



# The Swaffham Crier

Volume XXXVII Number 12

December 2013



## Editorial

Christmas 2013, and what better time to get out and about in our lovely village to share in the festivities. As usual, the Grand Opening will be Advent by Candlelight on the 1st of December and if you've

never been to this feast of music and poetry set in the atmospheric surrounding of our two lovely churches in the fading light of a late December afternoon, then you're missing a treat!. This year, there'll be another event shortly before: due to great demand for her delightful History of Swaffham Prior, Sylvie Short will be signing and selling her book in St Mary's from 1pm.

Then there's the Carols: you can take your choice of the traditional candlelit service at the church, or the one at the village hall with the traditional Mulled Wine: this used to be served to the Carol Singers *after* a long stint in the freezing cold of the village streets, but now we find things go a lot more swimmingly if we start with this and don't actually venture out at all....

Moving on: Boxing Day Hockey at Bulbeck Denny: if you have a full house on Christmas Day, nothing could be better than to boot everybody out on Boxing Day morning for a brisk stroll down to Bulbeck to cheer on our side. And finally, our Winter Walk, where the going might have been said to have been on the *soft to heavy* side last year, but we're hoping for better things and softies can always cheat by taking a short cut on the road.

Many condolences to our Skye Poet, Ophir, who lost his wife Edna in November. Many villagers have extremely happy memories of her, and we hope to hear more.

Wishing all our readers a Very Happy Christmas from all of us at the Crier Team, and don't forget **14 December** *early copy date for January!*

**Caroline Matheson**

**Cover Picture: A Christmas Card by Aubrey Beardsley**

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## Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

### **Roger's Road Names**

Two proposed names for the new Rogers Road access roads:

For the upper most road: 'Escarpment Way' I propose this because it is a little known fact that Swaffham Prior was settled into the shelter of the chalk escarpment that runs along top of the entire village. This is now all but built over and forgotten.

For the lower most road: 'Bulleid Road' To mirror the escarpment that runs the top of the village, there was once a railway at the bottom. This year there was a historic reunion of great Bulleid A4 locomotives at York. I understand that the great late Oliver Bulleid has family in the village?

Best Wishes,

*Douglas Bourne*

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Dear Editors,

### **Witt's End**

Further to Geoffrey Woollard's account of his family connections in the village, when writing the church guide some years ago I came across a reference to an Ernest Edwin "de Witt", an Eton and Cambridge educated lawyer, whose hobby had been translating English hymns into Latin verse. The vicar recorded that the family had lived in Swaffham Prior Hall before the house was divided for multiple occupation, and this was presumably the home of the eminent Dr. George Witt.

I should like, in all seriousness, to endorse Ophir Catling's suggestion that one of the roads in the new development could be named "Witt's End". Not only is it a witty name, but also some Witt family members were clearly possessed of good wits.

Moreover, as an incomer to Cambridgeshire I have noticed the frequent use of the word End to describe roads or parts of a settlement (for example Green End in Fen Ditton, Frog End in Shepreth and of course our own Lower End - once known as Bottom End). It would perpetuate a local custom and be no more arcane than Pulpit Corner.

*Elisabeth Everitt*

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Dear Editors,

### **Quiz Night**

We would like to thank everyone who attended the quiz last month. Thank you to Linda, Shirley, Sheila and Jo who once again helped with the food and in the kitchen, we do appreciate your help.

Thank you to Andrew for being our quiz master and to April who organised the raffle, and also to those who donated prizes. Congratulations to Quizzimodo who won. We raised £270 for St. Mary's Church, thank you. We have no date as yet for our next quiz, but keep watching this space and we will let you know soon.

*Lynne and Jenny*

# SUNDAY DECEMBER 1st

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

## Cambridge Voices

and readers from the parish  
present poetry and prose by

William Blake Edwin Muir  
Shakespeare W.H. Auden  
Dorothy Parker

Music by

Verdi Britten Bach  
Berlioz Saint-Saëns  
Elgar De Massini

£8 Admission (children free)  
in aid of EMMAUS



*Candlelight*

## From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

There were strangers in the public gallery at the last meeting. Mr Clive Riggs had written a letter, with photograph, complaining about the parking by Burwell Tigers in Station Road during their Sunday matches. Mr O'Rourke came to represent the Tigers. The problem is caused because sometimes there can be three matches on a Sunday - at 10, 12 and 2.00pm - and when this occurs there is insufficient room in the car park. Therefore people park on the verge, which not only damages the verge, but makes it difficult for those vast lorries to pass. It seems the car park itself is only suitable for 25 cars even though some whiz kid of a draughtsman had drawn in 50 spaces. Mr O'Rourke explained that they had asked the match organisers if they could arrange two home and two away matches, but the request had been ignored.



So, what comments or help could the PC offer bearing in mind that most appeared to say what a wonderful job the Tigers were doing for the young, how glad they were that the football field was being used again (without costing us a penny), BUT. And it was a big BUT. Get it sorted, the Tigers were told.

However the PC did come up with what they thought were useful suggestions. Geoffrey led the charge and suggested that someone should phone the police, because that would frighten them off. Lots of other points were made and during this Geoffrey kept returning to the need for the police as if it was a case of mole catchers after vermin. I don't think he would have objected to the police turning up on riot gear, shields and tasers. No one else shared his enthusiasm though this didn't stop Geoffrey continuing to think it was the only good idea.

One suggestion was that there should be a "share a car scheme". This was considered a non-starter. It was suggested that the Tigers hire a parking attendant who would direct all those to the Village Hall Car Park who tried to park on the verge. They could then walk down to the football ground, and back, after the match. This had been preceded by the idea that everyone should be given a ticket allotting them a space either on the football ground car park or at the village hall, and woe betides anyone trying to park with the wrong ticket. This was deemed impossible as the problem mainly occurs with away teams. It was suggested Tigers should move one of the Pavilions (just like that!) to create more space.

Repeatedly, to show they were good guys at heart, members said how pleased the Tigers were in the village, BUT, by the time of the next meeting the Tigers have to come up with a solution. Later in the meeting Steve came up with what I thought was the only helpful idea. Under the CCC minor road improvement scheme Swaffham Prior can apply for minor road changes providing we make a contribution to the cost, which we can do from a fund that had been given to the village for traffic improvements. Providing we own the land of the droves we could ask for a lengthy lay bye opposite the football ground. He obtained permission to make the application but NOT for a lay bye. Both Geoffrey and Peter Hart stipulated that it must only be for a passing place. The rest of the PC appeared to go along with this. As for the ownership of the droves, many years back when Henry Hardiment was Chairman of the PC, there was a half hearted attempt to discover the ownership but it rapidly sank

into the sand. Anyone wishing to discover more, and with much self-sacrificing tenacity, could crawl through previous *Criers* - or ask Eric Day, who was on the PC at the time, because he may remember the details.

As for the photograph this does appear to be damning just as the mocked up photograph of wheelie bins looked absolutely dreadful and, as was said at the time, they "would destroy our pretty village." They haven't, have they? I haven't been down Station Road on a Sunday to witness how bad or how often there is a serious problem, especially with large lorries. Of course when large lorries first started coming through the village in numbers to Lord's Ground, there was quite an uproar. But we have learned to live with them.

I have given a very inadequate picture of just how emotionally involved so many of the PC members became, and just how voluble they were. They became so excited and agitated that at one point even Paul tried to calm them down and to become more reasonable. The result was that the rest of the meeting was quite tame even though the members did chat and giggle away gaily. In fact there was so little of real substance to report that I shall just pick through a few bits and pieces.

Inevitably wheelie bins came up but only minor irritations. Two bins had been left outside James Chesterman's house, had not been moved since delivery and all assumed that they were not James's, though no-one appears to have asked him. Someone thought it a good idea to put them on his parking place —just to help him. There was also a puzzled moan because the bin of No 34 the High Street had been emptied but not those of Nos 32 and 30, even though they were all put on the pavement at the same time. Being very conscientious No 30 went through the contents of her bin to ensure that nothing unauthorised had been included. It must have been like living the last fourteen days of your life again as the various pieces of detritus would bring back memories, both good and bad.

Allen suggested that if anyone has a real problem they should not use the help line, but ask for Dave White - the Waste Supremo. I bet Dave White will be grateful for that bit of advice. Geoffrey didn't think much of Dave White and, having recently attended a meeting in Soham, he reported that Soham has a problem with Dave White as he had failed to turn up to a meeting. Meantime I find it very interesting that after all the bellyaching and predictions of disaster from so many on the PC and others about the introduction of wheelie bins that there has not been any general comment about them apart from a few niggles. Everyone I have spoken to, and these are mainly aged, think, if I may summarise, that "they are rather good".

Our lovely Kelly has retained the grass-cutting contract for another three years; in the first six months the PC was £41 over budget; the precept will remain the same for the fourth year running.

Since writing the above I went down Station Road last Sunday and it was as quiet as a grave. I wonder how often there is a crisis. Maybe this should be monitored and the facts given to the PC. I have also been on the Burwell Tigers website. They run 15 teams, including 3 for girls and many more for the under 8s through to the under 17s. What a service to the community and to our children. The website is worth a visit.

*Alastair Everitt*

Get in the Christmas spirit with the

# Village Carols

Wednesday 18 December

Swaffham Prior Village Hall

Doors open 6.30pm, singing lots of old favourites from  
6.45pm-7.30pm (approx)



Singing ability not required – just bring your enthusiasm!

Free mulled wine and mince pies

**Everyone welcome**

Boxing Day Hockey Match  
**SWAFFHAM PRIOR**  
VS  
**SWAFFHAM BULBECK**

The Denny, Swaffham Bulbeck

10.45 am (10.30 am players)

COME AND SUPPORT SWAFFHAM PRIOR!!



Mulled wine and sausages will be  
on sale this year

All proceeds to MAGPAS

Contact Will Kingsmill if you need  
further information or if you would  
like to play in the winning team!

01638 742482

([kingsmills@btconnect.com](mailto:kingsmills@btconnect.com))

**Swaffham Prior**  
**VILLAGE CAROL SERVICE**

on  
SUNDAY DECEMBER 15th at 4.30pm  
in  
St Mary's Church

**ALL WELCOME**

*Hear the Christmas story*  
*Sing the traditional Carols*



# Tautology

Is Tautology, today,  
    being taught?  
There's too much about,  
    I'd have thought;  
It's not really required,  
    although people use it.  
English Grammar's first-rate  
    if folk don't abuse it

For Tautology is rife,  
    widespread & prevalent!  
Whenever I hear it,  
    I feel somewhat malevolent.  
To explain: 'repetitive adjectives'  
    used by the savant  
Is copied by peasant,  
    presenter and pedant.

For instance, I've heard  
    *"steaming, warm, hot cup of tea"*  
And, *"A lot more moister"*  
    on TV's 'Cookery'.  
I've heard, *"before the weather*  
    *changes again once more"*  
And in 'Coast': *"the tide ebbs and flows,*  
    *to and from our shore"*.

I've heard: *"huge great big bones*  
    *articulated together;*  
and *"one whole year has passed*  
    *since she won a year ago"*. ble-  
ther.  
And so many more;  
    I can't list them here,  
But I hope from the above,  
    I've made my plaint clear.

*Ophir*



Join our  
**WINTER WALK**  
( guided approximately 6miles )  
on  
**Monday DECEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup> AT 10am**  
From  
**St Cyriac's Church Swaffham Prior**

Adults £10 . To include Soup & Ploughmans Lunch

For more details and to book your place by 27<sup>th</sup> December contact  
Elizabeth Everitt 01638 742974  
Francis Reeks 01638 743693  
Email [a.e.everitt@btinternet.com](mailto:a.e.everitt@btinternet.com)



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**Two Churches Together**  
**By Sylvie Short**  
**Missed the Launch? Never Mind!**  
**Sylvie will be at**  
**St. Mary's Church**  
**To Sell and Sign Copies**  
**On Advent Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> December**  
**From 1.00 to 3.30 p.m.**  
**She'd love to see you.**

## News from Bottisham Patients' Group

The Saturday 'Flu Clinics in October and November were clearly a welcome innovation for many patients, some of whom went away not only with a slightly sore arm but a prize from the Patients' Group Tombola which raised some useful funds for the Group. We are grateful to members who helped with our stall and assisted patients when needed. If you have been away and not noticed the exhortations to 'get a 'flu jab', it's not too late. Just phone the surgery on 01223 810030 for an appointment.

### NHS changes

Information and consultations are landing in the Patients' Group inbox almost daily from the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group (can we have a shorter name please?) to implement the changes consequent on the reorganisation of the NHS last April. Some of them are in such jargon-heavy language which even the most 'engaged' patient cannot understand. At the Cam Health Patient Forum we are lobbying persistently for a more patient friendly approach to language used in these communications. At present being involved in patient participation is like being invited to a party where most people are speaking ancient Greek! However we are determined to have a Bottisham voice in the consultations and attended two meetings in late November at Wood Green, about Older People's Health Services and the government's 'Call to Action' to consult on the challenges facing Primary Care. We will report what we heard to you after Christmas.

### NHS 111 Service in Cambridgeshire

Final approval to launch this service following strict quality assurance testing and approval from the Area Team and NHS England Central Team was received in early November. From **12 November 2013** the 111 service was established to take calls from NHS Direct GPs' practices who currently use Urgent Care Cambridgeshire as their out-of-hours provider (that includes Bottisham Medical Practice) and anyone dialling 111 from a landline or a mobile. It is likely that the 0845 46 47 NHS Direct number will be closed down in the near future subject to approval from NHS England. Dialling 111 will get you through to a team of fully trained call advisers, who are supported by experienced nurses and paramedics. They will ask you questions to assess your symptoms, and give you the healthcare advice you need or direct you to the right local service. The NHS 111 team will, where possible, book you an appointment or transfer you directly to the people you need to speak to. If they think you need an ambulance, they will send one immediately – just as if you had originally dialled 999. You should use the NHS 111 service if you need medical help or advice urgently but it's not a life-threatening situation: it's not a 999 emergency; you don't think you can wait for an appointment with your GP; or you don't know who to call for medical help. For less urgent health needs, you should still contact your GP in the usual way. For immediate, life-threatening emergencies, you should continue to call 999.

### **Extending Patient Participation locally**

On 15<sup>th</sup> October the Group's Chair (Sylvia Thomson) and Secretary (Jenny Langdon) attended a conference in Stevenage run by the National Association for Patient Participation (NAPP) to gather some inspiration and ideas for making our Patients' Group more effective. Two local PPGs have engaged young people in their Groups by offering a place on their committees to an 18/19 year old who is on a year out of education before taking up a place at Medical School. This gives them a valuable insight into general practice as well as patient participation. If you are such a young person, or you know someone who is, please contact Jenny on [patients-group@outlook.com](mailto:patients-group@outlook.com) to find out more about what is involved.

### **Keep warm this winter**

The government's advice on getting ready for winter aims to reduce cold-related illness and deaths. Tips include:

Keep your home warm. Your main living room should be between around 18-21C (65-70F) and the rest of the house at a minimum of 16C (61F). You can also use a hot-water bottle or electric blanket (but not both at the same time) to keep warm while you're in bed [bed socks may not be a fashion trend but are also a good idea!]

Eat well. Food is a vital source of energy, which helps to keep your body warm. Try to make sure that you have hot meals and drinks regularly throughout the day and keep active in the home if you can.

Wrap up warm, inside and out. Layer your clothing to stay warm and wear shoes with a good grip if you need to go outside. If possible, stay inside during a cold period if you have heart or respiratory problems.

Check on older neighbours or relatives to make sure they're safe and well. Make sure they're warm enough, especially at night, and have stocks of food and medicines so they don't need to go out during very cold weather. If you're worried about a relative or an elderly neighbour, contact Adult Social Services at the County Council on 0345 0455202 or ring the Age UK helpline on 0800 009966 – both free.

There is more detailed advice online at <http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/winterhealth/Pages/KeepWarmKeepWell.aspx>

### **Walking Group**

Our Walking for Health Group now has a good number of walkers. Come and join them on the **NEXT WALKS: Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December**

Meet at 11.00 am at the Surgery

Go to [www.bottishammedicalpractice.nhs.uk/ppg.aspx](http://www.bottishammedicalpractice.nhs.uk/ppg.aspx) for more details

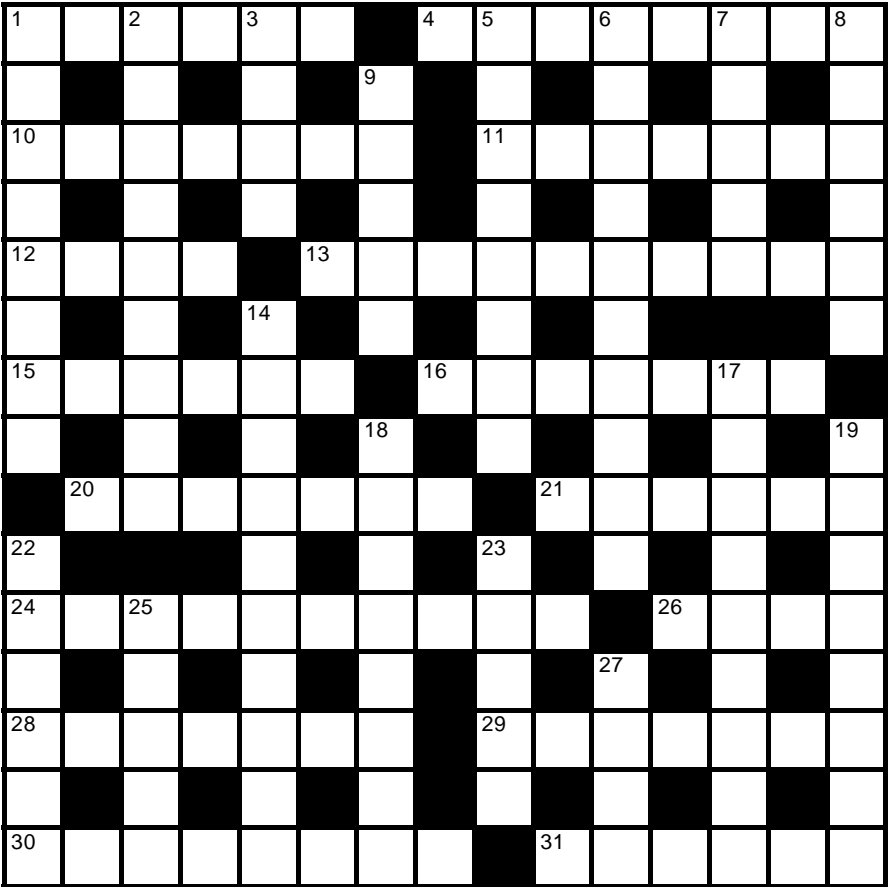
# Crossword Number 106

Compiled by

Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

**NIBOR**

This month's puzzle is a simple cryptic crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 14th December 2013. The first correct solution out of the hat will win a free meal for two at the Red Lion—See the Manager at the pub for full details.



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

## Across

- 1 He acts silently with Papa in audition (6)
- 4 Dignity of navigators at sea? no! no! (8)
- 10 One small pixie... emphatically one (7)
- 11 Isn't bud trashed and put in this container? (7)
- 12 It's found in a virtuoso solo, OK (2-2)
- 13 Favourable for mine debts (10)
- 15 Surge from our NHS, tragically (6)
- 16 Punishment for finding wrong river (7)
- 20 Deadlock because I'm old fashioned (7)
- 21 Arcade built from wood with a soldier inside (6)
- 24 Paralysis caused by rag appeal I arranged (10)
- 26 On a crest (4)
- 28 Crush paperwork first (7)
- 29 A rod way out on the high street (7)
- 30 Can get carbon with middle eastern river colour (8)
- 31 Advocate holy water, mixed but not hot (6)
- 8 South African shelter is most sensible (6)
- 9 A loud rage is burning (5)
- 14 Mat Spencer struggles to find the cliff (10)
- 17 Girth is found at once (5,4)
- 18 Examiner bypasses sorrowful contents (8)
- 19 Extra pay adjusted for this upright citizen (8)
- 22 Leave pot (3,3)
- 23 Do I always remember your first journal? (5)
- 25 Mature grip ends inside (5)
- 27 American girl goes to a fete (4)

## Down

- 1 Hoots mon! make it a lunar trip (4,4)
- 2 Moslem art transformed whirlpool (9)
- 3 Siberian person is not odd (4)
- 5 Sweetheart in colourful manoeuvre? assign to new task (8)
- 6 Put it at the centre of perception for examination (10)
- 7 It is forbidden also around sailor (5)

## Solution to crossword no. 105

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

We congratulate Tansy Budd, the winner of last month's competition, who should collect her prize certificate from the editors.



## News from Bottisham Players

Can you believe it, we are rehearsing for Panto time! Oh yes we are! Our rehearsals for Pinocchio are going well and our director Pam Daish is very pleased with the way rehearsals are going, the team of principals and chorus are working hard and the back stage crew are busy preparing the scenery to capture the excitement of Pantoland. Why not treat your family to a Christmas present of tickets for our performances in January to help you through the winter blues, come and see if Fairy Powder Puff can keep that wicked Wander from spoiling the show and can Madame Stromboli trick Pinocchio into dancing in her show, we even have Barbie Botox wailing in a whale, and poor Jiminy! will he win the

heart of Polly Patchwork?

Tickets can be purchased at the usual places, Tina's of Burwell, Bottisham Post Office and Chris Clarke Hairdressing: prices £7.50; with concessions at all performances £5.50.

Performance dates Thursday 23rd January – Saturday 25th January 2014 7.30pm with a matinee at 4.30 on Saturday 25th.

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## Adult Social Care news - Information events for carers

The local Carers Support Team will be running information stands on the following dates to provide information on benefits and the support and services available to carers living in Cambridgeshire:

- March Christmas Market - 8th December, 10.00am - 4.30pm
- Wisbech Christmas Market - 16th December, 10.00am - 4.30pm

If you require further information about the events or Carer's Rights Day this is available on our website at:

<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/CMSWebsite/Apps/News/Details.aspx?ref=1198>

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## Stagecoach Busway Service A

On 8 Dec the Chatteris/Ramsey/Somersham - St Ives P&R - Longstanton - Cambridge – Addenbrooke's - Trumpington P&R stop in Somersham will move from High Street, opp Parkhall Road, to High Street, King Street .

Full details and copies of the timetable can be obtained by contacting Stagecoach directly on 01480 453159, [fenland.enquiries@stagecoachbus.com](mailto:fenland.enquiries@stagecoachbus.com) or [www.thebusway.info](http://www.thebusway.info)

## **Samaritan's Purse, Christmas Shoe Box Appeal Anglesey Benefice Packing at St Cyriac's Church**

Thank you to everyone who turned up to help pack and to all of you who donated so many wonderful items for our second annual Benefice Shoe Box pack, it was an amazing day and we were all delighted with an incredible total of over 130 completed boxes, at time of writing one or two are still trickling in.

We were extremely grateful to everyone who donated cash so generously towards the shipping costs and the proceeds from the cafe helped enormously to this end as well.

I had the opportunity to visit our area packing warehouse at the end of November and as you can see from the photos it was a hive of activity the day I was there - over 3,000 boxes were checked and cleared that day alone. Marvellous volunteers doing a fantastic job helping our boxes on their way. This year the destination is firstly Liberia and then after that Kyrgyzstan, which was where our boxes went to last year (or more accurately the beginning of this year as the mountainous terrain and harsh winter conditions prevent them being delivered any earlier).

This is a wonderful opportunity to spread a bit of happiness to children in countries where they would otherwise get very little, if anything, at Christmas - it's been labelled "Love in a Box", which I think is a most fitting phrase. Thank you again for helping us to achieve such a remarkable contribution.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas, and with every good wish for a peaceful, healthy and happy New Year.

***Janet Willmott***





## **Trim Trail Celebration - Wednesday 20th November at 9.00am**

On a fairly wet November morning Sir Michael Marshall with members of Friends of Swaffham Prior School (FoSPS) cut a ribbon to officially 're-open' the Trim Trail. FoSPS together with a generous donation from Marshall helped resurface and refurbish the much loved Trim Trail. The children love the new surface and it will now allow them to play on it every day.

*Emma Fletcher*







## *School News*



The Pumpkin Parade took place on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October and yet again illustrated enormous creativity and clever designs! The standard of presentation was very high and we were treated to pumpkins disguised as witches, a fish tank, a birthday cake, a collection of scary faces and spooky cats, houses, a ballet dancer, an octopus, a baby, Pudsey Bear and John Lennon. Many were carefully painted and a couple were covered in bandages! FoSPS awarded prizes to all and made special mention of pumpkins created by Elizabeth, Gabriel, Freddie, Lucy, Jack and Olivia. Well done to all who brought pumpkins in. We very much enjoyed looking at them!

Grounds Day took place on the last Friday of half term and we managed to avoid the rain which was forecast. We were joined by parents, carers and members of staff and their partners and set to with rakes, spades, trowels and brooms. Throughout the day children and adults worked alongside each other to replant tubs and planters, cut back shrubs, clear leaves, and generally tidy the school grounds. The grounds now look wonderful!

The Reading River challenge over half term proved to be very popular and successful. Children and adults in school recorded in many creative forms, the reading they have been doing. Reading texts range from books and magazines to cereal packets, information leaflets, train tickets and recipes. All are valuable forms of reading and we have enjoyed looking at the variety. The Reading Rivers are up in school. Please come and have a look if you have the opportunity.

Bikeability has taken place and 15 children from Years 5 and 6 completed their Level 2 in cycling competency. They had to learn a variety of skills, including riding with one hand, so that they could signal with the other. The instructors commented on how well they behaved and how sensible they were when cycling out on the road. Well done to the group for their successful cycling!

We collected 59 boxes in total for Operation Christmas Child which is a wonderful amount considering the size of our school. The man collecting the boxes explained that they would be going to Liberia this year.

Children and staff arrived at school on 15<sup>th</sup> November in an array of 'onesies' and pyjamas to celebrate and raise money for 'Children in Need'. School Council are to be congratulated for successfully organising the events for the day which included the dressing-up, covering a Pudsey face in coins and selling wristbands. The total raised from dressing-up alone, was an incredible £98.10.

We are now moving towards December and all thoughts are moving towards the Christmas celebrations. We have Anti-Bullying week first and then, Decoration Day, the Christmas Fair, KS1 performances, the Happy Puzzle Company, Christmas lunch, Christmas parties, Father Christmas and our Christmas celebration at St Mary's...Phew!

***Hannah Curtis***  
Head teacher



**Swaffham Prior children had a busy October, with a Pumpkin Parade, Grounds Day and raising money for Children in Need**

## WI Notes

At the November meeting the speaker was Ute Towriss who came to talk to us about the Mark Towriss Bursary Fund. As a GP at the Bottisham surgery Mark had a keen interest in medical education and after visiting his daughter who was working in rural Uganda was struck by the lack of GP facilities and wished to find a supportive link to an East African primary healthcare centre. Sadly Mark died suddenly at the age of 54 and the Bursary Fund has been established to fulfil his wish by funding doctors through their training in Family Medicine. Ute made us think how fortunate we are with our own healthcare system!

In December we will be having our Christmas Party for members on 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 7pm. This will follow the same format as last year with members bringing food for the buffet supper and wine and entertainment being provided by the committee. In January we meet on 20<sup>th</sup> when the speaker will be Steve Jones talking about the Cambridgeshire Bobby Scheme.

New members and occasional visitors are always welcome at our regular meetings which are on the third Monday of the month in Swaffham Prior Village Hall at 7:30 so come along and see if you would like to join our friendly group or telephone if you would like more information.

***Pat Cook - President***

Tel: 01638 742224



## Mothers' Union

At our last meeting Alison Blair-Underwood gave us an interesting talk about The Chapel of St. Mary Magdalene, known as The Leper Chapel, where she is the vergier. This dates back to the 12th century and is thought to be the oldest complete building in Cambridge.

The Chapel has an interesting and well documented history. It was originally built as part of an isolation hospital for lepers and has survived for so long mainly because of its association with Stourbridge Fair.

This Fair began in the 12th century and in 1211 King John granted a Charter to the Leper Hospital allowing it to hold a fair every September on land near to the Leper Chapel. Rent from the stalls added to the hospital's income. The Fair grew to become one of the largest in Europe by the 18th century, with people gaining access by river to buy and sell their produce.

By 1279 the hospital ceased to admit lepers and the Chapel became a free chapel not attached to any particular parish. A decline in leprosy couldn't have been the sole reason for this as a new leper hospital was built in Cambridge in 1361. The growing size of the Fair and the wealth it created may have been a more important factor.

The Chapel, now part of the parish of the Holy Cross, is not just used at the present time for services but also for musical events, theatre and art exhibitions etc., and even to-day a community fair is held to celebrate the Chapel's history.

***Anne Phoenix***





## VILLAGE GARDENERS

At our November meeting Rob Brett, from the Sainsbury Laboratory in the University Botanic Gardens, led us on another thought-provoking evening 'Changing the World through Plants'. Rob explained the need for people to make a connection to plants – to appreciate them and their value in our lives and to appreciate the balance between environmental and developmental needs in the world. He told us that the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992 was the first time that these needs had been discussed globally. People need educating to understand the meaning of biodiversity and sustainability, especially in the light of global warming and climate change. They need to 'think globally and act locally'.

After training at Kew Rob worked for several years as a Horticultural Curator at the Eden Project. He showed slides of the development of this project from an old clay mining pit to the huge resource it now is, housing much more than the 'largest rainforest in captivity'! The motivation behind the idea was precisely to educate people to, while thinking globally, at least create their personal small 'Eden'. The Eden Project now receives a million visitors a year and in the last nine years has brought over £1 billion to the Cornish economy.

Now in Cambridge, Rob described how a 'Green Audit' has been done of the Botanic Gardens – might men with mowing machines yet be replaced by sheep and cows? Rob's enthusiasm for the subject and his work shone through a very original and stimulating evening.

Our next meeting will be on 21 January, as usual at 8pm in the Village Hall, when Andrew Sankey will talk on 'Six of the Best', showing us around some less-familiar gardens.

*Mary Hart*

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## Bottisham & Burwell Photographic Club

The weekend of 19/20 October 2013 saw the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Bottisham & Burwell Photographic Club and an Exhibition was held to celebrate this event at Mandeville Hall in Burwell. The Exhibition was officially opened on the Saturday by Keith Hephell, senior News Photographer at Cambridge News Ltd who selected a print by Helen McMenamin-Smith entitled 'Watching' as best in show. The Exhibition was very well supported with over one hundred people attending on each of the two days. The display of more than two hundred photographs, together with a digital presentation, covered a diverse range of subjects.

Amongst the visitors on Saturday was the President of the EAF (East Anglian Photographic Federation of Photographic Societies) Mrs Sue Dobson CPAGB APAGB, the umbrella organisation of 120 photographic clubs in the East Anglian area. During Sunday three former Presidents together with the President Elect of the EAF attended. The Exhibition proved to be very successful and visitors commented

...



on the high quality of the work.

For those of you interested in photography, our forthcoming event at the club is:

**28 January 2014**

‘Images of India’ digital presentation by David Steel of Cambridge Camera Club.

**Annual Subscriptions:**

Adult £30.00, Joint Membership £50.00, Student £15.00, plus a weekly fee of 50p.

Visitors are welcome to attend any meeting, fee £2.00 (including refreshments), refunded on joining.

**Secretary:** Daphne Hanson CPAGB APAGB

T: 01638 741106

[www.bottburpc.org](http://www.bottburpc.org).

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## **News from Wicken Fen and Anglesey Abbey**

As the year draws to a close its time to reflect of what has been a fantastic year for wildlife. After last years disaster, cuckoos successfully bred on the Fen this year, along with bittern for only the second recorded time. Other breeding success included marsh harriers and bearded-tits in the reedbeds, avocets on Tubney Fen, and stonechats, the only recorded place in Cambridgeshire where stonechats bred. This year hen harriers returned from the summer breeding grounds relatively earlier in October, and it's not un-common to see up to five harriers coming into roost on Sedge Fen at dusk.

Down at Anglesey Abbey, Head Gardener, Richard Todd, chalked up 40 years of service with the National Trust on 12 November - all of which has been spent at



Anglesey Abbey. Not only has Richard been inspirational in maintaining and developing the gardens, but also in recent years developing our wider community engagement, particularly with children and adults with learning or mental health issues. It is perhaps fitting that on the day Richard notched up his 40 years news broke that Cambridge based mental health charity, Squeaky Gate, have been accepted for a show garden at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2014. Anglesey Abbey will be looking after many of the plants that will be used for the garden making sure they arrive at Chelsea in peak condition – so its fingers crossed for Gold Medal in 2014.

Now the House has closed for the season, builders are now on-site as we restore the domestic wing of Anglesey Abbey, in preparation for its opening to visitors in 2014. If all goes to plan building work should be completed in February, with the rooms then being dressed to re-create life below stairs in the 1960's.

To bring these rooms alive for our visitors we are now looking to recruit a team of **Encounter Volunteers**, who will be at the heart of this new experience. It's an exciting role – answering questions and encouraging visitors to get involved, giving demonstrations, storytelling, preparing rooms for opening, to cleaning the rooms using period methods and products – like Vim or Zebo - to excite the senses and really set the scene for our visitors. We are also looking to recruit a team of **Craft and Sowing Volunteers**. Initially you will be working with a professional theatre designer, to help create, alter or repair a number of items and props in preparation for the opening of the domestic rooms. There will be an on-going role to repair and help develop new exhibits to keep the experience fresh for our visitors. If your interested please contact Volunteer Manager, David Craig on 01223 810089 e-mail [david.craig@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:david.craig@nationaltrust.org.uk) We are also holding a couple of Volunteer Open Days on Saturday's 18 and 25 January (10am -1pm in the Robinson Room, in the main Visitor Centre), where you can discover more about volunteering not only in the Domestic Wing, but also other areas of the property such as Lode Mill.

Whilst the House has closed for its deep clean over the winter months, we are running behind the scenes **Conservation Tours**. Discover the tools of the trade and watch our conservators at work cleaning paintings, books and furniture and discover how we deal with woodworm damage to the legs of the sixteenth century dining table. Conservation Tours run on Tuesday– Friday until 31 December at 12noon & 1.30pm. Tickets (£3.50 / NT Members Free) are available on the day from Visitor Reception.

Our **Winter Lights Festival** runs over three weekends from Friday 29 November –Sunday 15 December. Tickets (£10.50 adults, £7.50 child or £32 family ticket) are available on 0844 249 1895 or online by following the links from the Events page of our website [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/angleseyabbey](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/angleseyabbey) Tickets for a number of sessions have already sold-out, so please book early to avoid disappointment.

Finally, **Father Christmas** makes his annual visit to Wicken Fen, on Saturday & Sunday, 7 – 22 December, with timed tickets from 10.30am. Tickets (£6.95 per child including present) are available from the Visitor Centre on 01353 720274 – advance booking essential.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY BOTANIC GARDENS  
**Bare branches still leave delicate trceries**

In the dark days of December, much of the animal world is tucked away asleep – newts under logs and plant pots, toads in the mud, hedgehogs in the brush of a spinney, bats crammed into packed roosts between bricks and rafters.

Most plants go into a state of dormancy before the deep winter conditions arrive, brought on in reaction to the decreasing day length and drops in temperature – rather wonderful to think that an organism with no brain, nervous system or memory to draw on can predict and prepare for the onset of winter.

The most obvious stage is autumn leaf drop, and the final flags of red and yellow will be shed this month. Leaf drop is a triumph of plant signalling, the final farewell in a process that began way back in the spring. As leaf buds broke in response to spring's warmth and sun, the leaf stalks stretched out from the leaf petiole. A special layer, called the abscission layer, formed at this junction comprising cells that remain conjoined when the plant is 'making hay while the sun shines' and flows of the plant hormone, auxin, remain steady through the leaf and in the body of the plant. But in autumn, as the plant reduces the production of green-pigmented chlorophyll essential to photosynthesis in response to the drop in sunlight, the auxin flow from the leaf also decreases or stops. This prompts the cells in the abscission layer to elongate and break, setting the leaf free to float down or indeed the ripe fruit to fall to the ground. It also forms a layer that seals the break so the plant does not lose sap through the broken vascular bundles. Essentially, the plant battens down the hatches.



Which is usually what we feel like doing in the dark days of winter! But if you do venture out, you will be rewarded with the stunning winter trceries of the leafless trees, such as the vaulted domes of the walnuts, or the yellow mops of the weeping willows or the coral and scarlet fans of the acers. And if you struggle to tell your ash from your alder in winter without the leaves to help you, we are running a one-day course at the Botanic Garden on 31 January 2014 which looks at how to use tree outline, bark structure and twig characteristics to identify trees in winter. Please see the website at [www.botanic.cam.ac.uk](http://www.botanic.cam.ac.uk) for details.

**Juliet Day,**  
Development Officer



## Inner Peace

If you can start the day without caffeine,  
If you can always be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains,  
If you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles,  
If you can eat the same food every day and be grateful for it,  
If you can understand when your loved ones  
are too busy to give you any time,  
If you can take criticism and blame without resentment,  
If you can conquer tension without medical help,  
If you can relax without alcohol,  
If you can sleep without the aid of drugs,  
Then you're probably the dog.



# HELP



Can you spare ONE HOUR about every TWO MONTHS ? Your help is desperately needed to keep our village church looking spic and span. Many visitors comment how beautifully it is kept and appreciate that unlike many churches it is unlocked for all to visit

You don't necessarily have to be a " church goer", just some-one with a bit of public spirit, any age, male or female. There are 2 volunteers every week who share the cleaning on as Friday or Saturday at what-ever time suits them.

I would love to hear from you, 743983, don't leave it just pick up the phone NOW.

*Kate Child*

## BON MOT NUMBER THIRTY EIGHT

"Wind farms make the rich richer,  
and the poor poorer."

*A retired Conservative MP, 1 November 2013*

# **Bottisham Village College**

## **Adult and Community Learning**

**Are you looking for an unusual Christmas present? Why not book a course, or purchase a gift voucher?**

**We have new courses for the Spring Term 2014 as well as many of our ongoing courses:**

**Ceramics**

**Cookery – Indian, Japanese, Thai (plus Saturday workshops)**

**Creative Digital Photography**

**Drawing & Painting – Techniques (daytime)**

**Felt Making (Saturday workshop)**

**Fitness Yoga**

**French Conversation (daytime)**

**History of Art**

**Introduction to Counselling**

**Interior Design**

**Sewing for Beginners**

**Silver Clay Jewellery (Saturday workshop)**

**Spanish for Starters (beginners+ level)**

**Sugarcraft (evening and Saturday workshops)**

**Photoshop (Saturday workshop)**

**To enrol, visit our website:**

**[www.bottishamvc.org/adultlearning](http://www.bottishamvc.org/adultlearning)**

**or contact the Community Office on 01223 811372**

**email: [adultlearning@bottishamvc.org](mailto:adultlearning@bottishamvc.org)**

**Facebook - Bottisham Adult & Community Learning**

Cabinet considered a number of issues, including enforcement of bus lanes, the current twinning arrangements with Kreis Viersen in Germany and the sale of a number of gypsy and travelers sites (including Burwell) to the respective District Councils as the housing authorities.

Constitution and Ethics Committee met to further consider moves to a committee system of governance and a suggested model will be debated at Council in December. A workshop was also held for all members regarding the proposed system.

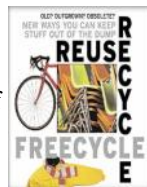
I chaired a seminar for members regarding safeguarding and looked after children, this included a presentation by 3 of our looked after young people talking about their experiences. I also had a meeting with the Children in Care Council and gave the closing remarks at an event with representatives of the judiciary to discuss adoption.

The DfE held a formal 6-monthly review of progress against the County Council improvement notice. Feedback was encouraging in that the DfE could see clear evidence of improvement.

Other meetings and events included: a visit to a youth club in Huntingdon; three business planning workshops; a visit to a children's home; an interview with BBC Cambridgeshire about recruitment of social workers; the appointment and remuneration committee to appoint a new Executive Director, Economy, Transport and Environment; the Children's Trust Annual Conference; and a meeting of the Local Government Association Rural Policy Review Group.

## **FREecycle**

If you have any offers or wants, please contact me by the 14<sup>th</sup> of each month **only by e-mail please** ([jun.thompson@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:jun.thompson@tiscali.co.uk)). Please let me know if you would like anything repeating in subsequent issues. Everything is free and nothing is expected in return. Please can you contact the offers after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month to make it a little fairer.



### **Offers**

4' 6" double bed electric blanket, duvet covers and associated bedding. All in good, clean condition; 10 paving slabs, beige colour, 60cm X 60cm (heavy - collector to lift, please). Chris and Judith c812085

A0 Parallel Motion Drawing Board and Stand in good condition. Can deliver locally. Geoff c811777

Dell all-in-one printer/photocopier/scanner. Perfect working order with instructions and cd for installation. Surplus to requirements. Fleur n743992

Upholstered armchair, part of a three piece suite, pale yellow with removable

washable covers, Height 700mm, Width 930mm, Depth 970mm. Very comfortable and in good order, Robin 811632

Duralay underlay pieces, approx. 3 x 4 metres, still suitable as an underlay but also useful as a weed suppressor. Susan/Peter c811584

EHRMAN tapestry kit. 'Bird with Fish' design. Canvas on frame, full range of wools, stand. Answer-phone c812231 or text Fay mobile 07973665993

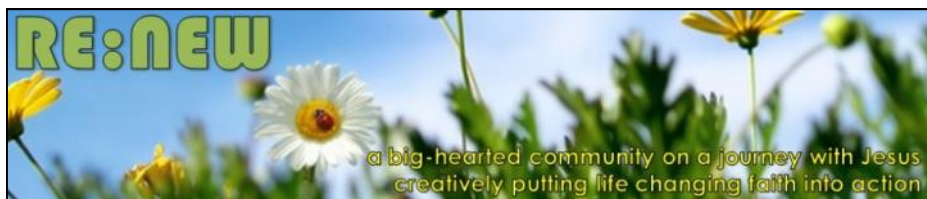
### Wanted

Any clear glass wine or spirit bottles. Terry c813256

Any sort of garden gate. Julie c812036

Your old light fittings, brown Bakelite switches, iron conduit and switches, bulb holders and holders. Sheets and bits of bakelite. Postcard rack (carousel if possible). George 07895064727.

Any photographic/darkroom equipment. From cameras to chemicals. Beginner wanting to learn about film photography and development. Also looking for a working flatbed scanner. Mark c813919



### And Finally...

Well, here it is... my final magazine contribution before I move on to pastures new! To those that have read my articles over the last eight years – thank you. I've often been blessed by people telling me that they have been challenged or encouraged by what I have written – and it's good to know that I've stimulated people to think about God, sometimes in new and unexpected ways.

This month, as Christmas approaches, I want to give you a few invitations...

#### Get In The Picture...

This is the title of our Advent Series during which we look at some of the pictures that the Bible paints about the coming of Christ. Some people stand back from the nativity scene and look at it from a distance – enjoying the Christmas festivities, but never joining with the wise men and the shepherds as they gaze in awe and wonder at the God-child. This year, at **10.30am on Sundays 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of December**, we invite you to *get in the picture*, and the service on **22<sup>nd</sup> December will be our all-age contemporary carol service**. You'll also be welcome to join us for a short and family friendly service at **10.30am on Christmas Day** itself – my last ever service as minister of RE:NEW!

#### Get In the Mood...

What better way to start feeling Christmassy than by watching a good festive film! At **3pm on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December** we're inviting you and your family to come along to Bottisham Primary School for a free showing of 'Nativity!' on the big screen. This hilarious British comedy from 2009 sees one primary school's nativity play become a Hollywood hit, with all sorts of ups and downs and over-excited children in the process. Refreshments will be provided, and we're asking all children to be accompanied by an adult who will stay for the duration of the film.

### **Get a Cup of Coffee and a Piece of Cake...**

On the **second Sunday of every month** we invite you to join us for **RE:NEW Café...** there's no singing, no sermon, just good conversation, plenty of coffee and yummy snacks. Midway through the morning we watch a ten minute video that presents an aspect of the Christian faith in a fresh and contemporary way, and then spend some time discussing it together. This month the café is at **10.30am on 8<sup>th</sup> December**, but why not make a new year's resolution to join us on a second Sunday in 2014 too?

### **Get the 1<sup>st</sup> February in your diary...**

I'd like to invite you (yes you!) to a special service on **1<sup>st</sup> February** when I will be formally welcomed as a Regional Minister in the Eastern Baptist Association. The service starts at **3pm** and is being held in the main hall at **Bottisham Village College**. It will be followed by a tea and a community ceilidh, with music and calling provided by local group, The Cyriacs. People will be coming from across East Anglia, but this will also be my 'farewell' bash so I'd love to see lots of locals there too!

May you and yours have a very happy Christmas, and may you know God's blessings in 2014.

**Simon Goddard**

### **Services in December**

*Sun 1<sup>st</sup> Dec, 10.30am – RE:NEW (Bottisham Primary School)*

*Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Dec, 3.00pm – Nativity! Family Film (at the School)*

*Sun 8<sup>th</sup> Dec, 10.30am – RE:NEW Café Style (at the School)*

*Sun 8<sup>th</sup> Dec, 6.20pm – Traditional Service (Lode Chapel)*

*Sun 15<sup>th</sup> Dec, 10.30am – RE:NEW (at the School)*

*Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec, 10.30am – RE:NEW Carol Service (at the School)*

*Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec, 6.20pm – Traditional Carol Service (Great Wilbraham Chapel)*

*Wed 25<sup>th</sup> Dec, 10.30am – RE:NEW Christmas Day Service (at the School)*

*Sun 29<sup>th</sup> Dec, 10.30am – RE:NEW (at the School)*

**For more information please contact: Rev. Simon Goddard.**

**Tel: (01223) 812881**

**Email: [simon.goddard@re-new.me.uk](mailto:simon.goddard@re-new.me.uk)**

**Web: [www.re-new.me.uk](http://www.re-new.me.uk)**

**Twitter: @renewchurch**

## PASTORAL LETTER, December 2013

### Bottisham Vicarage



Dear Friends,

Just off Charing Cross Road in London, a British institution has become established. Since 1952, *The Mousetrap* has had an uninterrupted sequence of performances which continue today. I must confess I haven't been to see it and the sense that it will always be there means I don't feel the need to rush and buy tickets.

There is, however, one performance that the mischievous part of me regrets missing. I have it on good authority that on one occasion after it had been running for about 5 years, the performance unaccountably came to a complete halt. As it didn't restart spontaneously, the prompter was hastily woken and the appropriate page in the script found. The prompter whispered the line.....there was a long pause followed by more silence. He repeated the line....still silence. A third time came the same result, except that this time it was broken by one of the actors yelling out in exasperation: "We all know

The illusion that here was a cast who were deeply involved with the parts they were playing was shattered in an instant. Turning up each night and performing the play had become a merely automatic action – the cast had become completely detached from the play they were presenting. Familiarity had bred, if not contempt, at least indifference.

So what happens as we move towards Christmas or even Xmas? (The "X" in that abbreviation might once have stood for the first letter of Christ in the Greek alphabet but now I fear simply distances us from the spiritual significance of Christmas and makes it Anonymas.) Is there a risk that we drift into the round of events around Christmas automatically soothed by the familiar? It is sometimes easy to sing the words of the carols we have known from childhood without paying attention to the story they retell.

Can we, then, take a step back; unwrap all the layers of familiarity we have with the Christmas story we have heard over a lifetime, and rediscover its essential strangeness? A King born in a stable, God taking flesh and becoming subject to all the risks of life that we face.

From the time of his birth, God became man in a dangerous place at a dangerous time. He didn't shirk the danger but lived through it and then paid the ultimate price of being killed. And yet we still celebrate that life today two thousand years later because what began in that stable meant the world could never be the same again. It was indeed a world turned upside down....and that is the message of the first Christmas, and every one since, calling us first to contemplation and then action.

*Sue Giles*

# Services in December

## **Sunday 1 December, Advent Sunday**

- 11am** Holy Communion (CW1T)  
**4pm** Advent by Candlelight Concert with  
Cambridge Voices, in the two churches

## **Sunday 8 December, second Sunday of Advent**

- 11am** Christingle and Nativity Family Service

## **Sunday 15 December, third Sunday of Advent**

- 4.30pm** Village Candlelight Carol Service, with school  
choir

## **Sunday 22 December, fourth Sunday of Advent**

- 11am** Matins

## **Christmas Eve**

- 3pm** Carols around the Crib  
**11.30pm** Midnight Communion – Bottisham, Lode,  
Swaffham Bulbeck

## **Christmas Day**

- 8am** Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion –  
Quy  
**10am** Benefice Holy Communion (CW1T)

## **Sunday 29 December**

- 10am** Benefice Holy Communion (CW1) – Bottisham



## Dates for Your Diary December 2013

Sun	1	Sylvie Short Book Signing/Selling 1-3.30pm, Advent by Candlelight, 4pm St Mary's & St Cyriac's
Wed	4	Book Club, 8pm, Kent House
Fri	6	Bottisham Walking for Health, 11am, from the surgery
Tue	10	<b>Crier Copy Deadline</b>
Sun	15	Carol Service, St Mary's, 4.30pm
Mon	16	
Tue	17	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2.45-3.15pm Chapel 3.20pm-4.00pm 3rd Tues
Wed	18	Village Carols, 6.30pm
Thu	19	Bottisham Walking for Health, 11am, from the surgery
Tues	24	Carols around the Crib, 3pm
Wed	25	CHRISTMAS DAY
Thu	26	Boxing Day Hockey, The Denny, Swaffham Bulbeck, 10.45
Mon	30	Winter Walk, 10am, from St Cyriac's

Club	Contact	Tel.	Date	Time	Place
FOSPS	Clare Freeman	741316	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon of Term	8pm	Village School
Baby & Toddlers	Kelly Mead	741069	Fri	9:30-11:30am	Village Hall
Cubs	Tim Doe	743656	Weds (term)	6:00-7:30pm	Village School
Reading Group	Brenda Wilson	743937	1 <sup>st</sup> Weds of month	8:00pm	(See Crier)
Scouts	Tim Doe	743656	Weds (term)	6:15-7:45pm	Village School
Village Gardeners	Margaret Joyce	744390	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues of month	8:00pm	Village Hall
WI	Pat Cook	742224	3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon of month	7.30 pm	Village Hall
Youth Club	Alan Badcock	742228	Tues	7-8:30pm	Youth Club Hut Hut
			Thurs	7-10:00pm	