



The Swaffham Crier

Volume 25 Number 4

January 2001



Editorial

The first Music on the Move concert (Friday March 23 At St Cyriac's) was, by all reports, quite superb, and we are very sorry we missed it. Although turn-out was low, we understand this was more than compensated for by the increased effectiveness of the acoustics in St Cyriac's in the absence of a large audience. But followers of *Cambridge Voices* are unlikely to let them get away with this again, and should turn out in their usual droves for the excellent programme to be performed in St Cyriac's this month on Good Friday.

The spring daffodils are coming up, and the WI are very pleased to see that the sackfuls of bulbs they planted at the Cambridge end of the village have all grown and are looking lovely. Residents of Tothill Rd are not so pleased, however. They too planted daffodil bulbs but somebody (or some bodies) smashed the down. How disheartening and horrible. Swaffham Prior parents might like to have a word with their offspring to see if they know who did it.

Gardening fans should turn to Village Gardeners where they will learn all about the forthcoming Barnsdale Excursion. This promises to be a great day out and tickets should be booked early — they intend to fill the coach.

In this month's issue, there is an evocative poem for Easter by *Edwin Muir*, a previous resident of Swaffham Prior; Margaret Stanier takes up the pen of Our Correspondent on the Parish Council, only to fall swiftly into a *Slough of Despond*; and Alastair Everitt and Mark Lewinski revisit pastures old in replying to our Northumbrian correspondent Meanwhile, *our spelling has been criticised!*

So we are focusing on spelling in this issue. We'd like to point out that whereas we've allowed a certain leeway amongst our correspondents viz. spelling of *nom de plumes*, and such names as Shakspeare, Alistaire etc., we do at least know how to spell *focusing*. Which is more than can be said for others at present. Or at least, those others who are keen on *targets* and *mission statements*, and you know, *focussing* on them.

St Cyriac's is hosting a photographic exhibition and accompanying poetry evening this month (see ads, diary) and these should certainly be worth a visit. Happy Easter, everyone!

Caroline Matheson

Cover Picture: *Home thoughts from Abroad*, Robert Browning



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Creir Spelling

Ruth Stinton's recent appeal for a person to deliver the Crier in Lower End was answered by someone on condition that their name (and others! eg. Shakespeare, and Name Withheld) are all spelled correctly in future.

Name Misspelled

Not to mention Alistair (sic) Everitt. Eds.

Dear Editors,

Shakespeare

I share your delight with Alex Fotheringham's complimentary letter. Being, as you say, a bookseller, Mr Fotheringham will be familiar with many of the famous literary disputes and the quality of the "disparagement". There is of course a fine line between this and what he calls "unseemly vulgar abuse", and I am not sure who can judge.

He need however have no fear of this in Swaffham Prior because both protagonists are very well able to look after themselves. However Mark Lewinski did rather close down the debate when he responded to my request for a few facts by a long general essay on a variety of subjects. It was unanswerable. He ended by saying that his pupils (I wonder what their school magazine contains) thought the *Crier* to be a stupid place in which to raise something like the longstanding Shakespeare authorship controversy. I don't agree with this and think the Editors cannot be commended too highly for requesting and supporting articles such as the Oxford ones and those of Frank Riggs, even though some people may have found them a cure for insomnia.

But Mark Lewinski's coup de grâce was his PS - "Who the heck was Geoffrey Chaucer?" No-one has ever suggested that Geoffrey Chaucer is a pseudonym and the remark is totally irrelevant. So why make it? A light laugh? A way to make a mockery of the debate? A way of avoiding the need to provide a few facts?

Anyway some Swaffham Prior residents will at least be familiar with the argument before the release of Kenneth Branagh's forthcoming film *Alias Shakespeare* which supports the Oxford claim. The main casting has just been finalised and apart from Branagh playing Stratford Willy, Richard Carlisle will play Oxford and Helena Bonham Carter will play Burghley's daughter, Oxford's first wife. Other actors/actresses include Charles Dance, Derek Jacobi, Kate Winslett, Miles Foster, Julia Norbury, Nicola Paget, etc. It is scheduled for release in 2004, which happens to be the quartercentenary of Oxford's death. I don't know whether all theatre people have such an open

mind, but, apart from Branagh, good wishes and encouragement for the Oxford cause come from Derek Jacobi, Maggie Smith and Judi Dench.

Before the film is released the Oxford dating project with which I am involved will have been published. This involves changing all the suggested Stratfordian dates of composition and moving them backwards. Quite simply, Stratfordians cannot have any plays written too early, and Oxfordians cannot have any of the plays written after early 1604. If you do not believe Stratford Willy wrote the plays it is amazing how quickly the dating "proof" of the Stratfordians evaporates, and other evidence previously and necessarily ignored becomes significant.

Alastair Everitt
Anglesey House

Dear Editors,

Re the letter from Northumberland. I could not presume to speak for Alastair Everitt, but I had thought our levels of disparagement to be fairly mild. (I thought football disparagement involved threats of violence, which I certainly did not do to Alastair Everitt, and if he did it to me I did not notice). In reply to our Hexham correspondent I am happy to say that I would have difficulty working up enough interest in football to disparage in support of any side. This is probably because of the 1970 FA cup final between Leeds and Chelsea. That year, all the boys in the top class in the primary school in my village in Bedfordshire supported Chelsea; the girls all favoured Leeds. Indeed, for some years afterwards 'Leeds' was indelibly marked on the metal cover plates of many of the streetlights in nail varnish, until those lights were replaced - probably with something effective and uncontroversial of the type recently removed from this village, but let's not get too far into that one. Either way I don't remember anyone complaining, possibly because they didn't notice the lamps had been replaced. It was that sort of village.

Anyway, Chelsea won 1-0, we went off to grammar school in Dunstable or the nearby secondary modern, and next year nobody bothered. All the fun seemed to have gone out of it. I don't even remember who was in the 1971 final. Since then, Cup Final day has just been to me one where you can drive and park in town slightly more easily than usual.

I think it kindest to all concerned not to recount my attempts to get to church with a carload of very small children, nor to tell Mr Fotheringham of the state of the traffic in Huntingdon, where I worked a couple of years ago. Let's just let him dream of us cycling to church on a warm summer morning, followed by warm beer in the pub garden afterwards. It is next door, after all.

Mark Lewinski
32 Fairview Grove

Dear Editors,

Council Tax

Mike Phillips seems to be blaming the District Council for the general rise in Council Tax last year. The total rise was indeed about 9% - £64.87 on a Band D property. But only £3.65 of this was for the District Council, which raised the Council Tax by 6.35%. The Conservative controlled County Council put up the tax by 8.49% - £48.42 and the Police put up theirs by 19.86% - £10.35. The Parish average across the District increased by 10% - £2.45.

District Council accounting requires us to have two separate sets of income and expenditure. One set is revenue, which is mainly our government grant and your council tax for income and the cost of services for expenditure. The other set is capital, which is mainly sales of assets such as council houses and land for income and expenditure on long-term assets such as sports centres and grants to repair historic buildings.

We have been spending revenue reserves, because the auditors have been saying for some time that these are at too high a level. They had been built up to that level because the Independent Council constantly budgeted to spend more than they actually spent, because they did not monitor spend against budget and took no action when promised services were not delivered. Nevertheless, there was never a significant income from the interest on the revenue reserves. The main interest came from the Capital reserves. The District Council has used these Capital reserves over the years to grant aid many organisations across the District, to help Housing Associations build houses for rent across the district and for capital investments. We have spent these Capital reserves at the same rate as the Independent run Council had planned to spend them. However, their budgets (which we inherited) did not check the revenue budget against the capital budget. They therefore budgeted to spend the capital reserves and keep the interest earned on the revenue account as if they still had the capital reserves! We are now trying to tidy up that mess.

As I said in my article, we cannot continue to provide the present level of services and remain one of the lowest taxing District Councils. We therefore need to consult widely to help us set the level of services and the level of Council Tax next year. I hope that this letter helps to explain some of the background. When you get your Council Tax bills please study the enclosed leaflets very carefully as they explain what services are supplied in return for your money.

Yours faithfully,

Cllr Charlotte Cane

Dear Editors,

Bins in Orbit

I have had no private communication from Long John Silver or Captain Hook applying to take over my recycling bin, but perhaps there will be a letter in next month's *Crier*. As it happens, I have already found a good home for my bin - though I suppose it won't have stayed there long, but will now be in orbit round the village with all the other bins. So, my apologies to LJS/Capn.H if he/she is disappointed - it would have made a nice tank for a small crocodile, but wouldn't do for a parrot. Which reminds me, did Name Witheld put four-and-twenty of his/her blackbirds in a pie? And did they sing?

Meryl Moore
Rose Cottage

Accommodation Wanted

Married couple (Retired), seek long term rental accommodation. (unfurnished).

Detached, 2 Bed. Plus garage & outbuilding suitable for hobbies workshop. Rural or semi rural setting preferred.

First class references available! Please ring 01638-742666

ART HISTORY

The Easter Sepulchre in Eastern England



An illustrated talk by Ann Hollingsworth
Swaffham Prior Village Hall
Monday 2nd April 2001 7.30 p.m.
Entrance £2

At Easter time every church in medieval England had to set up an Easter Sepulchre to represent the Tomb of Christ. Tonight you can discover what they looked like and the rituals surrounding them. Unique slides will be shown of some fine examples from churches in the East of England.

Enquiries to Ann Hollingsworth 01638 741613

Next term the Art History class at Burwell Village College will be looking at paintings from London's National Gallery. Thursdays 7.30-9.30, commencing 3rd May. Details from Burwell Village College, 01638 741901.

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

A characteristic of our Parish Council is to spend half-an-hour discussing, say, item 2a, another half-hour on item 3b, and then to dash through all the other items on its lengthy Agenda 'on the nod'. Does the Chairman ever ask himself before the meeting 'In which particular Sloughs of Despond are we likely to get bogged-down this month?' Reviewing last month's Minutes, he may well have foreseen Street Lighting and Road Signs as potential hazards. And sure enough, the new and the old street lights engaged us for a good half-hour, with massive contributions from the Gallery (by invitation) and from the ECDC representative. The proposed archway light above the churchyard gateway was a source of speculation: are we paying for the electricity, as we do (apparently) for the light on the NE corner of the church? Or is this light to be a bonus, illuminating the public pavement as well as the churchyard steps? The archway idea did not originate from the church but from the Conservation Officer who decided that a lamp standard here 'would not look nice'. There is to be a site-meeting, it seems, on some dark moonless night, when the Council's lighting engineer will come along the High Street with light-meters to make sure that we are getting all the candlepower we are paying for and no more.



Lorries to-ing and fro-ing to Lordsground Farm, and how best direct them, was another of our long-standing problems which seems no nearer solution, and in fact (some say) is getting worse because of the size of the lorries, the bad surface of Station Road, and the deep ditches alongside it. The Chairman told us that road-signs were the County Council's job and all we could do was to express our willingness to accept the C.C.'s decisions.

Another half-hour job which the Chairman may not have foreseen, however, was the item village 'Vandalism in the Village'. He might have hoped that last month's Minute would see the end of this. But he allowed Mr. Glennon to have his lengthy say about the inadequacy of the police, hoping for some constructive proposal at the end of it. It was only when the speaker, in a wide-ranging discourse, told us that the country could save a lot of money spent on prisoners by nipping crime in the bud by better schooling, that the Chairman dragged the discussion forcibly back to Parish Council level. He suggested that the local Neighbourhood Watch was the appropriate medium, and ours could be revived and strengthened.

As always after P.C. meetings, I was amazed at the skill with which our Chairman conducts, and our Clerk manages to record, our village affairs. A suggestion made at one of the twice-yearly meetings of the Council of a

Society to which I belong might give our Trevor and Karen some food for thought. Could we replace our monthly meetings with a ele-Conference? Or E-mail-Exchange? That would concentrate people's minds. If they had to sit at a keyboard to type their remarks; only the quickest typists and the briefest and most succinct writers would get their say. And of course Karen would have a complete print-out from which to compile the Minutes. Incidentally, we were told that Karen is about to get onto the E-mail system. The powers-that-be are keen on having all Parish Councils On-the-Web, and some parishes even get grants for the initial cost of setting-up the machinery, but (as Trevor told us) we are unlikely to get a grant because we are too rich and too well-educated.

Margaret Stanier

The Jumble Sale

Undoubtedly a success, in spite of seven other jumble sales being advertised in the *Cambridge Evening News*. Just over 100 people came and just over 450 pounds were taken. We are very grateful to all the donors, to all the helpers, and especially to Elaine Malster for organising it.

Apart from being a fundraiser it was also great fun as we watched items being redistributed throughout the village and throughout the county as dealers left piled high with bargains. One of my joys was seeing a Bulbeckian beaming as she left with a pile of striped shirts for her quilting classes. And another was a young man wheeling away a bicycle, with his young wife saying "You already have four bicycles in the garage", to which he retorted "But the tyres are pumped up on this one."

On the Sunday morning we did make many journeys to the tip. But that was the "junk". Books, clothes, bric-a-brac, and children's clothes have been taken to various charity shops in Newmarket. Books have gone to the Free Church in Bulbeck, and also to a charity shop in Cambridge, two folding beds were taken to the Arthur Rank House in Cambridge, and three evening gowns went to the Bridge Street Oxfam in Cambridge. "Oh, goodee", said the lady, "they will love these for the May Balls". So a wonderful 1960's evening gown (a period gem!) will soon be encasing some young gal at a May Ball this year. A lovely thought.

The next Village Hall Jumble Sale is scheduled for early March 2002.

Alastair Everitt

Paddock to Let

For two horses, Easter to Oct. Please contact Mrs Wood on 742020



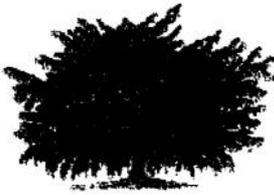
Bellringing in April

On the afternoon of Saturday, April 7th, a visiting band from Ely district bellringers will be ringing at St Cyriac's for about an hour before going on to ring at Swaffham Bulbeck.

On Wednesday, April 18th, another band will be ringing for an hour in the afternoon and on the morning of Saturday, April 28th, a band from Great Shelford will be ringing here from 10 to 11am.

Margaret Stanier

Thinking of YEW



A Phographic Exhibition by Andy McGeeney

And

Guy Williams—Sculpture in Yew
Tim Plunkett—Woodturning in Yew

In St Cyriac's, Swaffham Prior

7-16th of April 2001

For further information contact Nichole Buijsse—Tel 01223 812363



Reach Fair 2001

May 7th
at 12 noon

Rides-stalls-games-country crafts
Morris men-juggling-assault course
Cub courts-medieval knights-saxons
Refreshemnts and beer tent
Cream teas-salads-roast and BBQ

Tug of war at 6pm

free admission, £2 parking charge incl programme

Good Friday, April 13th

Two concerts of

MUSIC FOR HOLY WEEK

16.00 *

St. Columba's Church,
Downing St. Cambridge

19.00 **

St. Cyriac & St. Julitta's Church,
Swaffham Prior, Cambridge

Allegri	<i>Miserere mei, I)eus</i>
Tallis	<i>In jejunio et fletu</i>
Byrd	<i>Bow down thine ear, O Lord</i>
Gesualdo	<i>Motets for Holy Week</i>
Poulenc	<i>Lenten Motets</i>
Poulenc	<i>Benedictus</i> (from the Mass in G)
De Massini	<i>Washing of the feet</i>
Bach arr. De Massini	<i>Weinen, Klagen, Sorgen Zagen</i> ***
De Massini	Excerpts from <i>The Seven Last Words</i>

With Narrators Hilary Sage * & Catherine Walston **

And PRIME BRASS ***

All Tickets: £5 at the door

The East Cambridgeshire Health Improvement Plan

The East Cambridgeshire Primary Care Group has been working closely with the East Cambridgeshire District Council, to develop a joint health improvement plan for our district.

This is a 3 year plan to work together to make significant improvements to the health of our local population and is based around our four health priorities, detailed below:

- ***Disability and Vulnerability*** - focusing on promoting and maintaining the health of vulnerable people, increasing independence and improving carer support.
- ***Chronic Disease*** - focusing on smoking cessation, healthy lifestyles, heart disease and Osteoporosis.
- ***Mental Health*** - focusing on promoting mental health in families and young children and reducing the risk of mental illness in those most vulnerable.
- ***Accidents*** - focusing on reducing the deaths from road traffic accidents and reduce injuries resulting from falls in older people.

**Conservative AGM will be held at 3 pm, Baldwin Manor on April 30.
ALL WELCOME!**

MUSIC ON THE MOVE

SWAFFHAM PRIOR & REACH 2001

A Celebration of Churches and Chapels

*Fair Green, Reach - Sunday May 6th, 6.00pm
Hymns on the Green with Cambridge Soft Drinks Brass Band*

For more information please telephone
01638 -742974 or 01638- 741409

A full explanatory Programme is available (price £1)

Playscheme 2001!!!

WOW! Thanks to everyone for turning up to the Red Lion for a very well-supported planning meeting on 12 March. We are awash with brilliant ideas and this year's Playscheme looks set to be another action packed week.

Just a few appeals.... can you help?

We need someone (or several people on a rota) to come in to do refreshments for helpers and children in the Village Hall each morning.

We will be requiring a number of the old style Fairy Liquid (or similar) bottles, for a very innovative form of painting!

We will soon be needing a place to store Playscheme craft materials — half a dozen or so sealed plastic storage boxes, plus a few other bits and pieces. Does anyone have a dry shed or barn we could use?

Many thanks for any help you can provide.

The next planning meeting will be at the Red Lion on Monday 23 April at 8pm.

And just a reminder of the basic points — Playscheme is open to all primary school aged children in Swaffham Prior and Reach or those who have previously attended Swaffham Prior School. It will run for the mornings of the week 30 July - 3 August at a cost of £2.50 per child per morning or £6 for a daily family ticket.

For more information please contact Dee Noyes on 743864 or via the school office.



DRAMA
CRAFTS



SPORT
VISITS



BARBEQUE
SWIMMING



MUSIC
SKATING

**Easter Sunday and Monday
11 am to 5 pm**

**ART EXHIBITION
OF PICTURES AND
PHOTOGRAPHS**

at Quy Church

The church will be decorated with flowers for Easter. Most pictures will be for sale with a percentage of the money going to Quy Church Trust. Admission Free

Domestic help
needed

*Period Cottage
Adult Household
2-3 hours weekly
Good rate of pay*

Joan and George

Could anyone who sent a Christmas card this year to Joan and George in Brynn Llewellyn, Fishguard, or alternatively, anyone who knows of *Libeth* as a current or previous resident of the High St, Swaffham Prior, please get in touch with Caroline Matheson on 744008.

Saturday the 7th of April 2001
19.30 for 20.00

YEW

TIME PAST & TIME PRESENT

An Evening
Music
Celebrating



of Poetry and
the Meaning
of Yew

With Poetry by T.S.Elliot,
Jehanne Mehta, Malcolm Jamieson and
Sheila Wild and A Capella Singing
By Women of Note.

In the Beautiful Ambience
of St Cyriac's in
Swaffham Prior - Cambridge
Amongst an Exhibition by photographer
and Naturalist Andy McGeeney
And Sculpture in Yew Wood

Tickets £6 / £4 Concessions.

For Further Information and booking
Contact:

Nicole Buijsse - The Mill House -
Bottisham Park - Bottisham - Cambridge
CB5 9ED

Tel: 01223 812363
Nicolebuijsse@hotmail.com



STAINE HUNDRED

At the March Meeting of the Staine Hundred, Rachel Wroth gave a most interesting talk about 19th Century College Servants. She had studied servants at St. Johns College as part of her Local History Diploma and had since gone on to look at other Cambridge colleges.

In the middle of the 19th Century there were around 400 Masters and Fellows, 1700 Undergraduates and at least 600 College Servants in Cambridge. In the larger Colleges there would be a Cook with his staff for the Fellows and another with his staff for the Undergraduates. These cooks were not paid by the College but ran their own thriving businesses, employing their own staff, owning their own crockery and charging for all the meals supplied, thus earning for themselves more than the Master's salary! The head Butler was paid £400 per annum - eight times the wages of the Head Gardener, and there were many perks going with the job. The shoeblacks also had their own business, one charging his undergraduates 7s 6d per quarter but, though in the winter terms he had 170 customers, in the summer this number would drop to 45, but nevertheless from his £200 per year he could employ four men, one being his son and another a nephew. The Head Porters who all wore top hats (with the under porters in bowler hats) knew all the undergraduates in his college and in the smaller colleges would live in the porter's lodge with his family. As well as being responsible for security, they also had act as firemen when necessary. Some charged ½d for every letter he delivered to the undergraduates - and left in their wills several thousand pounds! The colleges each had their own bakery and brewery which prospered well in term time. The bed-makers were responsible for the cleaning of the rooms on one staircase which would include Fellows and undergraduates who would pay them on a termly basis. Gyps (a word meaning vultures) were usually responsible for the more personal services to their young men and would expect to take any food or wine left over. These servants lived out in the town in the slum conditions which were prevalent in the 19th century. The College servants were a close knot and jobs rarely had to be advertised as other members of the family would fill them. The highlight of the year was the Christmas Party but there were also sports opportunities and exchange visits with Oxford by train were arranged for cricket, football and rowing. One bed-maker born in Bottisham lived to be 100 and one born in Quy celebrated her Diamond Wedding to a College porter, who had previously been a Cambridge policeman.

Peggy Day



VILLAGE GARDENERS

If you garden in the Village or surrounding area and are not a member of our excellent Village Garden Club, how about joining us? Share your knowledge with others at our monthly meetings (3rd Tuesday at 8.00pm) or pick up the latest ideas and hints from the expert speakers we have to entertain us.

The Village Gardeners began over 6 years ago and members and visitors enjoy talks, slide shows, plant sales, and garden visits.

This year we have had a fascinating talk on garden conservation by John Drake - Chairman of the Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust, and a colourful slide show on New Zealand Plants from Beryl Sealy - interesting to see where some of our more familiar plants like Hebes come from.

The April meeting hosts Trevor Wilson talking about "Wisley - a garden for all seasons" - no doubt illustrated with slides.

The summer garden visits start in May and a special outing to Barnsdale, **the garden of the late Geoff Hamilton, on May 20th** for which we are hoping to fill a coach and planning a pleasant coffee stop at Barnsdale Lodge Hotel. Seats are filling up rapidly, all enquiries to Mike Phillips (Tel. 741495).

New members are assured of a warm welcome.

Barbara Jones
Tel. 741197



LADIES CIRCLE

On Monday 26th February the Ladies Circle met for their monthly meeting at Zion Baptist Chapel. Our speaker for the evening was Fleur from the village, who showed us how she makes jewellery. Fleur was first inspired to make her own jewellery when she saw a necklace her mother owned. She felt it looked quite easy to make and decided to try and have a go herself. Since then she has made quite a selection, along with bracelets as well. She brought along beads, thread, ribbons etc and demonstrated how she made these and then asked members to have a go — which they did. This resulted in two necklaces being produced which were sold on the 'bring and buy' stall.

We have booked many interesting and varied speakers throughout the coming months, along with organised outings. If you would like to know more about the Ladies Circle please feel free to call either myself on 742585 or Mary Cook on 742945.

Sandra Butcher



WI Notes

Unfortunately our February meeting was held too late to be reported in the 'Crier' but I must mention that we thoroughly enjoyed Pat Airey's account of her adventurous holiday in Borneo. Pat does not go on ordinary holidays like most of us. She and her husband stayed at a lovely hotel for the first ten days, during which time they visited a water village where the houses were built on stilts, a colourful Sunday market and had a trip on a wooden train.

The next ten days were spent in the jungle where they saw many varieties of birds, snakes and giant turtles. They also watched orangutans teaching their young to climb from branch to branch, and had a boat trip through mango swamps. We saw photographs which illustrated the many aspects of the holiday. Next March we hope to be hearing about her trip to Outer Mongolia - or was it the Antarctic?

On Monday 19th March we held our A.G.M. which was well attended and we were able to welcome two new members. According to the By-Laws the office of President can only be held for a maximum of three consecutive years so Margaret Phillips had to stand down. She was presented with two patio roses as a mark of appreciation. Betty Prime (that's me) has reluctantly taken her place.

Following the A.G.M. we had an absorbing and sometimes hilarious time being shown how to do Quilting by Dorothy Stamp. Dorothy brought along some really beautiful examples of her work and some members were able to achieve creditable results. We were all ready for the food and wine which followed (especially the wine!)

Next month John Fidoe will be coming to talk about 'Making Money'. This will be an Open Evening so do come along, Monday 23rd April at 7.30 in the Village Hall Committee Room.

Betty Prime

Anne Frank Exhibition at Ely Cathedral - 3rd to 31st May 2001

During 1999 a community group started making plans to bring the Anne Frank exhibition to Ely in 2001. The Cathedral needs your help as we are looking for volunteers willing to give up a few hours to sit on the admissions desk or to man the bookshop. The exhibition is non-profit making and any profit raised through the modest entrance fee will be returned to the Anne Frank Trust. Helpers will be told all about the exhibition at a special morning organised for them on Wednesday 2nd May in Ely Cathedral. Please contact: Chapter House, The College, Ely, Cambs, CB7 4DL or phone 01353 667735.

Notes from the Parish Council March Meeting

Mr T Jones chaired the meeting with 6 members and 2 members of the Public.

Councillor Fitch reported to the meeting for CCC.

Councillor Cane reported to the meeting for ECDC.

Annual Village Assembly: This will take place at the Village Hall on Thursday, 17th May 2001. This is an open meeting for all residents. The Agenda will be decided at the April PC meeting. Anyone wishing to make a suggestion for the Agenda should contact the Clerk or any member of the PC.

Dates for meetings 2001/2002. Dates for the next 'season' of PC meetings were agreed.

Grasscutting Services: Three estimates have been received. After discussion it was agreed to accept Mr Shreeve's estimate.

Trees - Allotments: Three estimates have been received for the felling of the two large Leylandi type trees on the boundary of the allotments (nearest B1102). It was agreed to accept the estimate from Eastern Tree Surgery and ask them to carry out the work.

Road Signs - Lorries: The original request from Reach PC for signs directing lorries off the B1102 down the slip-road into the village and then at the top of Station Road to Lords Ground Farm/Greens was again discussed. It was suggested that pictorial signs might be of more assistance to foreign drivers. The signs would be within the Conservation Area and this would have to be taken into account. The Clerk will liase with Reach P.C.

Vandalism in Village: Following several incidents in the village, a letter had been written to the Police. A reply was received but it was generally felt that this did little to answer residents' concerns. This subject will be included on the Agenda for the Annual Village Assembly.

The possibility of reinstating the Neighbourhood Watch was discussed and this is to be further investigated.

Correspondence Received: The Clerk reported correspondence.

Accounts for Payment: These were agreed.

Planning Approval Received: School - retention of 1 x 3-bay mobile classroom.

Any Other Business: A request for further grit/salt bins for the footpaths/car parking areas at The Beeches and Pulpit Corner was raised. The Clerk will write to Hereward Housing & Cambridge Housing respectively to ask for their assistance.

As agreed at the last P.C. meeting, now that the new lamp posts are in position and working, a meeting is to be arranged between CCC, ECDC, the PC and any other concerned parties to discuss the adequacy of the lighting. The lighting and archway for over the Church steps is still in the process of being made.

Footnote: As Spring fast approaches the Parish Council would like to ask for your assistance in keeping any hedgerows, trees, etc on property boundaries cut back from footpaths and pavements to allow safe and easy access,

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday, 12th April 2001 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Karen King,
Clerk of the Parish Council

APPLICATION

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982

Notice and application for Renewal of Public Entertainments Licence

I, Janet Mary Cooper, of 41 High Street, Swaffham Prior, propose to make an application for a public entertainments licence for Swaffham Prior Village Hall, 36 High Street, Swaffham Prior, Cambridgeshire, to commence 1 April 2001.

Any objections should be submitted in writing to Mr. S. C. Clements, Environmental Services Manager, East Cambridgeshire District Council, The Grange, Nutholt Lane, Ely, Cambridgeshire CB7 4PL.

Janet Cooper
Secretary to the Village Hall Committee

APPLICATION

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982

Notice and application for Renewal of Public Entertainments Licence

I, Brenda Wilson of The Old School House, High St, Burwell, propose to make application for a public entertainments licence for Swaffham Prior Church of England Primary School, Station Rd, Swaffham Prior, Cambridge CB5 0LG, to commence 1 April 2001.

Any objections should be submitted in writing to Mr. S. C. Clements, Environmental Services Manager, East Cambridgeshire District Council, The Grange, Nutholt Lane, Ely, Cambridgeshire CB7 4PL.

Brenda Wilson
Headteacher



**EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

From our District
Councillor

We set our Council Tax Rate for 2001/02 at £64.21 for a Band D. Band D is always quoted because it is the average rate. People in Band A will pay £42.81 and people in Band H will pay £128.42. Of course, the bill that you receive from East Cambridgeshire District Council will be higher than this, because we collect the Council tax for the County Council, the Police and the Parish Councils. A Band D household will receive a bill for £828.21 - £668.07 for the County Council, £68.04 for the Police, £64.21 for ECDC and £27.89 for the Parish Council. The total bill for a Band A will be £552.14 and for a Band H it will be £1,656.42.

If a household needs to have extra accommodation for a disabled person it may be possible to have a reduction in Council Tax. If you think you may be eligible for this reduction please contact Andrew Manning, our Revenues Manager, on 01353 665555.

The March Farmers Market was cancelled as a precaution against the spread of Foot & Mouth disease. The next Farmers Market is due to be held on the 14 April. Unfortunately, unless the occurrence of new cases stops soon, we may have to cancel that Farmers Market as well. If you want to check before travelling to Ely, please 'phone the Council on 01353 665555. We have reviewed the collection of rubbish and decided that that should continue as normal, unless the landowner requests that their rubbish is not collected. Officers are not making any routine visits that involve crossing farmland and have therefore stopped their pest control visits. I know the various restrictions will be causing inconvenience and I apologise for that. But it is vital that we do all that we can to stop this disease from spreading into and around Cambridgeshire. We consult regularly with the National Farmers Union and the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food and the actions we are taking are a result of those consultations.

The Council, in partnership with the Health Authority and Primary Care Group, has drawn up a draft Health Improvement Strategy. We now want to know what local people think of the strategy before publishing the final version. The consultation will be launched on 12 April from 10.00am at the Paradise Sports Centre. There will be opportunities for you to check aspects of your health and look at ways of improving your health. There will also be activities, such as face painting, so it should be fun as well. If you can't get to the launch in Ely, there will be other opportunities to give your views. For example, the Health Improvement Roadshow will be coming to Reach Fair.

Charlotte Cane

POLICE matters took priority in my work over the last month. For some time talks with senior officers about a replacement for the excellent P.C. Paul Davis had been inconclusive. However, Inspector David Howell in charge of our sector has now told me that Paul really will be replaced. As I write I cannot give the name, but I understand a confirmatory appointment will be made soon.

Even more reassuring is the knowledge that Sgt. Terry Cakebread will be at **Histon Police Station** (01223 358966, ext. 3720) to deal with telephone reports and enquiries involving wholly police interests and he will be assisted by a civilian community contact officer who will be able to take on queries which overlap other aspects of crime prevention and victim support, administration and research.

There is a **Police and Community Liaison meeting** on April 4th at 7.30pm in Comberton Village College. Anyone can go and ask questions of Inspector Howell and his colleagues. Usually only local parish and district councillors and Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators attend, but it is open to anyone and I recommend those with an interest to go along also. Inspector Howell was emphatic in his support of **Neighbourhood Watch** schemes and we should expect a re-awakening of activity on this subject in the next few months.

Allied to this I have now received an answer to a question I raised at the last meeting of the **CAMBRIDGESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY** about progress in curbing hoax calls to the Fire Service. The news is good for once. The number of hoax calls which was at a peak of nearly twelve hundred in 1996/7 has steadily declined to about 560 in the year ending March 2001. Speaking to school children, pursuing prosecutions of known offenders and the ability to consider having a mobile phone disconnected when hoax calls have been made have all contributed to the fall. We hope to continue the trend downward.

HIGHWAYS Department tell me that they are catching up with pothole filling and other similar repairs now that the weather is (slightly) improving. Water filled potholes along the **fen roads** prevent immediate action until drained.

The **CYCLE/FOOTWAY** programme proceeds at a slow but steady pace. Bottisham, Lode and Swaffham Bulbeck parish councils are now being consulted on the designs put up by W.S. Atkins for the two paths: Swaffham Bulbeck to Longmeadow and along the A1303 from Bell road, Bottisham to Quy. Construction is planned for year 2001. At last we are getting somewhere!

James Fitch



Church Services

April 2001

ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck

ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior

ST ETHELREDA & THE HOLY TRINITY

LENT 5

8:00am
Sun Holy Communion[†]
1
9:30am
Parish Communion^{cw}

11:00am
Parish Communion^{cw}
6:00pm
Evensong[†] and Sermon

*PALM
SUNDAY*

9:30am
Sun Parish Communion^{cw}
8

11:00am
Morning Service
12:30pm
Holy Baptism of Mia Blanks
6:00pm
Evensong[†] and Sermon

8:00am
Holy Communion[†]

*EASTER
SUNDAY*

9:30am
Sun Village Communion^{cw}
15 & Easter egg hunt

11:00am
Parish Communion^{cw}
6:00pm
Evensong[†] and Sermon

8:00am
Holy Communion[†]

*EASTER
2*

9:30am
Sun Parish Communion^{cw}
22

8:00am
Holy Communion[†]
11:00am
Mattins[†] and Sermon

6:00pm
Evening Service

*EASTER
3*

9:30am
Sun
29

6:00pm
Evensong[†] and Sermon

8:00am
Holy Communion[†]

10:00am

United Parish Communion at St Mary's, Burwell

Holy Communion
Evening Prayer

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

Bellringing
Housegroup

Thursdays, 5:30pm, Swaffham Prior
Tuesdays, fortnightly 8pm. St. Cyriacs. Contact: Dr Margaret Stanier on 741328.
Tuesdays, 8pm, fortnightly in Reach.
Contact Olivia Cole 743434 or Juliet Vickery 742676

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

**PASTORAL LETTER,
April 2001 , The Vicarage**

Dear Friends,

May I begin by offering an open invitation to the School Hall on Monday, 23rd April, at 2.30pm , when the parish Easter Vestry and Annual Parochial Church Meeting takes place. At this, the church wardens are elected, and all those on the civil electoral register are allowed to vote, whereas only those on the church electoral roll are allowed to vote on all other business.....though anyone can ask questions! Should you wish to be on the roll, please have a word with myself, Eric Day, or Ian Holmwood.

My very first visit to Cambridge, and King's College Chapel, was on Good Friday, 1978, when we came to house hunt, ahead of my move to Thetford Chase. It was my first exposure to Allegri's 'Miserere', with its soaring treble line sung by the choir, remotely, from the anti-chapel. Cambridge Voices' rendition is no less evocative in St Cyriac's, and I hope many will come to the Good Friday evening concert at 7.00pm.

As I have done for many years, I kept the order of service, and it is interesting to note that on the back cover was written a poem by *Edwin Muir*, entitled *The Killing*. Imagine my surprise to discover, when I came here, that Muir had lived opposite the Parish Church for much of his later life, and that he and his wife Willa are buried in our village cemetery. Their final resting place marked by a distinctive slate tombstone.

I reproduce for you here that poem, and in so doing, wish for you all a holy and happy Easter.

Mark

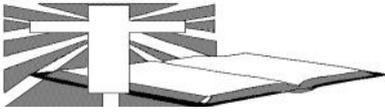
The Killing

That was the day they killed the Son of God,
On a square hill top by Jerusalem.
Zion was bare, her children from their maze
Sucked by the demon curiosity
Clean through the gates. The very holy and blind
Had somehow got themselves up the hill.

After the ceremonial preparation,
The scourging, railing, nailing against the wood
Erection of the main trees with their burdens,
While from the hill rose an orchestral wailing,
They were there at last, high upon the soft spring day,
We watched the writhing, heard the moaning, saw
The three heads, turning on their separate axles
Like broken wheels left spinning. Round his head
Was loosely bound a crown of plaited thorns
That hurt at random, stinging temple and brow
As the pain swung into its vicious circle
In front the wreath was gathered in a knot
That as he gazed looked like the last stump left,
Of a death-wounded deer's great antlers. Some
Who came to stare grew silent a they looked,
Indignant or sorry. But the hardened old
And the hard hearted young, Although at odds
From the first morning, curst him with one curse,
Having prayed for a Rabbi or an armed Messiah
And found the Son of God. What use to them
Was a God or a Son of God, of what avail
For purposes such as theirs? Beside the cross-foot,
Alone, four women stood and did not move
All day. The sun revolved, the shadow wheeled,
The evening fell. His head lay on his breast,
But in his breast they watched his heart move
By itself alone, accomplishing his journey.
Their taunts grew louder, sharpened by the knowledge
That he was walking in the path of death
Far from their rage, yet all grew stale at last,
Spite, curiosity, envy, hate itself.
They waited only for death, and death was slow
And came so quickly they scarce could mark it.
They were angry, then with death and death's deceit.

It was a stranger, could not read these people
Or this outlandish deity. Did a God
Indeed in dying cross my life that day
By chance, he on his road, and I on mine.

Edwin Muir



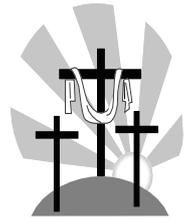
Zion Baptist Chapel

Services for April:

Sunday 1 st	6:30pm	Communion - D.Bousfield
Sunday 8 th	6:30pm	J.Sweesey
Good Friday 13 th	6:30pm	D.Bousfield (preceded by tea at 5:00pm)
Easter Sunday 15 th	6:30pm	Easter Service - DBousfield
Sunday 22 nd	6:30pm	Songs of Praise
Sunday 29 th	6:30pm	P.Finnis

As I write these words we are well into the season of Lent and we are looking forward to Easter itself, the lynch pin of the Christian faith.

It is so very easy to underestimate the significance of the event this day commemorates - the rising again of Jesus from among the dead. We can easily forget just what a difference the fact of Jesus' resurrection made to that early group of bewildered disciples. The Gospels relate for us their utter bewilderment and confusion as, at first, they heard the women's news with sheer disbelief. Then, as the light dawned, the truth of a living Lord became the whole reason and motivation for a new-found boldness to proclaim Jesus as the risen Lord.



Have we become too familiar with the facts perhaps? For us it's as though the resurrection is an everyday occurrence. But it's not, and we need to recapture afresh the absolute impossibility of anyone being raised from the dead. And it is impossible, because if it were possible it would not be the stupendous miracle that made it the lynch pin of the early church's message

Perhaps the events of the first Easter Sunday weren't so important as the events of the first Good Friday, but without Easter Sunday, Good Friday is only an illusion. As Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15:17 *'If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.'*

Let us move on together towards Easter with a growing sense of anticipation. For when Easter dawns it will once again be the glorious celebration of the day when the Lord Jesus Christ *'was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead!'* (Romans 1:4)



Happy Easter Everybody

David Bousfield

P.S. If you would like the Chapel to pray for you over the Easter period do put a note in our letter box. One of our prayer groups will promise to pray for your concerns.

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

I have the most dreadful flu, the type that every man is convinced that men get worse than women, and that women think is nothing more than an exercise of self-pity; and also the type that every man thinks he has worse than anyone else. Only in this case it is true. I do have it worst ...

So from my bed of pain, I will offer you a brief thought-for-the-month.

When I was an undergraduate at Trinity College Oxford, they converted an old wine cellar underneath the fifteenth-century Hall into a student bar. And in the process of conversion, they needed to sell off a lot of wine in a hurry at ludicrous prices. And amongst the treasures I acquired was a Solera Madeira 1862. A solera is a vat of wine laid down in a certain year and left to mellow. After a while - say ten years - the owner draws off a proportion of the wine - say ten per cent - every year and replaces it with young wine. Over the years the original wine becomes more and more diluted, but it never entirely vanishes. So by the time I was sipping it in 1968, there would still be some molecules of the 1862 wine and of every succeeding year. The wine is always changing but it is also always the same.

I have always found this a helpful metaphor for explaining why any community I enter is always distinctive. Enter ten primary schools, or ten parish churches, or ten bowling clubs and there will always be a distinctive "tang" to them. They are all human soleras, the product of all that has gone before and all that is happening to them. Everyone who ever takes an active part in any community is a molecule that leaves a trace on it forever. That is why we need to have a sympathetic understanding of our own particular history; and why we need to recognise that long after we have gone, our tang will linger on. And that is why Solera Prior is very different from Solera Bulbeck, let alone Solera Reach.

Think about it! Back to wallow in self-pity and paracetamol.

From the Parish Registers for February

Holy Baptism: Alice Catherine Lucinda Dickens, Sunday 25 Feb [SB]

Dates for Your Diary - April 2001

Sun	1	
Mon	2	Art History talk by Ann Hollingsworth, Village Hall, 7:30pm
Tue	3	
Wed	4	Police and Community Liaison meeting, Comberton VC, 7.30pm
Thu	5	
Fri	6	
Sat	7	Photographic exhibition, St Cyriacs, until 16 th & Yew - Time Past and Present, 7:30pm for 8:00pm
Sun	8	
Mon	9	
Tue	10	
Wed	11	
Thu	12	Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall, 7:30pm
Fri	13	Good Friday Music for Holy Week, St Cyriacs, 7:00pm
Sat	14	Farmers Market, Ely Market Place Crier Copy Deadline
Sun	15	Easter Sunday Art exhibition, Quy church, 11:00am-6:00pm, and Monday
Mon	16	
Tue	17	Village Gardeners, Trevor Wilson on "Wisley", 8:00pm
Wed	18	
Thu	19	
Fri	20	
Sat	21	
Sun	22	
Mon	23	WI Open Evening, "Making Money", Village Hall, 7:30pm Playscheme 2001 Planning Meeting, Red Lion, 8:00pm
Tue	24	
Wed	25	
Thu	26	Crier Collating, Village Hall, 2:30pm
Fri	27	
Sat	28	
Sun	29	
Mon	30	