could accommodate anyone overnight, if you have spare blankets, oil or gas lamps or any camping equipment available, please contact me so you can be included on the list.

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# SWAFFHAM PRIOR YOUTH CLUB



## TUCK SHOP



Every Tuesday (Except Holidays)

7pm till 8:30pm

8 years old to

Year 6's

Every Thursday (Except Holidays)

7pm till 10pm

Years 7-11

ALL 50p Admission fee

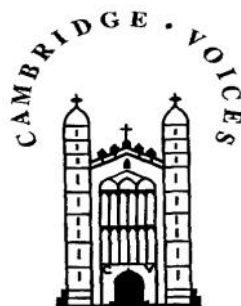


# ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT

4.00pm Sunday December 2<sup>nd</sup>

## The Two Churches of Swaffham Prior

SWAFFHAM PRIOR'S ANNUAL "ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT" CONCERT has been part of the village's annual cycle of festivities for nigh on twenty years and, for the majority of these Advent celebrations, Cambridge Voices, under the direction of its founder and present director, Ian de Massini, have had the privilege of providing the choral music, weaving their vocal items in amongst the many readings of prose and poetry presented by members of the village, together with audience-led hymns and concluded by the traditional Advent prayers and benediction given by the parish priest.



This year, to mark the choir's 20th anniversary, Cambridge Voices are to present a sequence of their more traditional Advent choral works that they have performed over the years and which will include the Advent Prose by Palestrina, "The angel Gabriel from heaven came" alongside arrangements of ancient Advent plainsong and seasonal carols, as well as the great American heraldic song "Mine eyes have seen the coming of the glory of the Lord".

But the choir will also perform one modern work, "Ave, generosa", which has been specially composed for this anniversary year by the choir's composer-director, Ian de Massini. The choir gave the first performance of this double-choir-and-soloist meditation upon a text by Abbess Hildegard of Bingen (1097-1183) in Paris in the summer, followed by its British première to a capacity crowd in Ely Cathedral's



Cambridge Voices at the Lady Chapel Ely Cathedral. This year's Advent concert marks their 20th anniversary....

Lady Chapel one week later, and there are plans to record it for inclusion on the choir's next album in 2008.

As for the readings this year, we are going to mark the fact that this year is the centenary of the birth of one of Britain's greatest modern poets, W (ystan) H(ugh) Auden (1907-1973). His evocative lines of verse are on

the lips of many today. Who can forget the arresting scene from the film "Four weddings and a funeral" as the lines "Stop all the clocks, cut off the telephone. . . the stars are not wanted now; put out every one." were read out at the grave of the actor Simon Callow (not in real life, of course, as he's not dead yet!)? Others may remember the superb 1936 BBC black-and-white film "Night Mail" which featured Auden's narrative poem about the delivery of mail by train, read by Sir John Betjeman and background music by Benjamin Britten. Think of the brilliant settings that Benjamin Britten made of his friend's many poems, including "Anthem for St Cecilia's Day" and "Elegy on the death of President Kennedy", as well as William Walton's epic choral setting of "The Twelve" (to be included in our "Advent by Candlelight" concert this year).



...and also the centenary of one of Britain's greatest modern poets : W H Auden,

Auden's output was prolific, spanning as it did some of the most momentous events of the 20th century, and religion played a large part in his literary creations, often as a background to weighty discourses on the meaning of life and the nature of being human. A brilliantly-researched recent publication of Auden's complete poems lists no less than sixteen works that relate to the various themes of "Advent". So, we have a wealth of material from which we can create a framework from which to suspend this year's village Advent concert, and will include the famous "Tell me the truth about LOVE!".

As in previous years, you are invited to give £6 as you arrive for the concert, and all profits will go to EMMAUS, the locally-based charity that provides such invaluable work and accommodation for the homeless. The concert begins at 4.00pm in the parish church of St Mary's, moving over to the neighbouring church of St Cyriac & St Julitta's for the final, mystical part of the event. **Please remember to wrap up warm for this last part of the concert as the noisy heating there will have to be turned off once all are inside, seated.**

The concert concludes, as ever, with a plentiful supply of mulled wine and mince-pies back over in the first church, so generously provided and prepared by members of the village social committee. We are always looking for readers to take part in this concert so, if you would like to read, do please contact Hilary Sage as as soon as possible (tel. 01638 742978). There'll be a run-through for all the readers on the day, just after noon, to give them an idea of the differing acoustics of the two venues. Many people from across the country make this event their one moment in the year to visit Swaffham Prior with its unique setting of the two neighbouring churches for the Advent concert, so do come along and experience this magical melange of music, poetry, and ambience that marks the traditional count-down to Christmas. Ian de Massini (ian\_demassini@dsl.pipex.com; tel. 0780 1234 343).

*Ian de Massini*

# DON'T DITCH THOSE LODES

I HAVE SEEN AN ADVANCE COPY of The Environment Agency's November paper on options for the future of The Cambridgeshire Lodes.

**The Agency is proposing a 'preferred option' for further consultation that appears, in essence, to be a five-year reprieve for The Lodes. It plans to maintain The Lodes as they are now, at their current level, by carrying out repairs as and when required, subject to five-yearly reviews and any future changes in land use involving increased threats to The Lodes and their banks.**

I welcome this paper.

I am very grateful to The Environment Agency for proposing what appears to be a five-year reprieve for my beloved Cambridgeshire Lodes and to the hundreds of supporters who have obviously influenced the outcome of the first stage of The Environment Agency's study.

Assuming that the 'preferred option' continues to be supported, my fear now is that The National Trust will still go ahead with its attempts to buy up more of these Fens and that, after five years, with further threats of land being flooded close to The Lodes. The Environment Agency will be compelled again to look critically at the longer-term future of The Lodes and their banks.

I will do my best to persuade landowners not to sell out to The Trust, an organisation already notorious for attempting to buy land on the cheap.

The National Trust's so-called 'Wicken Vision' scheme is shot through with silliness and severe practical difficulties and problems such as the loss of thousands of acres of the finest food-growing land in the Country, uncertainty regarding the future of all the Fen roads and numerous properties and businesses, the effect on The Lodes and their banks of large areas of open water, the expected influx of additional midges and mosquitoes, more problems with travellers and hare coursing, how we locals are to cope

## A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT FROM SKYE

Is there somewhere, some One;  
Or even a small team,  
Whose brief it is to formulate  
A precious hare-brained scheme?

One to divert the local folk  
And give them cause to stage  
A protest group, or glut of groups,  
Thus to share their rage?

One without clear reason;  
Maybe a mere caprice;  
A resurrected older scheme,  
Once left to rest in peace?

One that ignores opinions,  
The locals' hopes and wishes;  
Upsets wildfowl and boat people,  
And affects the Lodes and Fishes?

*Ophir*



with thousands of visiting vehicles and, of course, the overall cost - likely to run to close to £100 millions.

The scheme is ill-conceived, unnecessary and unwanted.

Supporters of The Cambridgeshire Lodes should still continue to obtain signatures for the on-line '**Don't Ditch Our Lodes!**' E-Petition which is to run until May of next year, is to be found at -

<http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/OurLODES/>

and reads as follows:

**"Some 30 years ago, a successful campaign was waged to save The Cambridgeshire Lodes, ancient canals of probable Roman origin - principally Bottisham, Swaffham Bulbeck, Reach, Burwell and Wicken Lodes - which were threatened by the then authorities. A decision was made to maintain and to preserve The Lodes. Such is the situation today: The Lodes have been maintained and preserved. But new documents indicate that The Environment Agency has commissioned a 'scoping report' costing some £200,000 and that it is looking critically at The Lodes, an option again being that of converting all or some of them into ditches. The old campaign slogan - 'Don't Ditch Our Lodes!' - is just as relevant now as it was in the 1970s. A new factor is The National Trust's plans to buy up and partially to flood some 10,000 acres of rich fen land and the Trust says that 'lowering' some of The Lodes would be 'acceptable.' Lowering is much the same as ditching. The Swaffham Internal Drainage Board and Swaffham Prior Parish Council support The Lodes being maintained. But the Philistines could be triumphant if their opponents are inactive. So, this is a call to those with influence to use it!"**

*Geoffrey Woollard*

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## **MINCE PIES ADVENT BY CANDLE LIGHT**

**2 December St.Cyriac's 4p.m.**

**Cambridge Voices**

It seems odd to be thinking of Advent in October but by time you receive the next Crier the event will probably be over. It is traditional to serve mince pies and mulled

wine at the end of the event, so once again I am asking for contributions of mince pies, we usually serve about 200. Kindly let me know not later than Saturday 1 December if and how many you are able to provide.

Thank you,



*Kate Child (743983)*

**YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU!**

**VILLAGE VARIETY SHOW**

***SATURDAY 1st DECEMBER***

***7.30 p.m.***

***at***

***THE VILLAGE HALL***

**CAN YOU RECITE A DITTY, TELL A TALE,  
PLAY A TUNE,  
SING A SONG, DANCE THE FANDANGO,  
RAP, GRIND, SHRED,  
HIP HOP?**

**IF SO...NOW'S THE MOMENT TO EMERGE FROM THE SHADOWS  
AND PERFORM IN PUBLIC!**

**ALL WELCOME - CHILDREN AND ADULTS - NO UPPER OR  
LOWER LIMITS!**

**If you would like to take part,  
or simply buy a ticket or two,  
Please contact**

**Andrew Noyes 743864**

**Mark Lewinski 744062**

**MOBILE LIBRARY DATES**

**November 6<sup>th</sup> and November 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Cage Hill: 15.05-15.45,**

**Chapel: 15.50-16-10**

**Book Club requests welcomed. Stamps, cards and Children's videos for  
sale.. Friendly Helpful service.**

***Use it or Lose it***

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 2nd**

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**4.00pm:** *The two churches  
of SWAFFHAM PRIOR*

# Cambridge Voices

with readers from the congregations.

**This year's theme:**

## Traditional Advent Music

**Poems by**

**W.H.Auden**

£6 Admission (children free)  
in aid of EMMAUS

*Candlelight*

Falling numbers of swimmers are making it very difficult for Bottisham Pool to sustain the many varied sessions and classes currently on offer. So please help to make sure that the

## **SWIMMING POOL STAYS OPEN FOR THE COMMUNITY**



BOTTISHAM Swimming Pool has plenty to offer whether you are new to the water or are a streamlined lane swimmer. This popular indoor community pool is a registered charity, open all year round and independently managed by a small committee of volunteer trustees. The warm water pool is 25 metres long by 10 metres wide and offers a variety of sessions and classes to suit swimmers of all ages and abilities.

Centre manager, Jill Pellegrini, says: "Swimming is one of the best overall exercises for all levels of fitness, it is excellent for cardio-vascular and most muscle group workouts. The non-swimmer can just come along and have some fun or maybe take a few very private one-to-one swimming lessons with one of our experienced instructors: they will be amazed at how quickly their confidence will grow.

"In addition to the coached lane swims, life-saving courses which include invaluable first aid are also available for the advanced swimmer. Parties and fun swims are very popular with children."

Bottisham Swimming Pool has received much praise from its customers. One visitor says: "All four of my family use this facility. Exercise is an Important part of our lives and because of the long opening hours and varied sessions we are easily able to fit this into our busy lives."

The pool committee also manages the "dryside" sports facilities on behalf of Bottisham Village College, including the well equipped Bodytone Fitness Suite. Extensive holiday activities are also offered at the centre including soccer clubs and activity days. All the facilities can be booked by private or business groups and there are modern changing rooms and disabled facilities. Swimmers can take advantage of reduced rates on all general entry fees (not classes) throughout September and October.

The centre is open Monday to Friday 6.45am-10pm and Saturday and Sunday 8am-4pm. For more information please call (01223) 811121 or visit [www.bottishamswimmingpoolandsportscentre.co.uk](http://www.bottishamswimmingpoolandsportscentre.co.uk)

***Jill Pellegrini Centre manager***

# MEN'S BREAKFAST

ORGANIZED BY  
ANGLESEY  
CHURCHES  
TOGETHER

Daniel Cozens:

## A Morning of Colour



**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November**

07:45 – 09:45 • Poppy Restaurant,  
British Legion, Bottisham

**TICKETS £7 FROM:**

Simon Goddard 01223 812881 • David Lewis 01223 812367  
Jonathan Dowman 01223 813301 • Peter Wells 01223 812388

## Therapeutic Massage

**Ann Kiddy IHHT**

*For Health and Wellbeing*

### Treatments

**Massages – Swedish, Indian Head, Hot Stone, Deep  
Tissue and Aromatherapy**

*Each massage can be tailored to your individual needs.*

**Tel: 01638 742383**  
**Mob: 07810035907**  
**Email: [ann.kiddy@btinternet.com](mailto:ann.kiddy@btinternet.com)**

**32 Cage Hill  
Swaffham Prior**

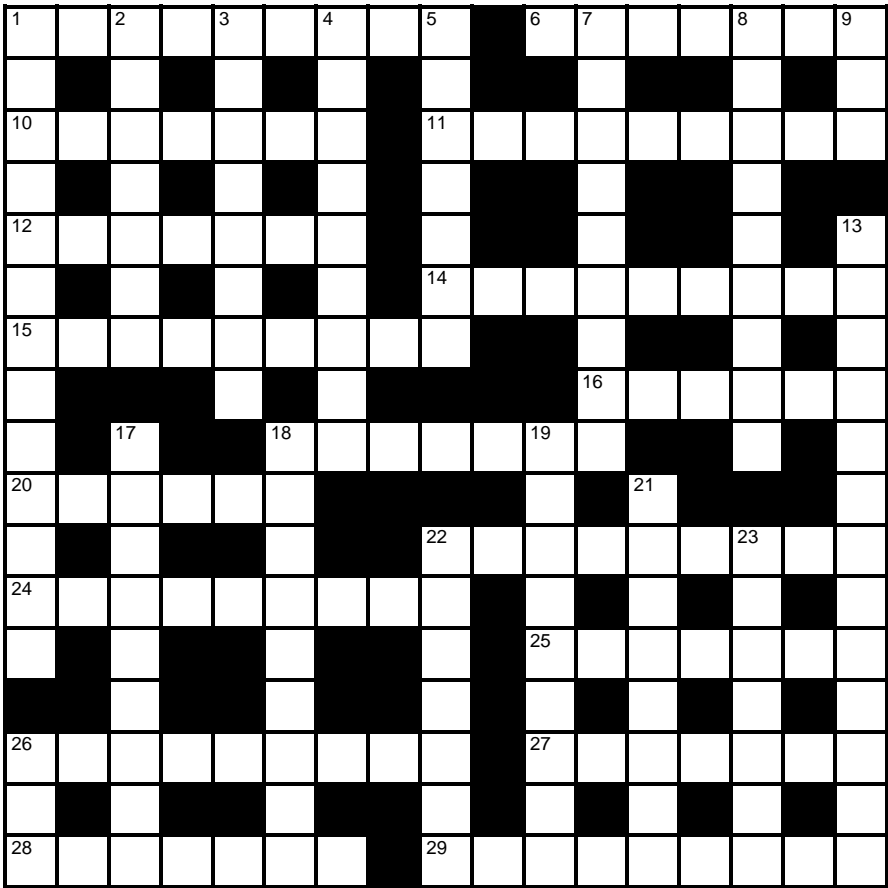
# Crossword Number 47

Compiled by

Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

**NIBOR**

This month's puzzle is a simple cryptic crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 18 November 2007. The first correct solution out of the hat will win a free meal at the Red Lion—See Michelle at the pub for full details.



Name:.....
Adress.....
.....Tel:.....

## Across

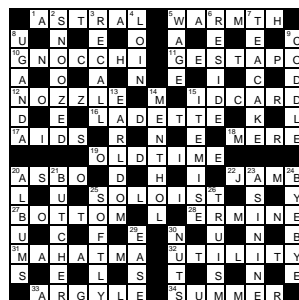
- 1 Drunken wine lover - animal! (9)
- 6 Shows rascal lopped edge to give wavy effect (7)
- 10 Male dwarf concocts sorts of protein (7)
- 11 Palette applications - leave cap off (3,6)
- 12 Pub mixed drinks for outings? Quite the opposite (7)
- 14 Father Titian's exotic appetisers (9)
- 15 Chant awful! Gag Renoir (9)
- 16 Gauche Len easily concealing girl (6)
- 18 In contact with stove in South Square (7)
- 20 Enticing in to slur ingenious authors (6)
- 22 Ambulance worker's caper amid chaos (9)
- 24 Honest one went to pieces? Exactly (2,3,4)
- 25 Muddled market-towns test out labourer (7)
- 26 Little Michael fouls transposed traditional airs (4-5)
- 27 In error, actor Harrison cues Pardoners (7)
- 28 We hear why Taylor went off upper echelon (7)
- 29 Point at old city friend of course (9)

## Down

- 1 Little William swallows quiet gin cocktail; nil whisky initially; leading to lachrymose growth (7-6)

- 2 Cough drop or mixture for leg zone? (7)
- 3 Alberta's capital! Little Edward precedes book in satellite (8)
- 4 Demanding dame leaves disseminating variety (9)
- 5 Antoine, crazy old boy (7)
- 7 CGI Trophy for equivocal publication grant (9)
- 8 WWII bomber dropping red roses? (9)
- 9 Ballet step causing sap to rise (3)
- 13 Power from motion city engineer adds to kick-start transformation (7,6)
- 17 Let fly fur miserably (9)
- 18 Guyana not agitated by periodical counsellor (5,4)
- 19 Kate of French Street, most astute (9)
- 21 Oriental doctor, royal one, joins Republican encircler (8)
- 22 Pencil a sketchy bird (7)
- 23 Maiden lamed, so wobbly (7)
- 26 Mother's partner loses article at a distance (3)

## Solution to crossword no. 46



We congratulate Robert and Julie Nunn, the winners of last month's competition, who should collect their prize certificate from the editors. An honourable mention goes to Shirley Wilkins.

# HARVEST SUPPER

## 2007

WITH A CRUCIAL RUGBY MATCH for England that evening the Harvest Supper organisers adopted a topical colour scheme for the event – red and white gingham table cloths and red and white flowers. Well it worked! Not only was the Supper a great hit, but the England team made it through to the final!

And thanks to the great team that pulled together to make the Harvest Supper a success – too many to mention, as always – but you know who you are. Whether you provided homemade bread, a salad or

pudding, or donated local ingredients for any of those, washed up, tidied away, set up, ran the bar, organised the raffle, donated a prize, bought a ticket, gave the auction painting, bought the auction painting, provided the entertainment, transported the entertainment, organised the entertainment, watched the entertainment, staffed the door.... or simply bought a ticket to enjoy excellent food, company and a very talented children's steel band, you all did your bit to help raise a magnificent £328 for Church funds and £110 for our Harvest charity - WaterAid.

Thank you.

***Mandy Kingsmill, Dee Noyes  
and Janet Willmott***







## CHRISTMAS MARKET

AS YOU ARE PROBABLY AWARE the Christmas Market is held bi-annually (although last year we were persuaded to run an extra one). There will not be one this year.

Betty Prime and I have been responsible for running the markets for the last 10 years or so which we have enjoyed doing but feel the time has come to pass it on to other younger people with fresh ideas and a new approach. We are both willing to help and pass on any know-how from past experience. Usually in the region of £1000 is raised; so ideas need to be discussed early in the New Year.

If there is any one out there (or perhaps 2 or 3 people) who would like to replace us so that this village event continues, please think about it and let me know by the end of November. In anticipation the Village Hall has been booked for 15 November 2008.

*Kate Child (743983)*

## DR MARGARET STANIER

MARGARET WAS BORN IN 1919, the second of 4 children. Her father was a solicitor, her mother a horticulturalist. She was taught at home by her mother, using the PNEU programme, until she was 12, when she went to St Swithun's School in Winchester. She won a science scholarship to Somerville College, Oxford (with rooms next to Iris Murdoch) in 1938. After graduating in Animal Physiology she worked for some time in the Biochemistry Laboratory at the Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford, while doing a research project on Vitamin K for a B.Sc., and some physiology tutoring for Somerville. In 1947 she went out to Makerere College, Kampala, Uganda, to teach physiology to medical students, and was there for 8 years. The research project she did there, on blood proteins of nomadic tribes who live on very high protein diets, gained her an Oxford D.Phil. During that time she went to carpentry classes and did a lot of sailing on Lake Victoria. She returned to England in 1955 and she joined the Department of Experimental Medicine in Cambridge, undertook agricultural research at the Brabham Institute and in 1962 was elected to a Fellowship at Newnham College with the impressive title of 'College Lecturer in Physiology and Director of Studies in Medicine and Veterinary Science'. She was co-author of a students' textbook, 'Physiological Processes', a very clear exposition inspired by her teaching experience, as well as authoring or co-authoring many works published in *Nature* and elsewhere.

Margaret had very many interests and enthusiasms. Natural history, especially botany, was a lifelong interest, and she was active in the Cambridge Naturalists' Trust and on the Devil's Ditch Committee. She learned how to spin, and knitted wonderful garments from the spun wool. She enjoyed astronomy, and looked after the Newnham telescope, introducing many students to the heavens. This led to her interest in sundials. Friends and relatives in many parts of the world possess sundials which Margaret designed or made for them.

Margaret loved to travel, and frequently visited friends and relatives on every continent, always writing fascinating letters home, and converting them into illustrated diaries. One cousin in Tasmania wrote 'we really enjoyed her times with us. I love visitors that are really INTERESTED in things'. How true. It was Margaret's ability to share with others her enthusiasm and interest in everything which made her such a good teacher and excellent companion. She was made a Fellow Emerita of Newnham College when she retired in 1984. A Newnham colleague introduced



her to bell-ringing, and she became so enthusiastic that she took part in practices in different villages every night of the week. She became Editor of the British Sundial Society's Bulletin in 1997 and her last editorial appeared in March 2006. She also wrote illustrated books on 'Oxford Sundials' and 'Cambridge Sundials'.

Margaret came to Swaffham Prior in 1964 and within the village was a well known figure. She jogged daily; helped to restore the bells; as Bell Tower Captain she trained an enthusiastic group of excellent young bellringers who still ring when returning to the village; she designed and controlled the production of the sundial in the school playground celebrating the millennium; she reported Parish Council meetings; was involved in many of the exciting local controversies such as lighting in the churchyard, the chiming of the clock, the heating of the ringing chamber (all with a great humour and determined commitment); she was always happy to volunteer for almost anything such as representing the over 65's on the Village Hall Committee and reading the lesson in Church. Margaret was always open to new ideas; she was very forthright, had strong feelings about Crier covers ("does the artist really know what he's drawn!?" ) and she was what can only be called "a real goer" (a phrase she would have considered carefully before accepting it).

Dr Margaret Stanier died on 13 September at the age of 88 and a Memorial Meeting will be held in Newnham College at 2.00pm on Saturday 9th February. Margaret (known as Peggy to all bellringers throughout England) will be greatly

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## School News

THE FIRST HALF OF THE NEW TERM has gone very quickly at school. Our new Reception children have settled in very well and are fully involved in the life of the school. The Year Six children are enjoying their new responsibilities, especially our Year 6 buddies who are helping to ensure that all children enjoy their play time.

This half term there have been lots of exciting events going on in school. On 26<sup>th</sup> September it was the European Day of Languages and we celebrated it in style. Our new Deputy Head, Mrs Cheales, along with some willing parents, organised French lessons, pasta making, a scavenger hunt and a multi-cultural assembly. It was a great day. As a school we are moving towards introducing Modern Foreign Languages into the curriculum in September 2008 so this day has encouraged us to move forward with this initiative.

Class 4 have enjoyed a day at Ely Cathedral where they met with lots of other church schools to have a day of musical celebration and activities based around the abolition of the slave trade. Class 3 have visited Snake Hall Farm, where they carried on with their work about Recycling, Reusing and Reducing waste.

A whole school focus for us this year is about becoming a Health Promoting School. We have to ensure we are meeting National Standards for provision in Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Education, Sex and Relationship Education, Healthy



Eating, Physical Activity and Emotional Well-being. This is an exciting opportunity for us to review our current practice and to celebrate our current achievements.

Our school swimming pool has long been a terrific resource for our children and the local community. It has reached a stage where, in order for it to continue being used, we need to do some major repairs, or possibly buy a new one. Our PTA, FoSPS, is currently thinking of ways to raise the money or findings grants they can access. If you think you can be of any help in raising any money or you know of any grants we can access, please contact the school on 01638 741529.

We have discovered a lot of dog excrement on our playground and surrounding grass this term. This has been very unpleasant as the children and adults have trodden in it several times. Please can any dog walkers make sure their dogs do not enter the school grounds. Thank you

*Emma Vincent*  
Head Teacher

### RECEPTION ADMISSIONS 2008

We are now accepting applications for Reception places for September 2008.

If you would like an admissions form or to have a visit to our school please contact us on 01638 741529 or just pop in.

Applications need to be in by 7th December.

## Noyes & Noyes

8 Signet Court Cambridge CB5 8LA

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Tel: 01223 311800

Email: [property@noyes-noyes.co.uk](mailto:property@noyes-noyes.co.uk) [www.noyes-noyes.co.uk](http://www.noyes-noyes.co.uk)





## WI Notes

Our Speaker, Mr Stephen Brookes, painted a sombre but fascinating picture of how he and his family who were living in Burma during the 1940s found themselves trapped in the path of the advancing Japanese army. Shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbour, they set off for China, encountering ambushes, monsoons, jungle, high mountains, being machine-gunned and made destitute and finally ending up in India months later after a three thousand mile journey. After family deaths, Stephen, aged eleven, was forced to take charge of his remaining family. Tens of thousands of fellow refugees died. His book, "Through the Jungle of Death" describes the full story of this amazing brave man.

The November 19th meeting is a trips to Waitrose in Newmarket for a talk on "Cheeses". Contact Betty Fox for details.

**Betty Prime**

### The Reading Group Reads....

## AFTER YOU'D GONE

**By Maggie O'Farrell**

Maggie O'Farrell has a quote by Picasso beside her desk: 'If you know exactly what you are going to do, what is the point of doing it?' This is a sentiment Maggie very much agrees with, because she likes the way her ideas mutate as they go along.

Her debut novel, *After You'd Gone*, was published to international acclaim, but more importantly than that, got the thumbs up from Swaffham Prior's reading group.



Maggie O'Farrell

"Well, I had to read it again to find out what happened first time" was one comment, and "thinking man's Mills & Boon" another. The thing is, this was a very clever book indeed, half love-story and half mystery, but written in a seemingly completely random order, with bits from the future and bits from the past, often described by different narrators, juxtaposing one another throughout.

But even though, consequently, you have to read half the book before you have the faintest clue what was/will be going on, this didn't seem to matter: it was so well-written. And then when you do start to fathom things out, it becomes a "can't put down", a bit like doing a jig-saw puzzle (without the box cover!) . But not until the very end is all revealed (ish!), even, as someone very cleverly pointed out, just WHY the book was written as it was.

Next month's book is Ian Bank's *The Business*, 8pm, Kent House, and December's is Sarah Durant's *The Other Side of You*, when we'll also have our Christmas party. If you've not come before, give it a go!

**Caroline Matheson**



**EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

From our District  
Councillor  
Allen Alderson

## **WORK BEGINS ON COMMUTER CAR PARK**

Work has begun this week on the new car park at Cambridgeshire Business Park in Ely, designed to make life easier for all those who use the Ely train station. The new facility, projected to open in mid-December 2007, will have 205 spaces and cost £2.50 per day and £11 for a seven-day ticket. Once completed the site will also run a park and ride service on Saturdays.



The car park is part of the Ely Transport Strategy which aims to enhance accessibility; promote the city as a service, tourism and employment centres; improve the car parking experience and resolve the railway station parking problems.

Councillor John Seaman MBE, Chairman of the Environment and Transport Committee, said: "Starting work at the Angel Drove site is a major step forward in the development of the Ely Transport Strategy. The new car park, once completed, will offer commuters a safe and secure place to leave their car while they travel to their place of work. I believe the new facility will make a big difference to the lives of everyone who uses it. From commuters in the week who won't have to worry about driving endless around a full railway station car park, to shoppers who will have a convenient place to leave their car in the run up to Christmas."

The cost of the land for the car park was £635,000 and was bought from Cawdle Developments Limited.

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD PANELS GIVEN THE GREEN LIGHT**

Residents throughout East Cambridgeshire are getting the chance to have their say on the futures of their communities. East Cambridgeshire District Council's Community Services Committee have decided to extend the recent and successful Soham pilot of the multi-agency 'neighbourhood panel' project across the district.

There will be five panels in the district — Ely, Littleport, Soham, District South and District West; and each will be made up of representatives of the County, District and Parish Councils, together with other influential community figures elected by the Panel.

The Panel will discuss important community issues and influence what priority actions should be taken by local public service providers. The general public will be welcomed to the meetings, to raise their issues or concern and see that decisions are made with the best interests of the community in mind. Many organisations in the district have already been involved in the pilot and are keen to continue the arrangement.

Councillor Peter Cresswell, Chairman of the Committee and project champion within the Council said: "I am very excited that the Council has decided to go ahead with Neighbourhood Panels: This is a very new concept, and will allow members of the public to have their say on the priorities of the public service providers in the district, and will forge closer links between parish councils and these organisations. This is quite a commitment by the Council, so the public can see that we're serious about making this work."

Inspector Alan Savill, sector commander for East Cambridgeshire, said: "Here in the police, we are very keen to take account of what the community wants when we plan our work. We have taken part in the Soham pilot project and think this will be a very important way of working in the future. We are very pleased that we have this opportunity to do even more work with other organisations in the district."

Between now and Christmas, the Council's Corporate Strategy Team will be organising the inaugural round of meetings, to take place between January and March. For further information about the neighbourhood meetings, a copy of the agenda or the work of the East Cambridgeshire Strategic Partnership — please contact Jane Fletcher or Julie Cornwall on 01353 665555 and email [jane.fletcher@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:jane.fletcher@eastcambs.gov.uk).

## **SCHEDULED REPAIRS FOR THE MALTINGS**

An important historic centre for conferences, exhibitions and banqueting in Ely is to close for six months in 2008 for essential repairs. The Maltings, built in 1868 for the brewery of Ebenezer William Harlock, will be coming up for a scheduled refit of its roof in May 2008. Officers at the District Council have decided the building will need to close to protect the public for a period of up to six months.

The building was badly damaged by fire in 1967 and carefully renovated, restored and converted it into a hall.

The repair work will coincide with the end of the District Council's contract with Eliance who currently provide the catering and exhibition facilities at the Maltings. The Council has appointed an agent who over the next five months will gather expressions of interest regarding the building's future use for the benefit of the residents of East Cambridgeshire.

Councillor Peter Cresswell, Chairman of the Community Services Committee, said: "Given the number of events which take place at the Maltings and how many people like to book far in advance, we felt it was appropriate to give advanced warning that the building is to close. This will allow anyone who is scheduling a wedding, party or conference enough time to find another venue. I would like to stress that the building as it stands is perfectly safe and any work will be in keeping with the historic character of the building. Until the work begins in May 2008, the Maltings will remain fully open and will provide all its usual services for the public."

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**Road Safety**

£30,000 has been allocated from the 2008/9 Minor Highways Improvement Schemes Budget to address road safety issues on the B1102 at Mill Hill. It was one of six successful bids in East Cambridgeshire. Another bid has gone into the Medium Sized Schemes Programme but that has not yet been decided.

**Registration Service**

From 1<sup>st</sup> October 2007, all of Cambridgeshire became one Registration District, which means customers can go to their most convenient office, register an event and receive the certificate. The joint bereavement service offered at Addenbrooke's Hospital since 1st August 2007 has proved very successful

**Contact Centre**

The Single Assessment Process (SAP) has been implemented for the Learning Disability Service. SAP will be rolled out to Occupational Therapy, Physical Disability and Older People's Services from early October.

**Environment Strategy**

Highest priority activities should be:

- improving public transport
- making Northstowe and other major developments in Cambridgeshire exemplars for environmental sustainability
- climate change adaptation
- environmental assessment of potential projects and initiatives
- water efficiency in new Council buildings
- procuring/generating renewable energy for our buildings

**Infrastructure**

The Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) have commenced bidding for Growth Area Funding. The County is working closely with partners to submit projects worth £15.6 million. Key projects include: Cambridge Green Necklace (linear access/wildlife corridors and site-specific projects surrounding Cambridge), Northstowe Countryside Access, and Country Parks at Ely and March.

**Mereham**

The County Council is working closely with East Cambridgeshire District Council on the planning inquiry which starts in early October. This proposal, for 5,000 new homes near Wilburton, sits outside the current strategy for the Cambridge sub-region and is strongly opposed by all the local authorities.



## **Tobacco Age Change**

From October 1st this year the age limit for buying tobacco rose from 16 to 18. To assist retailers with the age increase Trading Standards are providing traders with an education programme

## **Parking Policy/ Decriminalised Parking**

Consultations on new parking policies are coming to a close with Cabinet expected to adopt a new policy in October. This will then lead on to a decision on whether to expand decriminalised parking to the whole of the county.

## **Community Speed Watch**

The trial Community Speed Watch project was set up in 2002 and ran successfully for more than 2 years. Funding pressures forced cessation of the project in 2005. 16 Parishes are still eager to participate and enquiries are frequently received from others. Currently, a bid is being made to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Road Safety Partnership for funding.

## **Cambridge East**

Marshalls, City Council, South Cambs and the Learning Skills Council have agreed to contribute to the consultancy costs of a study into secondary education provision at Cambridge East

## **Cambridgeshire Guided Busway**

The first sections of guideway track were placed on 3rd September at Longstanton.

The Long Road cycleway underpass was completed to programme under a full closure during the school holidays.

Work has started at Addenbrooke's Bridge, relocation of railway equipment has also begun at Cambridge Station. Junction works have also commenced in advance of the guided busway

## **Transport Innovation Fund**

Work on the development of the Transport Innovation Fund (including congestion charging) proposals is continuing. Consultation on the current proposals will commence in November.

## **Scrutiny Management**

Three of the pieces of work that will be undertaken by Scrutiny are – out of county placements of children and young people, rural passenger transport, the learning disability services and the IT contract for SWIFT.

## **Countryside paths**

The County Council looks after 1,900 miles of rights of way and works with landowners to keep them cut and clear of vegetation. The latest survey shows that 72% of paths were easy to use, up on the 60% figure of last year.

## **Inspection of Older Peoples Services**

Main conclusions include:

Some people are being served well but there is the capacity for the council to improve services.

Concern about the lack of co-ordination on IT between Health and Social Care.  
 Worries about not having a joined up assessment process  
 Too many people staying in hospital too long after treatment – prior to social care packages being in place.  
 Older people with mental health difficulties get a lesser range of services.  
 Occupational Therapy waiting times are too long.

## **Bottisham Village College**

The OFSTED Inspection team have classified the school as ‘good with many outstanding features’.

## **Housing completions 1999-2007**

Burwell	271
Reach	4
Swaffham Bulbeck	28
Swaffham Prior	3

It was interesting to note that Ely has had 2117 new homes completed only 200 less than the new town of Cambourne.

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

Chairman Mr John Covill chaired the meeting with 7 Parish Councillors. No members of the public were in attendance.

**Minutes of Meetings:** These were agreed.

**Reports:** CCC – Cllr Hazel Williams

ECDC – Cllr Allen Alderson

**Correspondence Received:** This was reported.

**Matters Arising (for information only)**

a) Andrew Camps reported that the bier in the Church was to be secured by the installation of ring and chain fixings.

**Update on Play Area:** It was agreed to instruct Anglian Playground Services to carry out the refurbishment work of the play area as reported in last month’s Crier. The majority of this work will be granted funded by ECDC. Minor maintenance items will be funded by the Parish Council. In addition to this and following consultation with the children at the School, prices are to be obtained for a roundabout to be installed as a new piece of equipment at a future date. The meeting thanked Steve Kent-Phillips for his hard work in putting the scheme package together and liaising with ECDC for grant funding.

**Road Safety Measures/Traffic Calming, Mill Hill:** The Clerk reported that Mill Hill was listed for consideration under CCC’s “Jointly Funded Minor Highways Improvement Schemes 2008/09” and “Traffic Management & Road Safety Schemes Programme 2008/09” at the East Cambridgeshire Traffic Management Area Joint Committee meeting on Monday, 15/10/07. Further report once the outcome of this



meeting is known.

**High Street – Signs & Naming:** Geoffrey Woollard presented to the meeting old maps and details showing that the south end of the High Street towards the bypass was originally known as Swaffham Bulbeck Road. It was generally agreed that this should be reinstated. ECDC were to be contacted to explain the foregoing and request that this be carried out.

With reference to the road signs, one sign was still to be removed. Awaiting reply from ECDC.

**The Lodes & The Fens:** Ongoing discussion. It was reported by Geoffrey Woollard that the petition against the proposals for the Lodes had now reached 920 signatures. A further consultation document from Halcrow is expected mid-November.

**Date for Budget/Precept Meeting:** It was agreed to add this to the agenda for the November PC meeting.

**Annual Review of Rent for Land South of B1102:** It was agreed that this would remain at £50.

**Purchase of New Litter Bin – Cage Hill:** The Clerk had spoken to ECDC about the replacement of the damaged litter bin at the bottom of Cage Hill. ECDC confirmed that as it was a litter bin they were responsible for emptying, the old one would be taken away and a new one installed at no cost to the Parish Council.

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

**Planning Applications:**

a) 18 Cage Hill – *single storey side extension*. No objections

**Planning Approvals:**

a) The Old Chapel, 68 High Street – *conversion of existing redundant chapel into 1 No 5 bed residence*.

**Planning Refusals:**

28 High Street – *total demolition of outbuildings*.

39 Cage Hill – *single storey attached garage with utility room to rear*.

**Items for the Next Agenda will include:**

Play Area Maintenance

The Lodes & The Fens

Mill Hill - Road Safety/Traffic Calming

High Street Signs & Naming

Low Cost Housing

**Clerk's notes for information:**

The footpath on Rogers Road has been 'slurry sealed'

The kerbing works at Lower End are complete with the works to the High Street ongoing.

The directional sign at the bottom of Rogers Road has been removed for repair.

**Open Question Time:**

No questions

**The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> November 2007 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**

**Karen King**



## Love in a Box!

WHAT WAS THE BEST CHRISTMAS GIFT YOU EVER GOT? The best presents aren't always the most expensive or the biggest – the best presents are the ones that are chosen carefully and given with love. I often don't leave myself enough time to put a lot of thought into my Christmas shopping, but things are a bit different this year. That's because at Lode Chapel we're taking part in the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child.

This involves us filling an ordinary shoe box with small toys, school supplies, sweets, and other gifts that can make a difference to needy children around the world. This small Christmas present sends a message of hope and makes the recipient child feel special and valued. Whether they are in a hospital, and orphanage, a refugee camp or in a homeless shelter they realise that someone, somewhere cares about them. Over the last 17 years more than 47 million children have received such gifts through Operation Christmas Child.

But the joy isn't just in the receiving - choosing gifts and then wrapping and filling a shoe box is a fun and rewarding activity for all the family – especially when you know these gifts are going to be used and treasured. But in order for the boxes to be ready to be hand delivered over the Christmas period we need to be filling our boxes now – and our final collection date is Sunday 18th November, when we shall be holding a special service at Lode Chapel (10.30am start).

Here are some ways that you are able to join us in Operation Christmas Child:

- Contact me (details below) and I'll send you a form with details of how to prepare your own box.
- Or visit the Lode Chapel website [www.lodechapel.org.uk](http://www.lodechapel.org.uk) and click on the link on the homepage in order to download the form directly.
- Alternatively, if you don't want to fill a box, but can provide any of the items below, then contact me so that we can arrange an opportunity for you to drop them off to me or to the Chapel.

✓ TOYS (something to love): bear, soft toy, tennis ball, finger puppet, jigsaw, yo-yo, building blocks, small musical instrument, trucks and cars, clip-on earrings, make-up, hair accessories etc.

✓ EDUCATIONAL SUPPLIES (something to do): felt pens, pens, pencils, pencil sharpener, rubber, colouring book, notepad, picture/puzzle book, chalk, pencil case, stickers etc.

✓ HYGIENE ITEMS (something to use): toothbrush, toothpaste, hairbrush, comb, hair clips, bar of wrapped soap, flannel etc.

✓ OTHER ITEMS (something to eat or wear): sweets with sell-by date at least March 08.

I don't know about you, Christmas seems to be more and more commercialised these days. Somehow being involved in something like this



helps us to recapture the real hope and joy which is found in the true meaning of Christmas – God’s gift of His Son, Jesus.

*Simon Goddard*

We welcome you to any of our services or other midweek activities.  
Morning Worship every Sunday at 10.30am with Sunday School,  
except for the 4th Sunday of each month when we hold our monthly mini-holiday club at Bottisham Primary School.

**Next 'Awesome' Sunday Club on 25th November.**

For more information please contact:  
Simon Goddard on 812881 or Peter Wells on 812388  
Lode Chapel, High Street, Lode, CB25 9EW.  
Email: [simon.goddard@lodechapel.org.uk](mailto:simon.goddard@lodechapel.org.uk)

Web: [www.lodechapel.org.uk](http://www.lodechapel.org.uk)

**Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish**

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

**FREECYCLE**

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](mailto: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:
Hewlett Packard inkjet printer surplus to requirement: DeskJet model 930C (will need new cartridges)		Graham Gillson, 01638 668170
Tippitoes doorway baby bouncer	Car booster seat (3yrs +) Lego	Jun Thompson, 01223 813362



## Church of England Services

### November 2007

	<b>ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior</b>	<b>ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck</b>	<b>Bottisham</b>
<b>Sun 4</b>	<b>11:00am</b> Holy Communion	<b>8:00am</b> Holy Communion <b>9:30am</b> Family Service	<b>11:00am</b> Family Service
<b>Sun 11</b>	<b>10.50am</b> Remembrance Service	<b>10.50am</b> Remembrance Service	<b>10.50am</b> Holy Communion
<b>Sun 18</b>	<b>8:00am</b> Holy Communion <b>11:00am</b> Family Service	<b>9:30am</b> Village Communion	<b>11:00am</b> Holy Communion
<b>Sun 25</b>	<b>11:00am</b> Matins	<b>9:30am</b> Holy Communion	<b>11:00am</b> Matins

#### **PASTORAL LETTER, November 2007**

#### **Bottisham Vicarage**

Dear Friends,

November is a time for remembering, and I have found myself remembering the story of Helen Keller.

Helen was born on 27 June 1880 in Tuscumbia in Northwest Alabama, USA. In February 1882, when she was nineteen months old, she fell ill, either from scarlet fever or meningitis. She was, for many days, expected to die. Miraculously she recovered, but it soon became apparent that the illness had left her both blind and deaf.

Locked in her strange and frustrating world of darkness and silence Helen became a very difficult child, smashing dishes and lamps and terrorising the whole household with her screaming and temper tantrums. Relatives regarded her as a monster and thought she should be put into an institution. In desperation, her parents consulted Alexander Graham Bell, the inventor of the telephone, who was especially concerned about the plight of deaf children.. Through Bell's efforts they were put in touch with a newly qualified specialist teacher, Anne Sullivan, who was herself

partially sighted.

On 3 March 1887 Anne arrived at the house in Tuscumbia and for the first time met Helen.. Anne immediately started teaching her to finger spell without much success. Helen was still a terrible handful, and Anne was forced to punish her tantrums by refusing to finger spell words to her. However, Helen's behaviour did begin to improve as a bond grew between the two. Then, after a month of Anne's teaching, a miracle occurred. Helen herself later described the moment:

*"We walked down the path to the well-house, attracted by the fragrance of the honey-suckle with which it was covered. Someone was drawing water and my teacher placed my hand under the spout. As the cool stream gushed over one hand she spelled into the other the word water, first slowly, then rapidly. I stood still, my whole attention fixed upon the motions of her fingers. Suddenly I felt a misty consciousness as of something forgotten, a thrill of returning thought, and somehow the mystery of language was revealed to me."*

From that moment Helen's hunger for words was insatiable, and within a few hours she learnt the spelling of 30 words. Her progress from then on was astonishing. Her ability to learn was far in advance of anything that anybody had seen before in someone without sight or hearing. It wasn't long before Anne was teaching Helen to read, firstly with raised letters and later with braille, and to write with both ordinary and braille typewriters.

Helen soon became famous, and was invited to visit President Cleveland at the White House. She joined the Cambridge School for Young Ladies in 1896 and in the Autumn of 1900 entered Radcliffe College, becoming the first deafblind person to have ever enrolled at an institution of higher learning.

Helen's first book "The Story of My Life" which was published in 1903. After that Helen and Anne spent a lot of time touring the world raising money for blind people. In 1931 they met King George and Queen Mary at Buckingham Palace, who were deeply impressed by Helen's ability to understand what people said through touching their lips and vocal cords.

In 1953 a documentary film "The Unconquered" was made about Helen's life, this was to win an Academy Award as the best feature length documentary. In 1957 the television play "The Miracle Worker" portraying all that Helen and Anne achieved together, first appeared in the United States. In 1959 it was re-written as a Broadway play and opened to rave reviews. It became a smash hit and ran for almost two years. In 1962 it was made into a film and the actresses playing Anne and Helen both received Oscars for their performances.

In 1964 Helen was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the USA's highest civilian award, by President Lyndon Johnson. A year later she was elected to the Women's Hall of Fame at the New York World's Fair.

Helen wrote in one of her books: *'I thank God for my handicaps, for through them, I have found myself, my work and my God.'* Her faith in God was without doubt at the very heart of her strength, her courage and her determination.

Perhaps you sometimes feel burdened down by life and by the difficulties you face – well remember Helen Keller, and her faith in God. Trust that God will help you through your difficulties as he helped Helen, and never give up hope.

May God bless you all.

**David**

## ***Dates for Your Diary* November 2007**

Thu	1	
Fri	2	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Tue	6	Mobile Library Cage Hill: 15.05-15.45, Chapel: 15.50-16-10
Wed	7	Reading Group, Kent House, 8pm
Thu	8	PC Meeting, 7.30 VH
Sun	18	<b><i>Crier Copy Deadline</i></b>
Mon	19	WI Waitrose Trip for Cheese Demo
Tue	20	Village Gardeners, VH, 8pm Mobile Library Cage Hill: 15.05-15.45, Chapel: 15.50-16-10
Sat	1	Closing Date for Gay Bulleid Award VILLAGE VARIETY SHOW, 7.30pm VH
	2	Advent by Candlelight, 4pm, St Mary's + St. Cyriac's

<b>Club</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Tel.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Place</b>
<b>FOSPS</b>	<b>Clare Freeman</b>	<b>741316</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Mon of Term</b>	<b>8pm</b>	<b>Village School</b>
<b>Baby &amp; Toddlers</b>	<b>Fleur Routley</b>	<b>743992</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>9.30-11.30am</b>	<b>Village Hall</b>
<b>Jamsing</b>	<b>Jo Pumfrey</b>	<b>741376</b>	<b>Tues (term)</b>	<b>9.20-12</b>	<b>Village Hall</b>
<b>Cubs</b>	<b>Andrew Noyes</b>	<b>743864</b>	<b>Weds (term)</b>	<b>6:00-7:30pm</b>	<b>Village School</b>
<b>Reading Group</b>	<b>Brenda Wilson</b>	<b>743937</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Weds of month</b>	<b>8:00pm</b>	<b>(See Crier)</b>
<b>Scouts</b>	<b>Andrew Noyes</b>	<b>743864</b>	<b>Weds (term)</b>	<b>7:45-9:15pm</b>	<b>Village School</b>
<b>Village Gardeners</b>	<b>Margaret Joyce</b>	<b>744390</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Tues of month</b>	<b>8:00pm</b>	<b>Village Hall</b>
<b>WI</b>	<b>Margaret Phillips</b>	<b>741495</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Mon of month</b>	<b>7.30 pm</b>	<b>Village Hall</b>
<b>Youth Club</b>	<b>Alan Badcock</b>	<b>742228</b>	<b>Tues</b>	<b>7-8:30pm</b>	<b>Youth Club Hut</b>
			<b>Thurs</b>	<b>7-10:00pm</b>	

***Village  
Clubs  
&  
Societies***