



# The Swaffham Crier

Volume 24 Number 11

November 2000



## Editorial

Well, we're glad to see people *are* writing to the *Crier* again, after a short lapse last month. A belated Happy Birthday to Bob Smith and we're sorry we missed the Harvest Supper, which was by all accounts one of the best ever. Thank-you to 'Name Withheld' for the list of suggested topics should such a lapse occur again, but I don't know if our correspondents will be taking him up on these!

John Morrill's article makes interesting reading even if it is a bit difficult to read on account of the small size of print — we didn't want to cut it and this was the only way we could fit him in, so magnifying glasses at the ready! He's telling us that in the past, churches were always used for a multitude of other things — shops, meeting places etc. Of course, these were pre-motorcar, pre-*Tesco* days — the modern churches, as the Vicar recently bemoaned!

It's a pity there are no shops left in Swaffham Prior, especially a Post Office. The Thursday get-together and shop at the Village Hall is a plus, and well-done to those volunteers who keep it going, but there are now no other regular meeting places in the village apart from the Pub. But after years of a permissive policy in allowing children on the premises, as almost all English Pubs now do, we found to our cost in the summer that this was no longer the case, so that rules us out. It's a loss to village life, and perhaps Churchill Taverns might like to comment.

Published in this month's *Crier* are the results from the Harvest Show 2000 (see pages 8 and 9), a very impressive array and well done to all competitors.

**The Crier is short of collators!** This is a social event, as well as being essential to the *Crier*'s production, and it's great fun on a Thursday afternoon once a month. There's tea and biscuits and you should only be called on once every 3 months or so to perform, so please could we have some more volunteers (see page 12)!

Encouraged by the comments of one of this month's correspondents, we have chosen another cover picture from the same school of artists as before—we hope you like it!

*Caroline Matheson*

**Cover Picture:** *By the Swings*, Leanne Turner



## Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

### **Swaffham Prior Parochial Charities**

Now that the school holidays are over, and even now the shops are glittering with tinsel, it is time once more to start thinking of those we try to help at Christmas.

As usual, the majority of those eligible will be our pensioners, although, as always, the Trustees will consider requests from anybody in need.

If you believe that you qualify for a grant, please apply to me or to any Trustee, and I make my usual plea for early applications. It does so ease the secretarial work if all requests are to band by the end of November.

My thanks to everybody who applied last year. For the first time I was able to arrange the distribution with only one visit to the bank.

*S.G. Hewitt*, Clerk to the Trustees

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Dear Editors,

### **Harvest Festival Supper**

I am sure that the eighty or so diners at the Harvest Festival Supper in St Cyriacs would wish to thank Kate Child and her team of helpers, young and old, for a very special occasion.

The delicious meal and splendid entertainment by the Cantilena Singers was much appreciated by the established and new members of the village.

Well done — see you all again next year.

*John Norris*  
Church Warden

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Dear Editors,

A very big thank you to everyone who helped (many behind the scenes) to make the evening at St Cyriacs such an enjoyable occasion. So many people were involved that it is impossible to mention individual names, but if you were one of them please accept this as your personal “Thank You”. The help of those who were unable to be there in person on the evening was also much appreciated. NB Those who made pudds, some left in freezers etc.

I feel a special mention must be made to the young boy and girls who waited at table, they did a splendid job, we all enjoyed their enthusiasm and humour.

*Kate Child*

Dear Editors,

### **Speed Limits & October Crier**

I would like to see 20 mph speed limits in the villages. However, effective traffic calming measures are also needed or the lower limits will be breached even more than current limits.

We love the magazine, and October's cover is possibly the best ever.

*Frank Readhead*  
36 Lower End

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Dear Editors,

### **Parish Referendum?**

BBC radio 4 news this week stated that if as few as ten parishioners request it, a referendum must be held by the parish council on the matter raised, provided that it is 'parish affairs'. I wonder if this would surprise others as it did me? I had begun to contemplate a list of possible issues on which one might campaign, and was wondering why I had never come across such an event: just then the same news feature moved on to mention the cost incurred to the parish by the poll in question, and the answer clicked. Silly me. I should have realised where the boundaries of Democracy lie.

*Mark Lewinski*

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Dear Editors,

### **Macmillan Cancer Relief**

I would just like to say a very special thank you to everybody who contributed so generously to our Macmillan Cancer Relief Coffee Morning - the Swaffham Prior part of the World's Biggest Coffee Morning. You raised the staggering amount of £447.36! It was amazing and I'm delighted that we can give so much to such a worthwhile cause.

*Ruth Scovill*

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Dear Editors,

### **Bob Smith**

My father, "Bob Smith", celebrated his 90th birthday recently, and I quite expect he told many people about it!

I would like to thank everyone for all the celebrations during the week of his birthday and in particular the invitation for us to join in with the Chapel harvest supper, where Dad's birthday was acknowledged yet again with a feast of marvellous food, pies and birthday cake. Also a special thanks to Ruth and Mary for the "plot" and keeping it all a secret!

Best wishes to you all.

*Judith Silvester* (Bob's daughter)

Dear Editors,

Please may I say a big “thank you” for all the cards and good wishes on my recent 90th birthday. I had a very enjoyable day! Thank you all very much!

**“Bob” Smith**  
6, Greenhead Rd

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Dear Editors,

I write regarding my father who died on the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2000, in the evening. Dad had moved to Swaffham Prior (Commissioners Farm) on September 12<sup>th</sup> 2000 in the afternoon and had been looking forward to coming to the village. He had previously been at the Wedgewood unit (West Suffolk Hospital) B. St. E’s for several months.

**David Newton**  
The Hollies, Manor Farm Court, Lower End

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Dear Editors

I am sorry to learn you are short of letters. Perhaps the lack of inspiration had a specific cause - the weather, the new school year, anxieties about one’s neighbours’ possible secret plans to build a large eyesore and retrospectively acquire planning permission, fuel shortages, worries (or apathy) over the Euro, loud parties in Lower End, or maybe the Olympics?

To try to help out, here’s a list of possible subjects people may wish to write upon:

How To Make The Playground Equipment Vandalproof

Why Dencora’s Field Should Be Cut Back Whether Dencora Pays For It Or Not

Whose Responsibility Is It To Clear Beechnuts, Chestnuts And Leaves From Footpaths In Autumn Before Some Elderly Person Or Child Has A Fall

Why Do Some People Who Live Alongside Dencora’s Field Throw Their Rubbish Over Their Fences (subtitled: The Midden Mentality)

Why Is The Footpath Up The Side Of The Old Post Office Almost Impossible To Negotiate With Any Wheeled Equipment

Why Doesn’t Someone Do something About The Half-fallen Dead Tree By The Side Of Dencora’s Field Before It Falls On Someone And Kills Them - possible reply: Actually It Looks Like It’s In That State Because Someone Has had a Go At It

Why We Still Need A Roundabout At The Top Of Cage Hill

Why Dencora’s Field Should Be Allowed To Be a Wilderness (subtitled: Up With The Lark)

Why Can't I Hear The Church Clock Strike The Hour

Where Have The Birds Gone - Is Dencora Field Jinxed? (subtitled: Are The Two Collared Doves The Only Survivors Or Have They Killed The Rest Of Them) - possible replies: Predatory Cats; Barking Dogs; Magpies; Squirrels; A Wet Spring; Travellers; Joseph's Moped.

*Name Withheld*

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## **From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting**

There was a full moon and a full house at the Parish Council meeting after Mr John Covill agreed to fill the vacancy. What a difference the current PC is from that when I first came to the village. Then it was dominated by a High Street mafia with a few coming from Tothill. Those in Lower End were often angry, accusing the High Street members of acting as if they were "something" and Lower End residents were "nothing". Perhaps they were right. Now it is all changed with a balanced set of representatives from everywhere - except Tothill. Does Tothill have an identity crisis? A Tothill resident recently told me that they find it confusing to have a constant change of name and that she herself was finding it difficult to cope with "Upper Village". "Once", she went on, "we were known as Brookside, and there was nothing wrong with that."



"Minor Improvement Schemes" is an innocuous heading but it is this which may help the traffic situation at Mill Hill. It is an ECDC scheme whereby ECDC will give some funding providing the PC contributes a certain sum per elector. Over the last few years the PC has built up several reserve funds. From the 'Traffic Calming Fund' it is proposed to apply for rumble strips at both ends of Mill Hill and also at the Reach end of Lower End, with repeat speed signs where appropriate. The Chapel end of the High Street is not being rumbled because parked cars already act as a traffic calmer. "What about Rogers Road?" demanded Andrew Camps, and that was added to the list. We now have to wait to see if the application is successful. This particular scheme has nothing to do with reducing speed limits and at times the chairman had to work hard to keep the discussion focussed. And whatever is achieved will barely keep pace with the problem of increased traffic, which will only get worse as we defend our right to drive wherever and whenever we like.

The Playground has always been a bit of a problem, but over the last few years the PC has shown it increasing enthusiasm and support. But that enthusiasm can wane a little when there is regular wanton vandalism of the swings. Eric Day has valiantly kept them repaired over the years but even

his patience is being stretched. That however seems to be a minor irritation compared to the news made available at a recent Parish Quorum. The bureaucrats have been at work and are advocating codes of practice involving weekly safety checks, risk factor reports etc. It raised a number of questions:- with people being encouraged to sue after every accident is a small village able to run play areas; will voluntary repairs be acceptable; should the age of users be reduced to 12; should a play area user group share the maintenance problem; who is going to tell older teenagers to get off the swings; should the PC add any more equipment. Meantime the news is that Reach with its superb play area is running into trouble. Some of the bark needs renewing at a cost of £1200. In due course more bark will have to be renewed and there will be other maintenance costs. Our PC has the same problem. After settling a recent repair bill it seems the cracking surface area under the swings may be caused by a poor base laid some years ago. If so this will be a very expensive repair. All members were given a copy of the bureaucratic recommendations, to read, to digest, and to discuss next month. Some hard decisions may have to be made. Those who have an interest in the facility should attend. They might even get a free cup of coffee.

You can always tell an experienced politician. James Fitch ran through his report and mentioned that traffic lights are to be installed to solve the accident problem at the A1303/B1102 junction at Quy. At once from around the table came "Don't do it", "Aargh", "Disaster", etc. James just ploughed on, ignoring all the moans and groans, until the opposition became exhausted and flopped about like seals stranded on a beach. Obviously everyone except James had experienced lights which had been injudiciously introduced. On the other hand James took a lot of flack about the Park-and-Ride scheme and turned out to be right on that.

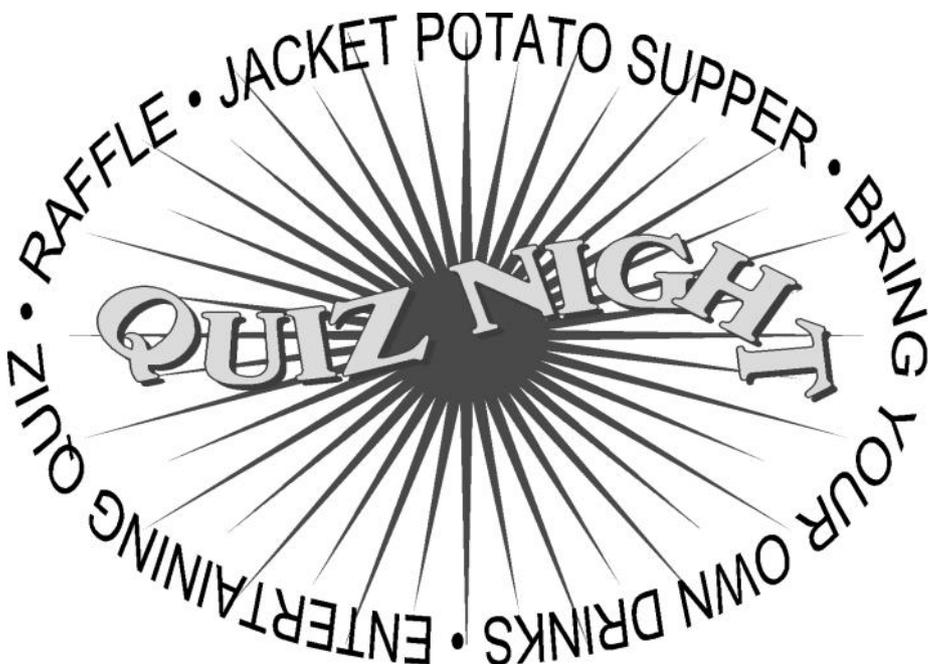
Oliver Haworth has replied to the PC's letter of July about the skateboard ramp in which a number of questions had been asked. Oliver said he thought he had already answered all the queries and repeated his request for PC support. The PC did not think the questions had been answered but in the meantime had carried out its own research. Experienced people in Cambridge thought it was a "non-starter" for a small village and Charlotte and James supported this. But the PC was reluctant to "discourage such enthusiasm" and Sandra Wilson will talk to the "young gentleman concerned" and report back to the PC. The good news is that there is going to be a skateboard ramp at Burwell.

At many previous meetings Elaine had asked for half-way coffee without success. This time she took matters in hand and produced coffee and biscuits for all, including the 4 in the public gallery. We will have to wait and see

whether this is to be a regular event or just to celebrate the return of Andrew Badcock. James Willmott (also in the public gallery) muttered to me that "Wine is better" and that, at the instigation of Caroline Matheson, he always used to offer wine when chairman of the PTA. That's a challenge for Elaine!!

*Alastair Everitt*

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**Swaffham Prior Village Hall**

**7.30 pm**

**Saturday, 18th November**

**Tickets: £3.50 each**

**To book a table contact**

**Jenny Brand ☎ 742161**

**or**

**Lynne Rand ☎ 741960**

## SWAFFHAM PRIOR HARVEST SHOW 2000

### WINNERS

		<b>First</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Third</b>
<b><u>SECTION A - Vegetables</u></b>				
Class 1	Vegetables - mixed (4 kinds)	no entries		
Class 2	6 Potatoes	D. Bowers	P. Latchford,	J. Moore
Class 3	3 Beetroots - round or long	no entries		
Class 4	4 Carrots	no entries		
Class 5	A Vegetable Marrow	T. Jones,	D. Bowers	
Class 6	4 Courgettes	J. Lewis		
Class 7	A Cabbage	no entries		
Class 8	6 French Beans	no entries		
Class 9	6 Runner Beans	J. Lewis,	P. Latchford	
Class 10	6 Tomatoes - indoors	J. Lewis		
Class 11	6 Tomatoes - outdoors	D. Lewis	R. Scovil	Pumfrey family
Class 12	A Cucumber	K. Bowers		
Class 13	The longest Runner Bean	T. Jones	P. Latchford	
Class 14	The biggest oven buster	no entries		
Class 15	6 Onions from seed	no entries		
Class 16	6 Onions from sets	T. Jones	T. Jones	
Class 17	Shallots	no entries		
Class 18	3 Parsnips	-	D. Bowers	
Class 19	Uncommon fruit or vegetable	K. Bowers	D. Bowers	J. Tatuin
<b><u>SECTION B - Fruit</u></b>				
Class 20	3 Pears	J. Lewis		
Class 21	3 Dessert Apples	R. Scovil	J. Lewis	D. Lewis
Class 22	3 Cooking Apples	Pumfrey family	J. Lewis	R. Scovil
Class 23	6 Plums	E. Everitt	A. Everitt	S. Everitt
Class 24	Other stone fruit	no entries		
<b><u>SECTION C - flowers</u></b>				
Class 25	Dahlias (3 distinct varieties)		no entries	
Class 26	6 Dahlias - pom-pom	no entries		
Class 27	3 Spray Chysanthemums	J. Lewis		
Class 28	3 Chrysanthemums	no entries		
Class 29	3 Spray Michaelmas Daisies	C. Atherstone	J. Brand	A. Everitt
Class 30	3 blooms Roses	R. Scovil	J. Moore	A. Everitt
Class 31	3 stems Floribunda Roses	A. Nisbet	M. Stanier	D. Lewis
Class 32	Vase of perennials	J. Brand		

Class 33 Vase of annuals no entries

**SECTION D - Pot Plants**

Class 34 A pot plant - flowering Mrs. Verlander

Class 35 A pot plant - foliage Mrs. Verlander Mrs. Verlander

**SECTION E - flower Arrangements**

Class 36 Bowl or vase of flowers I. Brand B. Prime R. Scovil

Class 37 Basket of flowers no entries

Class 38 A miniature arrangement J. Brand

**SECTION F - Preserves**

Class 39 Jar of soft fruit jam J. Lewis E. Everitt I. Jones

Class 40 Jar of stone fruit jam B. Tingey E. Everitt B. Tingey

Class 41 Jar of jelly U. Reeks

Class 42 Jar of orange marmalade S. Napier R. Scovil T. Jones

Class 43 Jar of lemon curd J. Temple

Class 44 Jar of piccalilli or chutney T. Jones J. Lewis

Class 45 Jar of honey no entries

**SECTION G - Cake and Bread**

Class 46 Victoria Sandwich S. Wilkins R. Scovil A. Day

Class 47 Flap Jacks K. Child B. Prime J. Temple

Class 48 6 Scones J. Temple B. Prime

Class 49 1 Wholemeal Loaf T. Jones A. Tingey

Class 50 1 White Loaf T. Jones A. Tingey

Class 51 6 Bread Rolls no entries

Class 52 Shortbread K. Child B. Prime J. Temple

Class 53 6 small cakes (any type) L. Rand J. Temple J. Temple

**SECTION H - Children's Classes**

Class 54 Tallest Sunflower T. Latchford

Class 55 Largest Sunflower head T. Latchford

Class 56 Chocolate Crispies R. Noyes

Class 57 "Happy Faces" biscuits E. Noyes R. Noyes

Class 58 Garden on a plate J.&L. Turner H.&H. Bowers (mt 2nd)

Class 59 A vegetable or fruit "Animal"

T. Pumfrey Hannah Bowers -

Class 60 A model (original) J. Bowers H. Punmfrey (T. Pumfrey  
(T. Latchford)

**SECTION I - Wine and Beer**

Class 61 1 bottle Red Wine S. Eventt T. Jones -

Class 62 1 bottle White Wine S. Everitt T. Jones P. Latchford

Class 63 1 bottle Wine (any other) T. Jones S. Everitt -

Class 64 1 bottle home made Cider no entries

Class 65 1 bottle home made Lager or Beer no entries



## ADVENT BY CANDELIGHT

This year's *Advent by Candlelight*, with its traditional mixture of readings of prose and poetry (both sacred and secular) read by members of the parish woven around excerpts of choral music should prove to be one of the most exciting yet: we jointly celebrate the turn of the Millennium with the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the death of, arguably, the worlds greatest ever composer, Johann Sebastian

**BACH.** Of all his many compositions, the monumental *Mass in B minor* is often regarded as the most sublime creation in all music and, with the combined forces of the *Orchestra of the Age of Reason* (a full baroque band with strings, oboes, flutes, recorders, bassoon, trumpets and kettledrums) and *Cambridge Voices*, St. Cyriac's Church will be uplifted with excerpts from this vast work. Beforehand, over in St Mary's Church, there will be a chance to hear Bach's *Magnificat*, complete with its *Christmas Interpolations*.

As the audience gathers in St. Mary's before the event kicks off they will be serenaded by an uninterrupted sequence of Bach's most popular instrumental music, played (seriously, for once!) by *The Classic Buskers* on a host of exotic instruments including voice-flute, ocarina, wooden flute, and even a digital horn. There'll also be a chance for everyone to sing with the orchestra in three great Advent hymns, plus the event will be rounded off with a *Come-and-Sing Hallelujah Chorus* from Handel's *Messiah* (copies provided or bring your own) followed by mulled-wine and mince pies (courtesy of the Village Social Committee) back in the warmth of St. Mary's Church.

As always, all profits will go towards a chosen charity and this year we plan to give as much money as possible to the Children's Therapy Centre in Mostar, Bosnia, where so many traumatically disabled orphans are learning to live and learn in such a desperately poor and broken community (Michael, the flute-player of the *Classic Buskers* taught himself Serbo-Croat in order to go and teach regularly there). Expenses for the event (which are necessarily higher this year) will be covered by the cost of the programme at the door as you arrive (this year £5, but **free for all children**) whilst the retiring collection will go directly to the charity.

The date of the event is **Advent Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> beginning at 4.00pm.** Last year we had standing-room only, so do arrive early (you'll be entertained by the *Buskers* before the event starts) as seats cannot be reserved. And don't forget to wrap up warm for St. Cyriac's as the temporary heating there will have to be turned off during the event itself.

Finally, I am very keen to get an many readers as possible from the

neighbourhood to take part in this event. If you would like to take part (including any children who would like to have a go), especially if you've not done it before, please pass your details onto me as soon as possible.

*Ian de Massini (Director of Cambridge Voices)*

Tel: 01638 741366 Email: iandemassini@argonet.co.uk

**The Prospects Trust**  
**Snakehall Farm, Reach**

*Working with people who have learning disabilities providing training and work opportunities in horticulture and organic market gardening.*

The Garden Team provides a professional and friendly gardening service at competitive rates. We bring all our own tools and machinery and remove all garden rubbish. Why not call us to tidy up your garden for the winter or to do any other garden project?

Telephone Michaella, Brian or Helen on 01638 741551  
for further details or to arrange a quote.

**CANTILENA SINGERS**

MARK DAWES, director  
CARRIE NEAL, harp

**A CONCERT OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC**

SATURDAY DECEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup> at 7.30pm

ST JAMES' CHURCH, LODE

The programme will include Benjamin Britten's  
*"A Ceremony of Carols"*  
and music by Vaughan Williams, Howells and Leighton etc

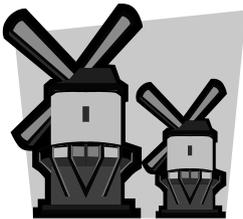
Ticket details will be given in next month's issue

## **WANTED**

Someone 2 mornings per week to assist Matron with the administrative work at a small Charity Nursing Home in Newmarket.

Some background knowledge an advantage, but not essential.

For more information apply to:  
Mr. B. R. Arkwright (Chairman Trustee)  
Thuya House,  
Hildersham, Cambs.  
CB1 6BU



## **Little Windmills Playgroup**

Reach Village Centre  
Monday to Thursday  
9.00—11.45 am

Little Windmills Playgroup has places for  
2½ to 5 year olds.

Come and visit one of our friendly sessions or for more information contact Brenda Doe (01223 860680)

## **Collators Needed!**

The Crier needs more collators to put the magazine together. The work isn't arduous—you should only be called upon once every three months or so for an hour so's stint at the Village Hall on a Thursday afternoon. Please get in touch with Ruth Stinton, on 742641 if you can help.

## ART HISTORY

### Nineteenth Century French Painting



An illustrated talk by  
Ann Hollingsworth

Swaffham Prior Village Hall  
Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2000, 7.30p.m.

Entrance £2 (includes refreshments)

The art of Manet, Monet, Morisot, Renoir, Degas and Pissarro, among others, will be considered this evening

Enquiries to Ann Hollingsworth (01638 741613)

### **South East Cambridgeshire Conservative Association SWAFFHAM PRIOR BRANCH**

invites you and your friends to a

## **PRE-CHRISTMAS DRINKS PARTY**

at

**The Allix Arms Station Road Swaffham Prior**  
by kind permission of Mr & Mrs F Riggs

**Sunday, 26th November 2000 12.00 noon**

£8.00 per person (to include wine and lunch)



## WI Notes

A blind lady and her guide dog visited the W.I. in October. Claire Wilson has been blind since she was seven and has had a guide dog since she was eighteen. Tilly is her third dog.

The best guide dogs are a cross breed of labradors and retrievers. They start life with a family, then after six months go to a puppy walker to gain experience and learn to socialise. Then follows a period with a dog trainer, and at eighteen months to two years old they are ready to be matched to an owner.

At this stage they are able to accompany their owners on buses, trains, into supermarkets, in fact anywhere their owners wish to go. When the harness is on they are on duty, as soon as it is taken off they can relax. One important thing we learned - a guide dog is not expected to know when it is safe to cross the road. So if we see a blind person with their dog waiting at the kerbside we are advised to offer help.

The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association is a charity totally funded by donations and all the dogs' needs are provided for free of charge.

Next month, on 20<sup>th</sup> November, we are inviting Swaffham Bulbeck and Fen Ditton W.I.s to join us to hear Dilly Bradford advise us on 'Clothes and Make-up for the Over 50s'.

*Betty Prime.*



## VILLAGE GARDENERS

Our October meeting was the 6<sup>th</sup> AGM. From a tentative beginning we have continued to maintain an enthusiastic membership of village gardeners who enjoy a varied programme of meetings with very interesting speakers and garden visits during the summer months.

New office bearers have been elected and a programme of speakers presented for the coming season, after which we had a scramble for the bring-and-buy plant stall and then sat back to enjoy some interesting slides from members.

The November meeting is to be held at Reach Village Hall on 21<sup>st</sup> at 8.00pm at which the speaker will be Geoff Hodge on 'gardening on chalk'.

New members and visitors are always welcome.

*Barbara Jones*



## LADIES CIRCLE

On Monday evening 25 September at 7.30 pm the Ladies Circle met for their monthly meeting. Our speaker was Mr Dominic Spencer from Cambridge. He told us about his life as an Amateur Schoolmaster. His father was a Medical Doctor who wanted his son to follow in his footsteps but Mr Spencer decided that being a doctor was not something he wanted to do and decided to retaliate and become a teacher. His talk was most light hearted and very interesting—he obviously enjoyed his work.

At our November meeting our speaker will be Mr Cunningham from Ely who will tell us about the work of the St Johns Ambulance. Please feel free to join us — we would welcome any new members.

*Sandra Butcher*

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## SWAFFHAM PRIOR & REACH SUMMER FESTIVAL

Last month I was only able to get a tiny note in the magazine about the Summer Festival so I would like to enlarge on it this time.

It was a most enjoyable weekend with so much talent displayed by our two villages: the flower arrangers giving us illustrations of earth, fire, water and the rainbow leading to the sun, with the organists providing a musical background; the artists who provided a feast of wonderful pictures and the crafts people displaying such a variety of talent; the musicians accompanying the delicious cream teas provided by the WI ('just like the Pump Room at Bath' was a comment I heard, praise indeed!). Then there were all the 'back room boys', those who put up posters, distributed leaflets and painted road signs, the stewards, the picture hangers and the group of strong men who transported tables and the piano.

There were dozens of people involved in this project without whom it could not have taken place, so thank you one and all. May we look forward to another such weekend in, say, 5 years?

*Betty Prime.*

### **Quiz Night @ British Legion, Bottisham**

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 7.00pm—12:00 midnight

£5 per team (max 4 per team)

Prizes and raffle

In aid of Saplings Pre-school Playgroup.

Admission on door

**Bottisham, Burwell, Linton Village Colleges**  
*Lifelong Learning*  
**Day and Weekend Courses**

**Saturday 4th November**

*Colour & Style; Dressmaking Workshop; Homeopathy  
Introduction to the Internet; French Polishing 2; Life Drawing  
Neurolinguistic Programming; Planning to Start Your Own Business-Part 1;  
Self Awareness through Play & the Arts; Wine Tasting - an Introduction  
Women Returning to Work*

**Saturday/Sunday 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> November**

*Excel for All*

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November**

*Paint and Paper*

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November**

*Planning to Start Your Own Business-Part 2  
RYA Small Craft First Aid Certificate*

**Saturday/Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> November**

*PowerPoint Workshop*

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November**

*Alexander Technique; Chair Caning & Upholstery; Death in Art  
Health Workshop; Introduction to Sign Language  
Less Stress Achieves Success; Mailmerge; Raku; Wood Turning*

**Saturday/Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> November**

*Brief Counselling; First Aid for Childcarers*

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December**

*Assertiveness Communication Skills for Women; Flowers for Christmas  
French Polishing 3; Introduction to the Internet; Life Drawing  
Tai Chi and Yoga Workshop*

Further information from the Community Offices at the Village Colleges:

Bottisham: 01223 811372

Burwell: 01638 741901,

Linton: 01223 892400





The Boundary Commission is reviewing the wards in East Cambridgeshire. Since the population of the District has grown so much and is predicted to grow further, this will be a major review and will probably alter most wards in the District. The Commission's main aims are to equalise the number of electors represented by each Councillor, to divide wards where there are more than three Councillors and to link wards so that there are few, if any, single member wards. Parish boundaries will not be changed and nor will one Parish be split between two wards. As 'The Swaffhams' ward is a single member ward it is likely that this review will change our boundaries, even though I represent the average number of electors for East Cambridgeshire. The Council is asked to suggest how these aims can be met, and we will be consulting with Parish Councils and other local groups to try to find a consensus as to how best our boundaries could be reorganised. We will then put this to the Boundary Commission who can accept it, end it or impose a solution of our choice. Our Listening Week has been very interesting with people returning the budget questionnaires and raising a variety of other issues with us, such as street cleaning, facilities for cyclists and pedestrianisation in Ely. The questionnaires are still coming in, so I do not have the results yet. I hope to be able to report the results to you in December's edition of *'The Crier'*.

As part of our exercise to reorganise the Council we will be reviewing the allowances paid to members. We have decided to set up an Independent Panel to carry out the review. The Parish Councils have already chosen one of the members, Cllr Richard Hobbs the Mayor of Ely. We are also inviting applications from the General Public and the other Panel members will select one person from these applications. If you would like to be on the Panel, please contact John Hill, the Acting Chief Executive, on 01353 668833 ext 271. Alternatively, if you want to give your views on members allowances please write to the Members Allowances Independent Review Panel c/o John Hill, Acting Chief Executive, East Cambridgeshire District Council, The Grange, Nutholt Lane, Ely, CB7 4PL.

*Charlotte Cane*



The joint campaigns to improve **roads and paths** and persuade motorists to cut their **speed** within our villages dominated my work this last month.

At the Joint County and District Committee for East Cambs. (2<sup>nd</sup> Oct) two petitions from **Burwell** enabled me to push hard for speed calming measures for that village. If all goes well at the next meeting of the County Transport Committee, then calming measures for the three entry roads to Burwell will be accepted for year April 2001/2. These schemes are topping the list for our part of the county and I'll do all I can to gain the County's backing, knowing that there is support at District and Parish level. Competition from other areas of the county, all for limited funds, means some projects may slip but we can hope for the best.

Just to press home the point about speeding, I have asked the Police to do a seven day check (cables across the road) in Burwell as soon as it can be fitted into their busy programme. In addition we can hope for warning signs to beware of pedestrians crossing the **Burwell-Swaffham** road at the Devils Ditch.

Meanwhile, the news for cyclists and walkers is good at **Lode**. The new foot/cycleway between Lode Crossroads and Anglesey Abbey is virtually complete but for signage. It will now be safer for all traffic and the disappearance of the old bus shelter has improved the visibility towards Quy from Lode.

This path is one more small link in the path from Quy to Burwell. The next priority on my list is to get a similar path from **Lode to Swaffham Bulbeck** (the Denny) along the B1102.

While all this goes on, the County has begun a mobile campaign to reduce speeding by urging motorists to **MAKE THE COMMITMENT** to think about speed in a bid to cut deaths on the road. Drivers are given key-rings in the hope that the slogan will remind them to slow down while driving.

### **SCHOOLS**

News locally has been excellent this year. Good OFSTED reports all round. **Bottisham Village College** becoming a beacon school and turning out excellent exam results and Swaffham Prior School reappearing bright and shiny after a short spell under special measures.

OFSTED has looked at the Local Education Authority (LEA) which runs the education service in its widest form within the county. The verdict was a competent LEA with more strength than weaknesses.

The report praises its strong and effective corporate planning

“framework” which is reassuring to us members. It adds that educational attainment of pupils of all ages is significantly above averages and the LEA’s support for literacy and numeracy was picked out for special praise. OFSTED points out that Cambs. is poorly funded in comparison with other counties. It also criticises the amount of money delegated to schools and suggests a greater proportion should be passed over. This very topic will be before the Bottisham V.C. governors in the near future. Already Cambs. has set a target of 85% delegation for next year compared with 80% this. Another area for criticism was Information and Communication Technology. Its provision needs to be improved. All in all: “good but could do even better”.

*James Fitch*

## **XENIA**

LOOKING FOR A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS PRESENT?

Exquisite Scarves and Shawls

Every item is uniquely handmade and hand-dyed using silk, wool  
and/or cotton/silk blends

We also stock a range of handmade candles from Denmark

For further details please contact:

Taljana Knudsen, East Lodge, Swaffham Prior House  
Telephone: 01638 741636 (Evenings)

## **Professional Fruit Tree Pruning**

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**Restoring Old Fruit Trees a Speciality**

**Apples & Pears pruned October to April**

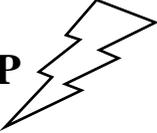
**Plums & other ‘stone fruit’ in May or June**

**New fruit & nut gardens designed.**

**Help with choice of varieties, planting, training etc.**



## **SWAFFHAM BULBECK BRIGHT SPARKS PLAYGROUP**



Bright Sparks Playgroup is now accepting reservations for the Autumn Term. If you are looking for a small, friendly group for your child then our playgroup is for you. We offer sessions on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:15 - 11:45 am. We are located in the village hall next to the Primary School. Children are able to attend playgroup age of 2½, if they are potty trained. Fees are £3.50 per session.

The maximum number of children for our playgroup is 12, so make your reservations early! If you would like more information about joining our playgroup please call Sarah Gibb at 01223-811624.

## **GEOFF BARTON PLUMBING & HEATING**

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

Mr T Jones chaired the meeting with 9 members and 4 members of the Public.

### **Matters Arising**

**Parish Council Vacancy:** Mr John Covill attended the P.C. meeting after expressing an interest in becoming a Parish Councillor. Mr Covill was duly co-opted and after completing the “Declaration of Acceptance of Office”, the Chairman invited him to join the meeting. We now have a full Parish Council.

**Minor Improvement Schemes:** A letter had been received from CCC again giving the P.C. the opportunity to apply for funds through their “Jointly Funded Minor Improvement Schemes -2001/2002 Bidding Round” towards traffic management. This fund helped with the work to the lay-by on Mill Hill last year. After a good deal of discussion, it was agreed that the PC would apply for funds towards the placing of ‘rumble’ strips on Mill Hill approaching the Village from Swaffham Bulbeck & Burwell and also similar on Lower End approaching from Reach and the approach down from the B1102 into Rogers Road.

**Playground:** Several members attended the last ECDC Parish Forum at which their attention was drawn to the need for a Risk Assessment of play areas and regular (weekly/monthly) inspections. Information sheets were circulated to all members noting regulations, procedures, etc. It was agreed to defer further discussion until the November meeting to allow members time to consider. Pricing and applications for grants continue for new equipment.

### **Reports:**

Councillor Fitch reported to the meeting.

Councillor Cane reported to the meeting.

### **Correspondence Received:**

A letter was received from CCC-Rights of Way, informing the PC that following meetings with interested parties, a landscaping scheme for the Reach end of Black Drove had been agreed.

### **General:**

A follow up letter had been received from Oliver Haworth with reference to the skating ramp. This was discussed at length.

A request to rent the Parish land on the B1102 was received.

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

## **Planning Applications Received:**

12 Mill Hill - Two storey end and rear extension with single storey front extension.

There were no objections to the above application.

## **Planning Approvals Received:**

Kent House, 9 High Street (Listed Building Consent)  
20 Mill Hill

## **Any Other Business:**

The Clerk was asked to chase up CCC on the drainage problems on Rogers Road and the surfacing of the footpath on Station Road.

The question of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme was raised. Anyone interested in helping with this scheme, please contact the Clerk.

## **Open Question Time:**

With reference to the landscaping scheme on Black Drove, Michael Ayes, Chairman of Reach P.C., attended the meeting to ask if the P.C. would consider contributing to the cost of the tree 'packs'. The members unanimously agreed to this and wished the scheme all haste.

The Chairman thanked the Millennium Committee for their considerable efforts and hard work that has led to the placing of an excellent village map!

**The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> November 2000 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**

*Karen King*

Clerk of the Parish Council

**SWAFFHAM PRIOR WITH REACH**  
**EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF**  
**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING AT**  
**SWAFFHAM PRIOR VILLAGE HALL, ON MONDAY 25 September 2000**

### **1. Matters Arising:**

(a) Holy Land 2002: The Vicar said that he would be going to the Holy Land next January with a clergy group. He asked if members of the parishes would like to consider going the following year. There seemed to be some enthusiasm for this.

(b) The Vicar said that he would be taking Swaffham Bulbeck to Clare Priory on an Away-Day, and would like to take others from the benefice. This would probably be next Spring. He was also planning an evening excursion to an historical holy place.

### **2. Treasurer's Reports**

In the absence of Michael Cazenove, the Vicar presented the accounts Jan 1st —

September 21st.

There had been a very good response to Gift Day — over £2000 had been given.

The Treasurer had expressed a wish to resign as Treasurer in 2001. We should have to find a new Treasurer before the next vestry meeting.

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

Future events:

Winter Quiz, November 18th, 7.30 p.m.

Advent by Candlelight, 3rd December, 4.00 p.m.

### 4. **Fabric Working Groups' Reports Swaffham Prior**

(a) The new safe had been built into the wall of the vestry. (b) The organ was still crackling — an electronics engineer was needed. (c) The glass door was still catching on the floor. Ivett and Read would cut a new piece of stone to go on the floor under the door. (d) Vestry: a new scheme was needed to tidy up the vestry, with new cupboards. The PCC agreed nem. con. to go ahead with this. John Norris would give some ideas to the architect. (e) The proposed toilet and extension to the Vicar's study had not been approved by the Diocesan Housing Association, for very unconvincing reasons. More letters would be written to ask for their consideration. (f) The churchyard wall had fallen down into Barbara Ives' garden. E.C.D.C. are seeing to the rebuilding of the walls. (g) The lime trees obscuring the clock ought to be trimmed. (h) A Faculty has been applied for to erect a lamp standard by the yew bush opposite St Cyriac's doorway. (i) The Lewis family are donating a seat for the churchyard to be placed under the cedar tree. Archdeacon's advice is to be sought.

### Vicar

- a) The Vicar distributed copies of the worship pattern for October-January. He reported that we now have two ordinands attached to the parish: Silke, as before, and Jonathan Strickland, from Ridley Hall.
- b) The Vicar suggested that there should be more reciprocity between the churches in the benefice. Perhaps we should support each others' social events sometimes.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday 22nd November 7.30 p.m. at Reach Village Centre.**

## **From the Parish Registers for September 2000**

Holy Baptism: William Michael John Jacobs {SB}  
Thomas Alexander Claydon {R}  
Kate Elizabeth Davis

Holy Matrimony: Paul William Moore & Helen Rosalina Wood

In Memoriam: Harriet Grace Kirby (86) {R}



## Church Services November 2000

### ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck

*ALL  
SAINTS*

**Sun  
5**

**8:00am**  
Holy Communion<sup>†</sup>  
**9:30am**  
Family Service

*REMEM-  
BRANCE*

**Sun  
12**

**10:55am**  
Service of  
Remembrance

*2ND  
BEFORE  
ADVENT*

**Sun  
19**

**9:30am**  
Village Communion

*CHRIST  
THE  
KING*

**Sun  
26**

**9:30am**  
Parish Communion

### ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior

**11:00am**

Parish Communion

**10:55am**

Service of  
Remembrance

**6:00pm**  
Requiem Eucharist

**8:00am**

Holy Communion<sup>†</sup>  
**6:00pm**  
Evensong<sup>†</sup> and Sermon

**11:00am**

Mattins<sup>†</sup> and Sermon  
**6:00pm**  
Evensong<sup>†</sup> and Sermon

### ST ETHELREDA & THE HOLY TRINITY

**6:00pm**

Commemoration of  
the faithful departed

**8:00am**

Holy Communion<sup>†</sup>

**10:55am**  
Service of  
Remembrance

**11:00am**

Family Service

**8:00am**

Holy Communion<sup>†</sup>

**Holy Communion  
Evening Prayer**

1<sup>st</sup> Thursdays 10am, Swaffham Bulbeck Church (followed by Home Communion)  
Tuesdays, 5:30pm, Swaffham Bulbeck  
Wednesdays, 5:30pm, Reach  
Thursdays, 5:30pm, Swaffham Prior

**Bellringing  
Housegroup**

Tuesdays, fortnightly 8pm. St. Cyriacs. Contact: Dr Margaret Stanier on 741328.  
Tuesdays, 8pm, fortnightly in Reach.  
Contact Olivia Cole 743434 or Juliet Vickery 742676

**Mothers Union**

1<sup>st</sup> Mondays, 2:15pm, c/o Free Church, Commercial End.  
Contact Win Norton on 01223 811509

**Toddlers Service  
Creche**

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays @ 11:30am for 15 minutes in Reach Village Centre  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays 9.30am Swaffham Bulbeck

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

Dear Friends,

MISCELLANY

There are a number of items best dealt with here chronologically. **Gift Day** early in September raised over £2000, those with Gift Aid (+28%) still to come back from the taxman. We are hugely grateful, not only for the sum raised but for the % response from the village. As my covering letter indicated, £59 every day of the year is a lot to find from a small parish.

At the same time, the **Restoration Appeal** has now plateaued but we have enough funds to commission the work in the vestry, and to plan for the interior lighting improvements, our first two priorities. The possibility of providing a toilet has nose-dived, with the news that the diocese are unwilling to help us in a scheme to add such facilities to an enlarged study/vestibule on the vicarage.

**Harvest Festival** was kept in traditional manner, with school bringing their gifts at their Friday service. then helping to decorate the church, which looked wonderful, the hugely enjoyable supper taking place on the Saturday in St Cyriac's and the two services on Sunday being well attended. The produce has now been delivered to 222 Victoria Rd, Cambridge, the Churches Housing Association Hostel for the Homeless. The Annual Bereavement Service for the benefice is always on the Sunday nearest to All Souls Day (Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>), and this year is held on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November in Reach Church at 6.00pm. There is a list in in church for you to have any names remembered at that service; all are welcome.

Monday November 6<sup>th</sup> is the **new Bishop of Ely, the Rt Revd Anthony Russell's Deanery tour** and we shall welcome him here in the late afternoon, and overnight. He is 'gathering up' the diocese, touring the 19 deaneries ahead of his enthronement in the cathedral on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November at 3.00pm.

**Remembrance Sunday** is November 12<sup>th</sup> this year and the Service of Remembrance begins in church at 10.55. The officiant and preacher this year is the Revd Peter Naylor (Cambridge), as it is my year to be in Swaffham Bulbeck, where on Saturday Nov 11<sup>th</sup> there will also be a short act of remembrance at the village war memorial at 11.00am.

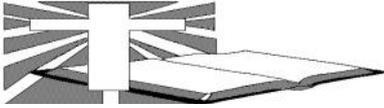
**'Common Worship'**, the Church of England's new service book arrives in time for Advent Sunday, and we shall be drawing upon it for Communion services, all the others being Book of Common Prayer, which thankfully continues unaltered.

**'Advent by Candlelight'** is again held at 4.00pm on Advent Sunday itself, 3<sup>rd</sup> December, when we welcome the whole village to hear seasonal word and music followed by mince pies and mulled wine or juice.

The **Candlelight Carol Service** will be held in St Mary's on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm. As usual a Village Choir is invited to lead the singing; rehearsals (no experience necessary) will provisionally be in church as follows: Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm, Friday 15<sup>th</sup> 6.45pm, Monday 18<sup>th</sup> 6.45pm.

Finally we hope the new Bishop of Ely will be coming to the Fordham-Deanery for the annual Confirmation Service, Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2001 in Soham 10pm. Intending confirmands (aged 11+) should have a word with me soon please.

*Mark*



## Zion Baptist Chapel

### Services for November 2000

Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	No service	
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm	Communion	M.Thomas
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm	Remembrance Sunday	D.Bousfield
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm		D.Bousfield
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm		P.Giddings

### A crafty way to prepare for Christmas

Have you ever wanted to make your own special Christmas cards and gifts – but don't know where to start? Would you like to try a range of simple but effective creative ideas?

During November we will be holding a series of craft demonstrations and workshops to help you do just that.

As some of you may know, we at Zion Chapel work closely together with our friends from Lode Chapel sharing a number of activities with them. This is one of them.

Our offer will be a choice of small workshops where you can have a go at skills ranging from decoupage and needlework to glass-painting and card-making. Materials will be provided (there will be a recommended donation to cover the costs) and over the four weeks you will be able to try as many of these activities as you like.

The evenings will be held at Lode Chapel (down the pathway opposite the Post Office in Lode High Street) on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> November from 7.30-9.30pm.

On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November there will be a Craft Fair from 10.00-12.00 noon in aid of Jimmy's Nightshelter in Cambridge at which a range of beautiful and unusual gifts will be on sale.

If you need any further details, would like to hold a stall at the Craft Fair, or have some home-made items you would like to donate to one of the stalls, please contact Fleur on 01638 743992 or Denise on 01223 812033.

We look forward to seeing you!

*David Bousfield*

# Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish

**Masses:** Newmarket: Sat 1830; Sun 0900, 1030, 1700;

Kirtling: Sun 0945;

In Bottisham Parish Church, Sun 0900 (Served from Cambridge).

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

The recent report that the Church of England was thinking about letting rural post offices and banks set themselves up in churches has led to quite a lot of muttering and complaint in the press and in some of the pubs I visit. This is a pot I cannot resist stirring.

The great age of parish church building in England was between 1100 and 1500. In that time more than 9,000 stone churches were erected, half by monasteries as part of their outreach and mission into secular society, half by noble families as part of their obligation of charity. (In broad terms if an ancient parish has a vicar then the church was built by a monastery, for the word “vicar” means deputy and the priest in such a parish was a deputy for the abbot or prior who nominated him. If an ancient church has a “rector” it was founded by a layman). Between 1500 and 1800 church-building almost ceased. There was tremendous adaptation and change, the conversion of buildings that had been ‘a succession of sacred spaces’ (appropriate for medieval worship and the commemoration of the dead in lots of private chapels) into great open auditoria for the preaching of the protestant word. There were 10,000 churches all told in 1500 and that number remained pretty static until 1800. In 1500 there were 2.5 million inhabitants in England and Wales, so there was a church for every 250 inhabitants, or one for every 120 or so adults.

They were the biggest enclosed public spaces in every town and village. There were bigger castles and perhaps 100 larger manor houses in England by 1500, 500 by 1600, but in market towns the churches would occupy 4-5 times the floor space even of a spanking new town hall, and – after the rebuilding of the 15th century - perhaps the tallest 5,000 buildings in the country were churches. They dominated the landscape. In the flatlands of East Anglia, it was (and is) usually possible to see between 8 and 20 churches from each church tower.

So these were buildings meant to impress God and man. They were an expression of faith, hope and charity; and they were the only places in most villages in which public meetings could take place. Until 1600 at least, the east end of most churches was separated from the rest of the church by a large wooden screen. And in the main body of the church was an area in which everyone came to make their tax returns; in which they made their contributions to the rates; in which the poor came to receive their doles. The back of the church under the Tower, or the vestry, was likely to be an elementary school during the week. Cathedrals and other large town churches often had shopping precincts in their cloisters (old St Paul’s in London is a good example of that) and churches were the principal weapon stores and ammunition dumps for the local militias. In at least one third of Suffolk parishes - and the same was almost certainly true elsewhere - there was an area of parish land which was the local entertainment centre where travelling players alternated with bear-baiting and cockfighting, although these activities were stamped out by the puritans in the early seventeenth century.

The Church was at the centre of society and was the one place on which most if not all community activity was focused. It was only in the 18<sup>th</sup> and especially the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries that all kinds of specialist buildings and the professionalisation of government turned the churches into places of worship alone. If circumstances once more make them the best places to meet the needs of the less mobile members of an over-mobile society good luck to them. Let us not preserve our churches in aspic. They bear the mark of every century they have existed in. Let the 21<sup>st</sup> century be no exception!

## ***Dates for Your Diary - November 2000***

Wed	1	
Thu	2	
Fri	3	Craft Workshop, Lode Chapel, 7:30pm (and subsequent Fridays)
Sat	4	
Sun	5	
Mon	6	Visit by the Bishop of Ely
Tue	7	
Wed	8	
Thu	9	Parish Council meeting, Village Hall, 7:30pm
Fri	10	Cambridge Voices CD recording in St Cyriacs (Fri-Sun)
Sat	11	
Sun	12	Remembrance Sunday
Mon	13	C19 French Painting, Ann Hollingsworth, VH 7:30pm
Tue	14	<b>Crier Copy Deadline</b> Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Wed	15	
Thu	16	
Fri	17	
Sat	18	Quiz Night Village Hall, 7.30pm
Sun	19	
Mon	20	WI Village Hall, 7:30pm
Tue	21	School Governors, 7:30pm Village Gardeners, Reach VH, 8.00pm
Wed	22	Quiz Night, British Legion, Bottisham, 7:00pm
Thu	23	
Fri	24	
Sat	25	Craft Fair, Lode Chapel, 10:00am-12:00Noon Haydn's The Creation, St Peter's, Fordham, 7:15pm
Sun	26	Conservative Assoc'n Drinks Party, Allix Arms, 12:00 noon
Mon	27	
Tues	28	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Wed	29	
Thur	30	<b>Crier</b> Collating, Village Hall, 2:30pm
<b>December</b>		
Sun	3	Advent by Candlelight with Cambridge Voices