

THE REEVES TALE



T.F.

"No Room in the Inn"

The Magazine of Bowdoin
& Foxley

December 1976.

Vol. 1., No. 10.

THE RECTOR WRITES

First of all, may I wish you and all who read 'The Reeve's Tale' a very happy and blessed Christmas, from my wife as well as from me. We would love to see you all Christmas cards, but numbers make this impossible, so perhaps you will take the modern Nativity scene which makes our cover this month as our card to you, which comes with our best wishes.

Possibly a picture like this, which is neither traditional nor pretty, may help us to understand the Nativity as it really was, something grim and frightening, for imagine a situation in which a woman in Mary's condition was refused accommodation: but yet truly joyful, because it is a true picture of God's love for men, undimmed by man's rejection of God. The child in the old beer-crate and Mary covered with sacks is possibly nearer the truth than many of our lovely - and sometimes rather sloppy - Christmas cards and nativities.

This is not intended to make you gloomy, for I hope indeed that you will have a truly happy Christmas with your families, as I'm sure I will have with mine; but it may help us to think with compassion about the many who won't enjoy Christmas, either because they are too poor and hungry, or because the conditions they live under are so awful.

And I am sure that if your compassion led you to put aside a little money at Christmas, in thanksgiving for your happiness, and to send it to those in special need, your Christmas might be just that bit more joyful because of it. A few addresses may help:

HELP THE AGED - Freepost (No stamp) Room, T9, Freepost 37, W1E 6UZ

CHRISTIAN AID - P.O. Box No. 1., London S.W. 1

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY - Old Town Hall, Kennington Road, SE11

ACTION IN DISTRESS - Dept. OB27, c/o Midland Bank Ltd.,

PO Box 1EG, 52, Oxford St., London W1A 1EG

or, of course, the Charity of your own choice.

Tim Townshend.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

CRIB AND CAROL SERVICES
WHICH ARE DIFFERENT

B A W D E S W E L L
CHURCH

SUNDAY 19TH DECEMBER

6 p.m.

FOXLEY CHURCH

SUNDAY 26TH DECEMBER

11 a.m.

Come & bring the children

CHURCH SERVICES for December

Methodist

5th. Bawdeswell 2.30 Mr. D. Hicks.
 Foxley - see Parish Church.

12th. Foxley 6.30 p.m. Mr. R. S. Barrett

19th. Bawdeswell 2.30 Mrs. Middleton
 Foxley: 11 a.m. Rev. W. I. Claydon
 Afternoon: Children's Nativity Play

26th. Foxley: see Parish Church.

Anglican

5th. Bawdeswell 9.45 a.m. Family Service
 Foxley: 11 a.m. Morning Service & Adult Baptism

12th. Bawdeswell: 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion
 11 a.m. Mattins
 Foxley: 9.45 a.m. Family Service

19th. Bawdeswell: 9.45 a.m. Holy Communion
 6.00 p.m. CAROL & CRIB SERVICE
 Foxley: see Methodist Church

CHRISTMAS

BAWDESWELL: Midnight Service, 11.45 p.m. 24th. Communion
 Christmas morning:
 10.45 a.m. Half Hour of Carols & Readings
 11.15 a.m. Holy Communion (said)

FOXLEY: Christmas Day. 9.45 a.m. Christmas Communion (sung)

26th. (Boxing Day) (Please note times)

Bawdeswell: 9.45 a.m. Morning Service & Christmas Hymns
 Foxley: 11 a.m. UNITED CAROL SERVICE

1977

January 2nd. Bawdeswell: 9.45 a.m. Family Service (Series 3)
 Foxley: 11 a.m. Mattins.

FOLLAND COURT SERVICES

Wed. December 15th. (Provisionally) Carols 3.45 p.m.

Monday 20th. Christmas Communion 10 a.m.

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Foxley Flowers (A note from Lady Freeland)

I would like to express our warmest thanks to those who have continued to make our Church so beautiful with the flowers which they bring and arrange; in particular we thank Miss Brown, Mrs. Burlingham, Mrs. Buxton, Mrs. Littlewood, Mrs. Mears, Mrs. Mitchell, Mrs. Parfitt, Mrs. Steward, Mrs. Webster, Mrs. D. Webster, Mrs. E. Webster, Mrs. Wells and Mrs. Wright. Some of these have left the village now, Mrs. Mitchell and Mrs. Littlewood, and Kathleen Brown is for the present too ill to be included on the list: but I would be very grateful if the others would be prepared to continue to be on the new list which I am shortly making out, and would be glad if I may assume their consent unless I hear to the contrary. We are also having a few new names to add to the list, and I am very grateful to them for their willingness to join us. At certain times in the year flowers can be terribly expensive, as we all know only too well; and I do hope that during these times the people concerned will consider arrangements of greenery, for example, or simple garden flowers, which look so lovely. Or why not wild flowers or berries on occasions, which can be glorious?

Thank you.

M. Freeland.

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ARTHUR NORMAN DWYER - aged 70

Our deepest sympathy for Mrs. Dwyer and her daughter on the death of Mr. Dwyer on 17th. November. The Dwyers only came to live in Bawdeswell in March, and he was taken ill on their arrival, and his condition gradually deteriorated since then. May he rest in peace.

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BAWDESWELL PLAY GROUP

The Dance held on 13th. November was a great success, and in spite of the heavy costs the profit was about £55. We would like to thank all who came and supported it.

The next Event is the Christmas Fair this coming Saturday, 4th. December, which starts in the Village Hall at 2 p.m. There are a number of Stalls, Raffles, Tea, and so forth, and we hope that it will be well supported. The Proceeds will be used for the setting-up of the Group.

AT LAST the Play Group really is under way, and will be starting on Monday 10th. January, the first day of the next School Term. There will be Sessions on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Anyone interested in enrolling their children, please contact Mrs. Sandra Steward at Church View, Bawdeswell, or Mrs. Sarah Fitzjohn of Church Farm House, Bawdeswell.

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FOLLAND FROLICS

The Fair held by the Folland Court Club on Saturday, 27th. was a splendid success, and produced somewhere around £80 profit for the funds, much of which will be going towards the Christmas Party. The Committee would like to say a special word of thanks to those who gave their time to help on the day in so many ways, and not least to those who came along to support it. Thank you !

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POPPY DAY COLLECTION

We are asked by Mrs. Holmes to say a special thank you to those who collected for the Poppy Day Appeal in Foxley: this is part of the Foulsham Area, and between them Mrs. Sewell and Mrs. Wright collected £14-40, which was up on last year. This, with the addition of £5 from the Church, brought the total to £19.40. Thanks too to those who gave.

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INVALIDS

We have a number of invalids at present, and we very much hope that they will soon be better. William Farrow is once again in Hospital in Kelling, and Mrs. Farrow hasn't been too fit either.

Kathleen Brown is in West Norwich, and is bearing her continued illness with her usual patience.

Bessie Higgins from Bawdeswell Hall is at present in the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital (Rockland Ward) with a nasty clot in her leg, which is giving her a lot of pain; but she is smiling and uncomplaining as one would expect of her.

Harold Codling, who escaped death by a miracle (having seen his 'written-off' car) but who sustained a broken breastbone, has also been in Kelling, but has made remarkable progress.

Reg Beck of 9, Folland Court, is not too well as we write: he has probably been overdoing things, and must rest for some days - we hope he will soon be really fit again.

Joan Davies of Foxley is making good progress after a very painful operation to her hand.

And poor Joy Webster has at present a very nasty infection in her eyes, and has to be very careful until this is cleared up.

Our best wishes to them all.

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ON A MORE CHEERFUL NOTE, we look forward very much to a wedding in Foxley on December 23rd. between John Bailey of Old Stores Cottage, Foxley, and Sharon Brooks of Sheringham. John came to live in the village in August, and we wish him and his wife every happiness in the future. We don't get many weddings in Foxley - in fact this will be the 135th. in the 140 years since the present Wedding Register was started.

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A Christmas Eve story for children of all ages.

FATHER CHRISTMAS AND PERCY THE POKIMO

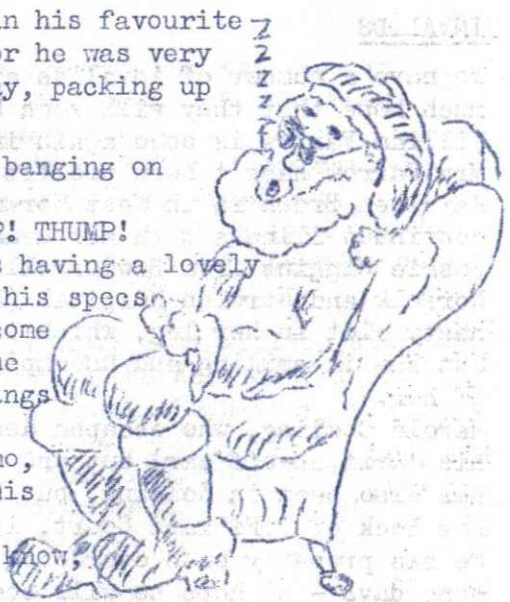
Father Christmas was sitting in his favourite arm-chair, having a snooze, for he was very sleepy. He'd been at it all day, packing up presents for the children.

Suddenly there was a terrific banging on the door.

BANG! BANG! BANG! THUMP! THUMP! THUMP!

Poor Father Christmas, who was having a lovely dream, jumped in the air, and his specs fell off his nose. "Come in, come in" he cried for he thought the door would fall down if the bangs went on much longer.

And in rushed Percy the Pokimo, with his top-hat bouncing on his head.



Now Percy, as you know, is the little man who looks after the Reindeer, and drives Father Christmas' sledge, and he is a special friend.



"I'll slay him ! I'll mince him in bits ! I'll put spiders in his soup and toads in his tea ! I'll...I'll...and poor Percy ran out of breath, and sat down with a bump on the nearest chair.

"Why?...what?...who on earth are you talking about," said Father Christmas, still only half awake.

"A CREATURE I heard talking", gulped Percy;

"he said..he said you weren't REAL !!! I'll

I'll...."

"Alright, alright Percy", said Father Christmas hastily, for he thought his little friend might burst if he went

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on much longer." Just sit down like a good Ponkimo, and have an ice-cream, and listen to me."

So Father Christmas went to the fridge, and brought out one of his very special ice-creams, all red and yellow and blue and sparkling, which he keeps for VERY good boys and girls.



"Now", he said, when Percy had started eating it, "you mustn't worry about this sort of nonsense. Of course I'm real: you know it, and I know it, and all the boys and girls know it, and so do lots of grown-ups too.

They used to call me 'Nicholas' long, long ago, when I was Bishop of Myra. Then they called me 'Saith Nicholas' or 'Santa Niklaus' or sometimes 'Sants Claus' as that was shorter: then someone thought of calling me 'Father Christmas', because they remembered that I loved giving presents, and Christmas is a time when people give gifts, and are specially kind and thoughtful.

"But he said..." Percy the Ponkimo started, his mouth full of ice-cream.



"Yes, I know," said Father Christmas; "but you must be sorry for him, not cross with him: poor man, he's missing so much fun."

"Of course I'm real" he went on. Whenever Daddy or Mummy dress up in a dressing gown and a false beard, and tip-toe into a child's room with a stocking in their hands, I'm there. Whenever a jolly Doctor goes to carve the turkey in a Hospital Ward on Christmas Day, when he could be at home with his family, that's me. When young people spend Christmas Day without food and in the cold, to hold before our eyes the needs of the starving people of the world, I am with them in their vigil. When a kind family invites a lonely person to spend Christmas Day in their home, I'm in that house. Of course I'm real."

"Oh I see", said Percy: "but why do you do it all? Its such hard work."

/continued overleaf...

(Father Christmas and Percy the Ponkino continued)

"Well", said Father Christmas, standing up and putting his specs back on his nose - you remember that they fell off when Percy rushed in - "when I was Nicholas, so very long ago, I learned to love a little child, whom nobody loved when he was born. Do you know, they wouldn't even let his mother have a bed, so he was born in a stable, and laid in the manger which the cattle ate out of. But when he grew up, even though lots of people didn't believe in him, and treated him very cruelly, he never let this make him bitter or angry. In fact he taught me and lots of people - and still does - that the only thing in the world that really matters is inselphish love. So that's why I do it."

"Oh, I see" said Percy the Ponkino; "but he said..."

"Yes, yes, I know", said Father Christmas. "But run along now and harness up, for you and I have a lot of work ahead of us tonight."

T.T.

FOXLEY VILLAGE HALL

There will be a Dance on Friday, 10th. December, 8 p.m. to midnight to BUFFALO. Tickets will be £1.00, and the proceeds will be for the Village Hall Funds. There will shortly be a Raffle, Prizes galore, with the first Prize a load of cut logs, approx. 1 Ton: Tickets will be available by the week-end in the Post Office.

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SCHOOL DATES

Monday, December 20th. Parents' Afternoon 2 p.m.
Tuesday, December 21st. Christmas Party 2 p.m.
Wednesday, December 22nd. School closes 3.30 p.m.
Monday, January 10th. School re-opens 9 a.m. (Groan)

SCHOOL STORIES

Samantha
SANTS CLAUS NEVER FORGETS ! Coleman

There once was a little girl called Penny who loved Christmas. Her granny always spoilt her very much, especially at Christmas. Well, it was getting very near Christmas indeed, and Penny was getting very excited, so excited in fact that she just took one of her mother's best cups and threw it down. Her mother gave her a smack, and she told Penny that Father Christmas would not come at Christmas. Well, Christmas came, and Penny was very upset because her mother told her Father Christmas would forget her. After sobbing, she went to sleep.

When she woke up she remembered that her mother had said "Don't come out until you are told". So she went to the bottom of her bed just to see if there was anything in her stocking. Right at the bottom was an orange, and on it some writing. She followed the instructions which said "Now you can come out of your room" - and there were lots of toys downstairs. You see, Santa Claus never forgets, however naughty you are.

Penny was sorry for what she had done, and was a helpful girl all the holiday.

LUCKY ANNE !

Susan Ames

Anne was a kind girl, but she was very poor. Her father had just been sacked, and so no money was coming in to the house. Mrs. Anderson was very upset about this, as Christmas was drawing close. Mr. Anderson tried to tell her that Christmas was not just presents and a turkey, but she wouldn't listen. Meanwhile, Anne had entered five competitions: one was to win a portable television set, another for a set of saucepans, and a third for a prize of fifty pounds. Well, a week before Christmas a letter was sent to her house addressed to her. Before her

/turn over...

mother could see it, she took it off to her bedroom, and opened it up. To her surprise it was fifty pounds in cash ! Immediately she went out and caught a bus to Norwich, where she bought a turkey and a quantity of food and drink. She then bought quite a few presents. On Christmas Eve she went to bed while her mother and father put out their presents. They had only enough money for one nice present for Anne.

Well, next morning Anne ran downstairs and pretended the post had come, but it had not really. Then she put out her presents. Her mother and father were delighted, and so they had a happy Christmas after all !

CHRIST'S BIRTH - Dawn Buckingham

In the Bible days people had to go back to the place where they were born to pay taxes, not in money, but in kind. On this particular day a man and woman along with many others were on the road, walking towards Bethlehem. They went to every house, and everyone replied "Sorry, no room", until at last they came to the Inn. The Innkeeper said "We have no room in the Inn, but we do have a stable beside the Inn. I could put some clean straw down away from the animals." So Mary and Joseph tied their donkey up and went to see what the stable was like. When they saw it they said they would like to stay. That night something wonderful happened. A baby was born - King of the Jews, and they named him Jesus. Shepherds were tending their sheep on the hills when a great light appeared in the sky. They put their hands over their faces and bowed their heads. Suddenly the angel of the Lord appeared to them and said "Fear not, for behold, I bring you tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." And this shall be a sign to you; you shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." And they went quickly, and found Mary and Joseph - and the baby, lying in a manger.